Open Source Citizenship

Image from NASA under Public Domain

@catallman + @joshsimmons
Rocks and Bridges:
The Unseen Labor Behind Our Digital Infrastructure

Written by Nadia Eghbal
Benefits of Open Source Programs

- More awareness of open source use and commercial dependencies
- Increased speed and agility in development cycle
- Better license compliance
- More influence in open source communities
- Lower licensing fees
- Increased participation in external open source projects
- Increased market adoption of open source projects
- More contributions to in-house OS projects from external or third-party contributors
- Lower support costs
- Increased developer recruitment and retention

Source: Open Source Program Survey. Q: What are the areas where your company has most benefited from the open source program? (Check all that apply) n=156. Q: What does your company aim to accomplish by starting an open source program? (Check all that apply) n=74. Q: What are the top three ways your company would benefit from an open source program? (Choose three) n=201.
Open Source Citizenship

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Let's talk about...

Open Source Citizenship
How are companies helping today?
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Open Source Citizenship

upstream contributions
How are companies helping today?

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contributing to ecosystem
How are companies helping today?

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paid contributors on staff
support projects with $ and other kinds of support
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programs to help new contributors get started
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sharing their experience
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- contributing to ecosystem
- paid contributors on staff
- support projects with $ and other kinds of support
- programs to help new contributors get started
- sharing their experience
- ?
What kind of support are communities seeking?

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volunteer design, UI/UX, product management, technical writing, data science, and marketing/PR
contribute beyond what you need
What kind of support are communities seeking?

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testing and QA resources

For example: https://github.com/google/oss-fuzz
fund conference travel for contributors
What kind of support are communities seeking?

event space
open source friendly contracts for employees who contribute to open source
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jobs for maintainers and contributors when heavily relying on their work
encourage universities to give students credit for contributing to FLOSS
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abide by community norms
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Open Source Citizenship

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- encourage universities to give students credit for contributing to FLOSS
- abide by community norms
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enumerate and value your dependencies
incentivize contribution
raise internal awareness
train, train, and train
be patient
Building a culture of...

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make it easy to learn about your project
have clear project governance and licensing
have a way to receive money
have a plan for how to use it
be prepared to work with corporate timelines
be prepared to onboard new contributors
Help us help you!

Open Source Citizenship

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Thank You!

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Google and USENIX

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Salesforce and Open Source Initiative

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