Making the world a better place through Open Source Collaboration

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Why...

...open source is eating the world?
Where it all began...
Alfresco/alfresco-sdk

The Alfresco In-Process SDK is based on Apache Maven, includes support for rapid and standard development, testing, packaging, versioning and...

Contributors: 36
Used by: 530
Stars: 173
Forks: 111
Bringing a global (& very closed) industry together

Accelerating financial services innovation

- Financial Institutions
- Fintech vendors
- (OSS-savvy) Big tech
- Individual contributors and end users
- Regulators

- Standardization
- Open Governance
- Mutualization
Now, this is personal...
Open Source is THE positive sum-game

The conscience of open source

The business of open ecosystems

The global social value of open source
How... 

...did it become so ubiquitous?
Pairing Open source with a cause
Democratizing access to wealth where it’s historically limited to very small circle

Timing has to be right
This happened during the “gamestonk” frenzy and made the project go viral on Hackernews

It’s not just about the code
You need to put in the time (not everyone has it) to engage your community and market your project just right
Commodize or mutualize
Google realized “incrementalism wasn’t going to cut it”, Meta accelerate a new wave of AI

You must play by the rules
Use an OSI approved license and a neutral entity which can enforce a truly open governance

It creates economic opportunities
Kubernetes market cap is $21.3T globally, of which $835.4B in Europe. Kubernetes skills are amongst the highest required skills.
Non-profit led

Response to a collective risk
LF Public Health was born in response to the COVID pandemic.

Bring OSS at the forefront of policy
Through OpenSSF the White House corralled a nationwide response to national security threats like the Solarwinds and log4shell hacks

Attracts public and private funding
Charities, Government and corporate can come together to address global issues like financial inclusion
So, what’s…

...preventing an even bigger impact?
Open Source Sustainability

Maintainer burnout is real
Several key pieces of our modern infrastructure are still maintained by volunteers - and having time to be a maintainer is a privilege

Openwashing is a thing
It's easy and attractive to jump on the “open” bandwagon, or to be an open source consumer-only. And spoiler, it's (generally) not big tech.

Regionally lopsided funding
VC investment in open source based startups is largely concentrated in the United States, besides a few notable exceptions (source: COSS.capital).
OSS is growing increasingly fragmented
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Language, culture, and geopolitics remain barriers to participation in open source communities.

There is considerable heterogeneity in the software landscape when it comes to fragmentation: Some domains are highly fragmented, and some are highly consolidated.

Techno-nationalism poses a severe threat to open source collaboration, with geopolitical tensions creating regional silos in global innovation communities.

Diversity and inclusion are critical to building a robust open source talent pool.
Idiosyncratic public sector approach

Open source is promoted in principle
Open Source is a cornerstone of the European Union technology strategy...

But with major inadvertent side effects
While well intentioned, the CRA poses an existential threat to open source, especially for European open source

And often action is not aligned
While public sector OSPOs are promoting consumption and basic reuse, there's seldom coordinate action to drive outcome or impact driven policy through open source.
So, where...

...do we go from here?
Open Source is not be the battlefield
(Education is key!)

Transparent open source development protocols are the best antidote for techno-nationalism.

Securing and safeguarding critical open source infrastructure should be a focal point for collaboration.

The need for enhanced collaboration extends to a range of Internet governance issues, including cybersecurity, intellectual property, and antitrust.

CFP closes Feb 19th!
Focus on common, high-order goals

Ecosystem leaders want foundations to do more to align open source projects that have similar objectives.

The Linux Foundation supports the Sustainable Development Goals
Open Source above and beyond Open Standards

How Standards Proliferate:
(See: A/C chargers, character encodings, instant messaging, etc.)

**Situation:**
There are 14 competing standards.

14?! Ridiculous! We need to develop one universal standard that covers everyone’s use cases. Yeah!

**Soon:**
There are 15 competing standards.
Lead with why!

Focused social, industry or technology-centric open source collaborations

Corporate end users
Tech companies
Technology Consumers
Individual Contributors
Governments

Standardization
Open Governance
Mutualization
So, what...

...can you do to help?
Public sector

Invest in OSS as an apolitical tool to drive collective value and innovation and truly realize the vision of the digital commons across political seasons.

Lead with open governance
Beyond transparency and reuse, active public sector leadership in open source projects will deliver efficient and effective implementation of key policy goals.

Think global from the outset
When starting national or European wide collaborations, or defining technology regulations. Open Source has the potential to address global social challenges and bring European technology and policy leadership on the global stage.
Invest in open source talent
Train, skill and properly compensate open source work of your workforce.

Open source to become a leader
In a platform world, it makes increasingly less sense to be a proprietary company. Structure your business to create new markets through open source.

Foster a sustainable ecosystem
We all depend on open source, your business depends on open source. Your contributions accelerate the creation of an even more lively, sustainable commercial open source ecosystem in Europe.
Contributors

Be an activist through technology
You have an immense power, more than you can imagine. Make sure you market your efforts, it’s not just about code. We’re here to help!

Leave prejudice at the door
Whether it be gender, racial, cultural, religious, political or geographic. Different perspective make better software.

Put your ego aside
Focus on the big picture and try to contribute to an existing project before starting one. You can always fork later :)
Thank you. Grazie.