# Forked Communities:
# Project Re-licensing and Community Impact

**Stephen Walli**

Open Source Ecosystem Team, Azure Office of the CTO, Microsoft

**Dawn Foster**

Director of Data Science, CHAOSS

**Ben Ford**

Community leader and founder, Overlook InfraTech

**Brian Proffitt**

Senior Manager, Community Outreach, Red Hat

# Some Data ...

| | |
|---|---|
| **Elasticsearch** (Elastic relicensed 2021-02-03)<br>● 1 yr before: 67 Employees >96% adds / deletes. 3 non-employees <1% adds / deletes.<br>● 1 yr after: similar results | **OpenSearch** (Amazon launched fork 2021-04-12)<br>● 1 yr after fork: 7 Employees / >80% adds / deletes. 2 non-employees <7% adds / deletes.<br>● 1 yr before LF: 40 Employees / >63% adds / deletes. 6 non-employees <13% adds / deletes. |
| **Terraform** (HashiCorp relicensed 2023-08-10)<br>● 1 yr before: 21 employees, > 93% adds / deletes. 2 non-employees: < 1% of adds / deletes.<br>● 1 yr after: similar results | **OpenTofu** (LF launched fork 2023-09-05)<br>● 1 yr after fork: 31 people at 11 companies: Spacelift, Env0, Scalr, Harness, Red Hat …<br>● None previously contributed to Terraform |
| **Redis** (Redis relicensed 2024-03-20)<br>● 1 yr before: 6 employees 28% commits, > 74% adds / deletes. 12 non-employees 54% commits, 12% additions, 15% deletions<br>● 6 mos after: 0 non-employees with 5+ commits | **Valkey** (Linux Foundation launched fork 2024-03-28)<br>● 6 mo after fork: 29 people at 10 companies: Amazon, Tencent, Huawei, Ericsson, Google, others<br>● 18 previously contributed to Redis |

Primary project repo. ElasticSearch / OpenSearch: 10+ commits, Other projects: 5+ commits. Data: https://github.com/chaoss/wg-data-science/tree/main/publications

CHAOSS

# Related Links and More Reading

https://medium.com/@stephenrwalli/forked-communities-whose-property-is-it-anyway-2ddee71f2ef1

https://github.com/chaoss/wg-data-science/tree/main/publications

https://voxpupuli.org/blog/2025/01/21/openvox-release

https://voxpupuli.org/openvox

https://redmonk.com/rstephens/2024/08/26/software-licensing-changes-and-their-impact-on-financial-outcomes

https://thenewstack.io/why-open-source-forking-is-a-hot-button-issue

https://thenewstack.io/what-happens-to-relicensed-open-source-projects-and-their-forks

CHAOSS