

The Movement and Commoditization of Open Source Communities

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The Story of a Community



The Story of a Community



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What Do We Know?

- Community + Project were **acquired** by Oracle
- Project was **donated** by Oracle to the Apache Foundation
- The original OpenOffice community was **alienated** and **moved on** and **forked** LibreOffice

Unique Story?

- Movement
 - Digg to Reddit - 2010
 - MySpace
- Commoditization
 - Software as a product was novel in 1968 - IBM

Linux Foundation

“We want to take the collaborative DNA of Linux and provide a similar infrastructure guidance to other open source projects”

-Jim Zemlin (Executive Director)

 **LINUX FOUNDATION** COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS



Research Questions

What is the threshold for foundations to accept a community?

- *Foundation Perspective*

How does communal commoditization and movement create community tensions?

- *Community Perspective*

Method

- Participant Observation
 - Select Linux Foundation Communities
 - SPDX, OpenChain
 - Gain an internal view of the Linux Foundation
 - Gain internal access to members of the foundation communities
- Interviews
 - Select Linux Foundation Communities
 - Xen, NodeJS, R
 - Community leaders and community members

Thresholds for Communal Movement

Foundation Perspective (speculative)

- Are the members **willing** to move under the foundation's umbrella?
- Does the community have vibrant/promising **participation**?
- Does the community have the **ability to adopt** foundation-processes?
- Could the community **fork**?

Effects on Community

Community Perspective (speculative)

- Do community members have **tension** in being commoditized?
- Are the community members **passionate** about a product and will they likely follow if given a new perspective?

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Related Works

- Boyd, D. (2011). Race After the Internet. In L. Nakamura & P. A. Chow-White (Eds.), (pp. 203–222).
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- Bhartiya, S. (2015). Jim Zemlin: I would love to take Linus Torvalds to space. *ITworld*. Retrieved from:
<http://www.itworld.com/article/2973652/linux/jim-zemlin-i-would-love-to-take-linus-torvalds-to-space.html>

Image Sources

- OpenOffice.org logo: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:OpenOffice.org.svg>
- Sun Microsystems logo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sun_Microsystems_logo.svg
- Oracle logo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Oracle_logo.svg
- LibreOffice logo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:LibreOffice_Logo_Flat.svg
- Apache OpenOffice logo: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Apache_OpenOffice_logo_and_wordmark_\(2014\).svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Apache_OpenOffice_logo_and_wordmark_(2014).svg)
- Linux Foundation Collaborative Projects: <http://collabprojects.linuxfoundation.org/>