Moving Open Source Communities: How Foundations Onboard Communities

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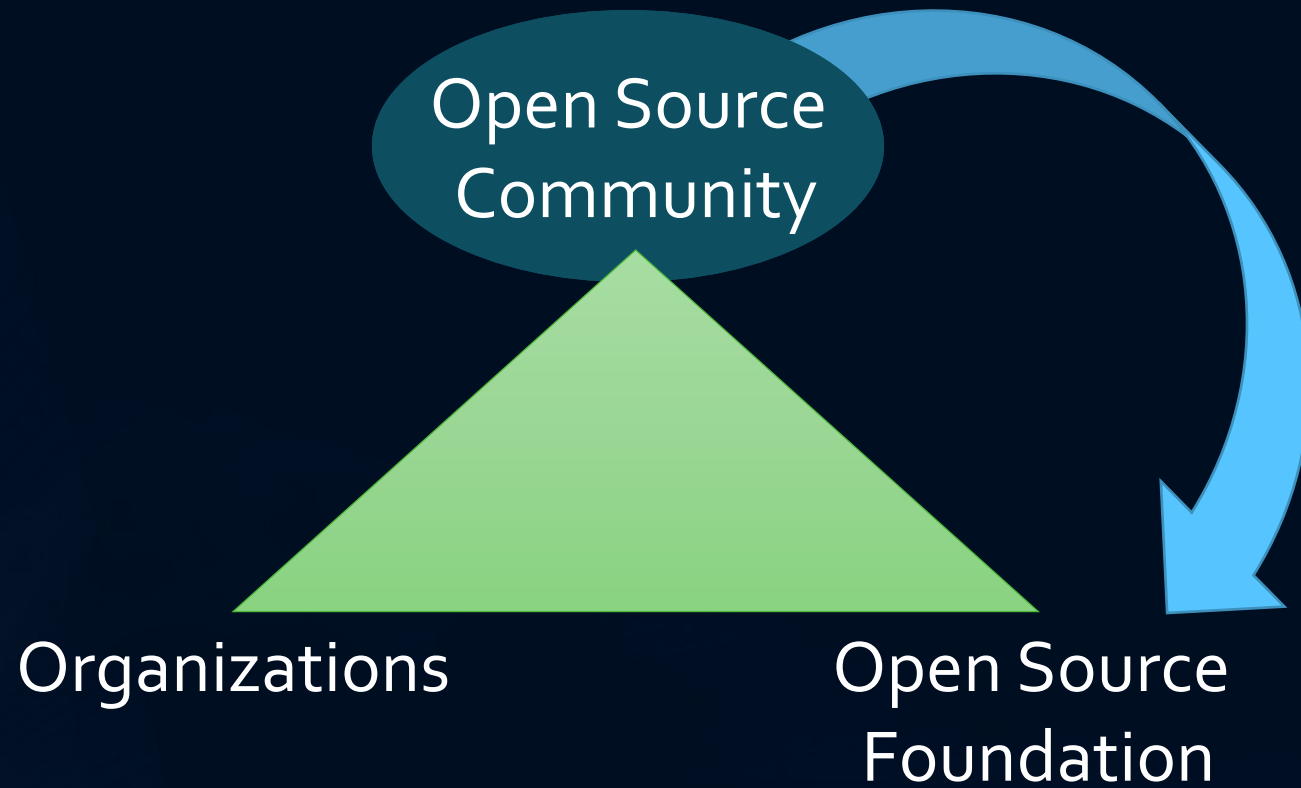
Agenda

- Motivation

- Research Question

- Theoretical Lens

- Literature

- Proposed Method

Open Source Communities Join Foundations

Open Source Community

Organizations

Open Source Foundation

Research Question:
How does onboarding affect a community?

- How does the onboarding affect the governance of a community?

Theoretical Lens: Institutional Theory

- Institution
  - are taken for granted
  - structures, roles, and rules (= Governance)
  - constrain and shape human interaction (Barley and Tolbert 1997)

- Institutionalization
  - establishment and change of institutions
  - (Mignerat and Rivard 2009; Powell and DiMaggio 1994; Miller and Friesen 1980)
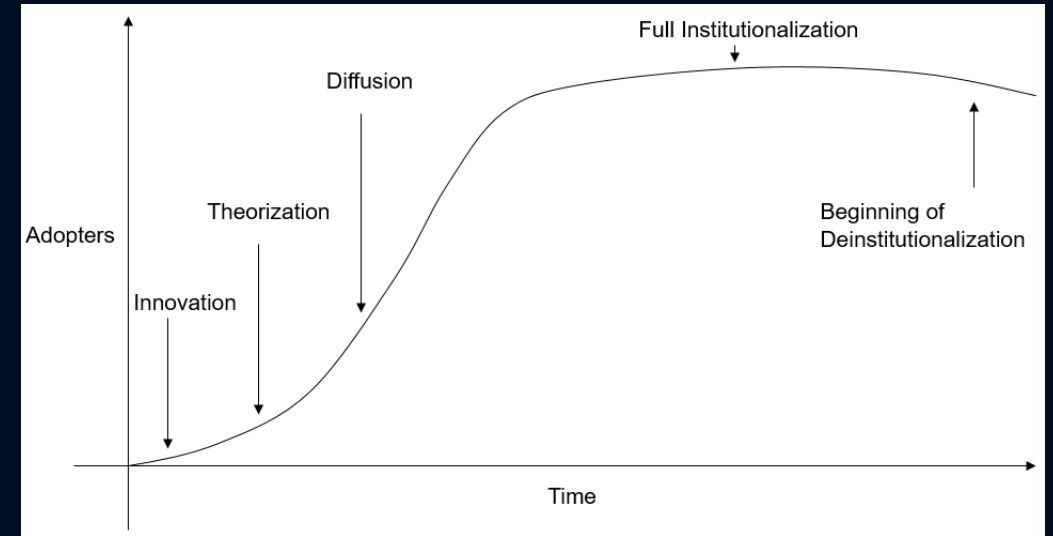
Institutionalization of Governance

- Governance: structures, roles, and rules

- New project – no governance

- Growing project – refinement of governance
  - (Bacon 2012; Kelty 2008; O'Mahony and Ferraro 2007)

- Pivoting project – pivoting of governance
  - (DiTullio and Staples 2013)

Proposed Method

- Participant observation (van Maanen 1988)

- Meaningful engagement with online communities (Kozinets 2015)

- Generate data through engagement (Dourish 2014)

- Points in time between which changes in governance are observable (Miller and Friesen 1980)

- Context: An academic OSS project that joins a foundation

Contributions

RESEARCH

- Changes in governance as process of institutionalization

- Governance change in open source community as strategic action to reach a goal

PRACTICE

- Understanding the process allows for creating a smoother transition

- Foundations and communities can prepare ahead of time for the needed changes in governance

Feedback?

- Method?

- Possible contributions?

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