Open Source Governance by Example

Apereo Webinar

April 10, 2024

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hello
Add Questions to the Chat Tool
What is Governance?
"Governance encompasses the system by which an organisation is controlled and operates, and the mechanisms by which it, and its people, are held to account. Ethics, risk management, compliance and administration are all elements of governance."

"Governance is the process of making and enforcing decisions within an organization or society. It encompasses decision-making, rule-setting, and enforcement mechanisms to guide the functioning of an organization or society."

— https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governance
"the act or process of governing or overseeing the control and direction of something"

— https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/governance
Governance is Infrastructure for Humans.
Examples of Human Infrastructure

— Conflict management and decision making methods
— Codes of ethics and conduct
— Contribution procedures
— Project roadmaps
— Intellectual property policies
FOSS is Made of People.
A Critical Component of FOSS Projects

1. Source (code, CAD, creative work, etc)
2. Documentation
3. Technical Infrastructure
4. Human Infrastructure ➡️ WE ARE HERE
Common FOSS Governance Problems
Problem:
Not Thinking
About Governance
at All
Problem:
Thinking Governance Isn't Needed
If you don't give people directions, they'll make their own path.

(and you may not like where they go)
Whether they know (or admit) it or not, all projects have some sort of governance.
Problem: Not Acknowledging Existing Governance.
Problem:
Governance is Hard.
How to Get Started with FOSS Governance
Most Important Questions to Answer and Document

— What's the purpose or mission of the project?
— Who leads the project?
— How is the leadership chosen?
— What is the code of conduct?
— How is it enforced?
Other Things to Consider

— How do people contribute?
— What's the contribution approval process?
— How would you prefer people report bugs, request features, or ask questions?
— How can someone join the core team?
— Are there meetings? Who runs them? How? Where?
— What's the deal with the project's finances?
— How does the project recognise non-code contributions?
Any Sort of Policy or Procedure for the Project
Document
What
Already Exists
Look at What You Have

Is it What You'd Like It to Be?

Revise and Fill in the Blanks
The FOSS Way
Reinvent the wheel
The FOSS Way

Reinvent the wheel

Build on the shoulders of giants

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FOSS Governance Collection

https://fossgovernance.org
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<td>Buildbot - About</td>
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Live demo?

Yes, live demo!

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Suggest Documents at:
https://fossgovernance.org/contribute/
Business Success with Open Source
Strengthen Your Business with Free and Open Source Software

Forge Your Future with Open Source
Build Your Skills
Build Your Network
Build the Future of Technology

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