Good Governance Practices for Healthy OSS Projects

OSPOCon EU October 2021

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Agenda

Importance of governance

Mission, values, and scope to set expectations

Defining roles, responsibilities, and procedures

Company vs. contributing to a foundation

Resources

Final Thoughts

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whoami

Photos by Mom, Josh Bancroft, Don Park

- Geek, traveler, reader

- 20+ yr tech career focused on community & open source (Intel, Puppet, Scale Factory, …)

- OpenUK Board, CHAOSS Board and Maintainer, TODO Group Steering

- CNCF Contributor Strategy TAG

- PhD from the University of Greenwich focus on Linux kernel collaboration

Governance is Important

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Governance is about People

Defines how people collaborate and make decisions

Kubernetes CNCF CC BY 4.0

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Be Explicit

Explicit, documented governance increases project viability

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Set expectations: Mission, Values, and Scope

https://contribute.cncf.io/maintainers/governance/charter/

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Mission

Purpose, advantages, and key features

Scope

Avoid misunderstandings
and set expectations

Values / Principles

Openness

Fairness

Community over Company

Inclusivity

Culture of participation

Roles, Responsibilities, and Procedures

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Docs and Procedures

Licensing, code of conduct, contribution, and communication process

Security

Process for reporting and responding to security issues

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Leadership

Contributors can climb the ladder into leadership

https://contribute.cncf.io/maintainers/governance/leadership-selection/ @geekygirldawn

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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Building a welcoming

and

inclusive community

Photo by David Jakes - CC BY 2.0

https://chaoss.community/metrics

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Ownership: Company or Foundation?

Company Owned

Be honest about governance and decision making

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Foundations

Neutral foundations allow

collaboration as equals

Contributing to Foundations

Give up control for
increased
collaboration

Governance Evolves

Never "done"

can always

be improved

Resources

Linux Foundation's TODO Group
https://todogroup.org/guides/

CNCF Contributor Strategy TAG Docs & Templates
https://contribute.cncf.io/maintainers/

https://github.com/cncf/project-template

The Open Source Way Guidebook
https://github.com/theopensourceway/guidebook/

Final Thoughts

Setting expectations reduces uncertainty and makes people feel welcome

Thank You!

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