



Developing a funding proposal with open source communities

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Steve Lee

- Developer, consultant
- Business and Community development officer
- Open accessibility



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OSS Watch

- Open Source Advisory Service
- JISC Funded
- FE and HE



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OSS Watch

- Unbiased information
- Consultancy services
- Evaluation of open source projects
- Software community development
- Bid writing
- Sustainability advice



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Project Funding



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Project Funding





Funders look for Value

- Building on existing work
- Reusable deliverables
- Collaborations
- Users
- Sustainability



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JISC Funding Calls

- Consult OSS Watch while preparing proposal
- Seek advice on the **JISC Open Source Policy**
- Seek advice on open development practice
- Make an informed decision



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JISC open source policy

Draws on three main sources:

- UK government policy on open source
- well-established best-practice in software engineering and management of intellectual property rights (IPR)
- current IT best-practice within JISC and higher and further education more broadly



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OSS Watch's role

- Advise
- Learn and inform



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Eg: 03/09 Rapid Innovation

“Open source code – project deliverables can build on proprietary components but **wherever possible the final deliverables should be open source.**”



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Address the needs of users

“Including user engagement and how users will be involved in the development process and how users will validate the deliverables from the project.”



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Access to deliverables

“Consider the **different access restrictions** on different data/resources

We envisage that **some data/resources will be open** and in other instances it may be **licensed** but it should be **free at the point of use.**”



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Build on existing work

“Wherever possible projects should **use existing software and tools** to meet the project use case(s) and deliver the desired functionality, in order to **add value and avoid duplication.**”



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Sustainability

“There should be no expectation that future funding will be available to these projects.”



Open project management

“A **rapid, open or agile** methodology that allows for iterative development in consultation or in parallel with the target community.

Bidders are **expected to liaise with OSS Watch**, who can provide advice in this area. Bidders should include how they **plan to communicate with OSS Watch**”



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What is Open source?



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Use the source, Luke



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Community development

“If possible a **community based approach to working** with open source code should be taken rather than just making the final deliverables available under an open source licence”



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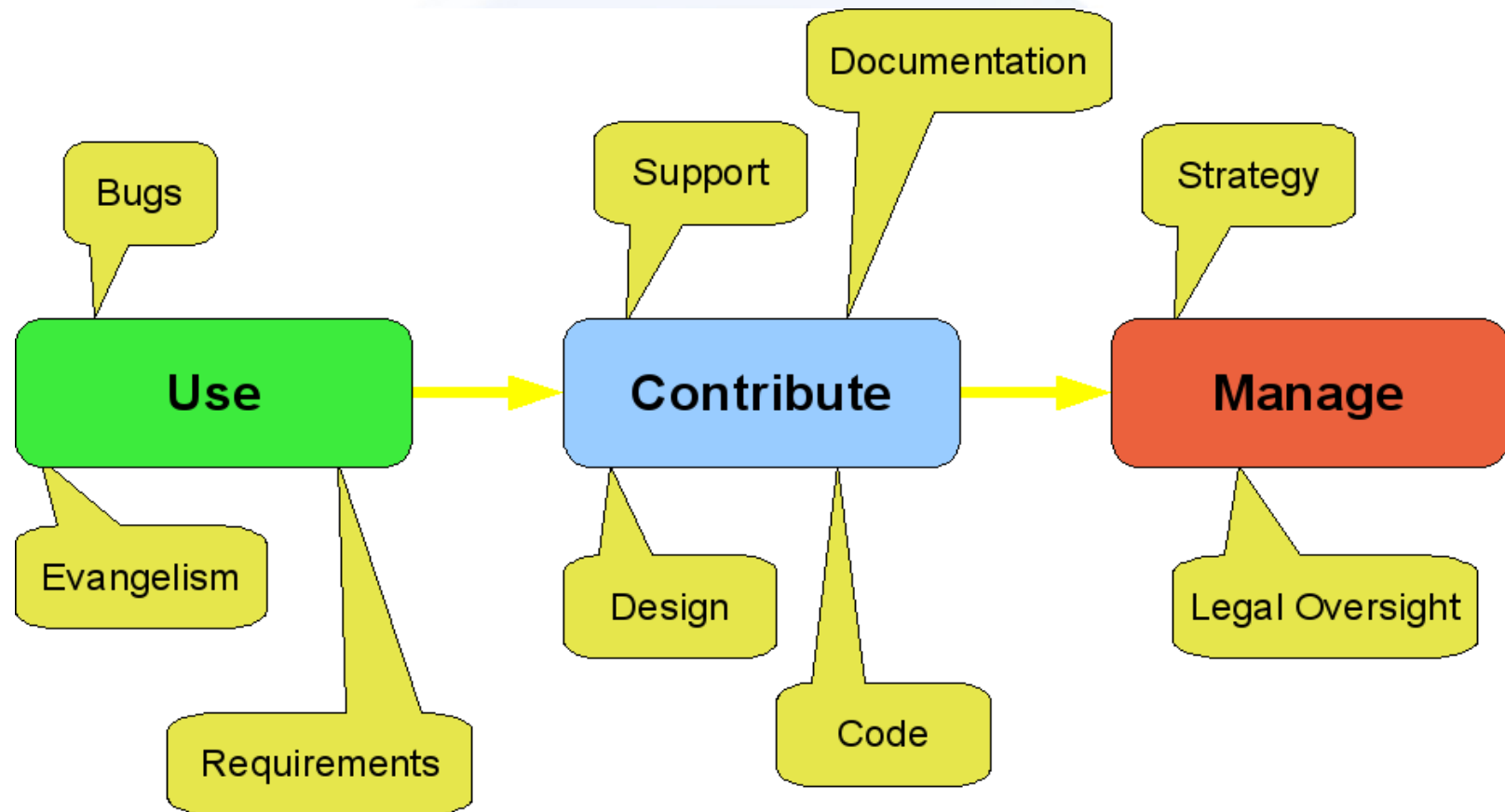


Open development features

- Open source licence protection
- Distributed community development
- Peer reviewed contributions
- Meritocratic governance
- Sustainability



OSS Watch





A proposal with OSS Watch

- Discuss your proposal with us
- Understand open development
- Explore how to apply it
- Decide if to follow
- We provide support



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Specifics

- Sustainability models
- Governance, CLAs
- Copyright and IP
- Licences
- Community tools
- Interaction with other projects



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Sustainability

- Diverse community
- Users, developers, commercial
- Any member can leave (even you)



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Project Governance

Clear contribution policies

- Meritocratic (Apache)
- Benevolent dictator (Linux)
- Who can make contributions and how?
- Who decides what is in each release?
- How are strategic decisions made?



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Copyright and IP management

- Software development projects rarely track ownership information accurately
- Revision control software is critical



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Contributor Licence Agreements

- CLAs
- Ensure contributors consider IP
- Ensure traceable IP ownership in project



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Licences

- Liberal
- Copyleft



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Community Tools

- Web site – find out
- List – memory, ask, discuss
- Ticket tracker - Request, manage
- Version control – safety, history, IP



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Useful OSS Watch documents

- Advice for project bids
- Bid support How To checklist (coming soon)
- JISC Policy on open source



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OSS Watch - here to help you



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