



Open Development Sustainability through diversity

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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 to support FE and HE
- Unbiased information
- Consultancy and evaluation services
- Community development and sustainability
- Bid support



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What is open source?



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A licence ?

BSD

MIT

Apache

GPL

LGPL



Mozilla

Eclipse Public



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Use the source, Luke



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Source code access

- Study
- Reuse
- Modify
- Build on



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What is missing?



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Community



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Open development

At the heart of open source



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Engaging 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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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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Diverse community

- All welcome to take or contribute
- Diverse community.
 - Users
 - Developers and contributors
 - Researchers
 - Commercial parties



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Leads to sustainability

- Community supplied resources
- Users, developers, commercial
- Any member can leave (even you)

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



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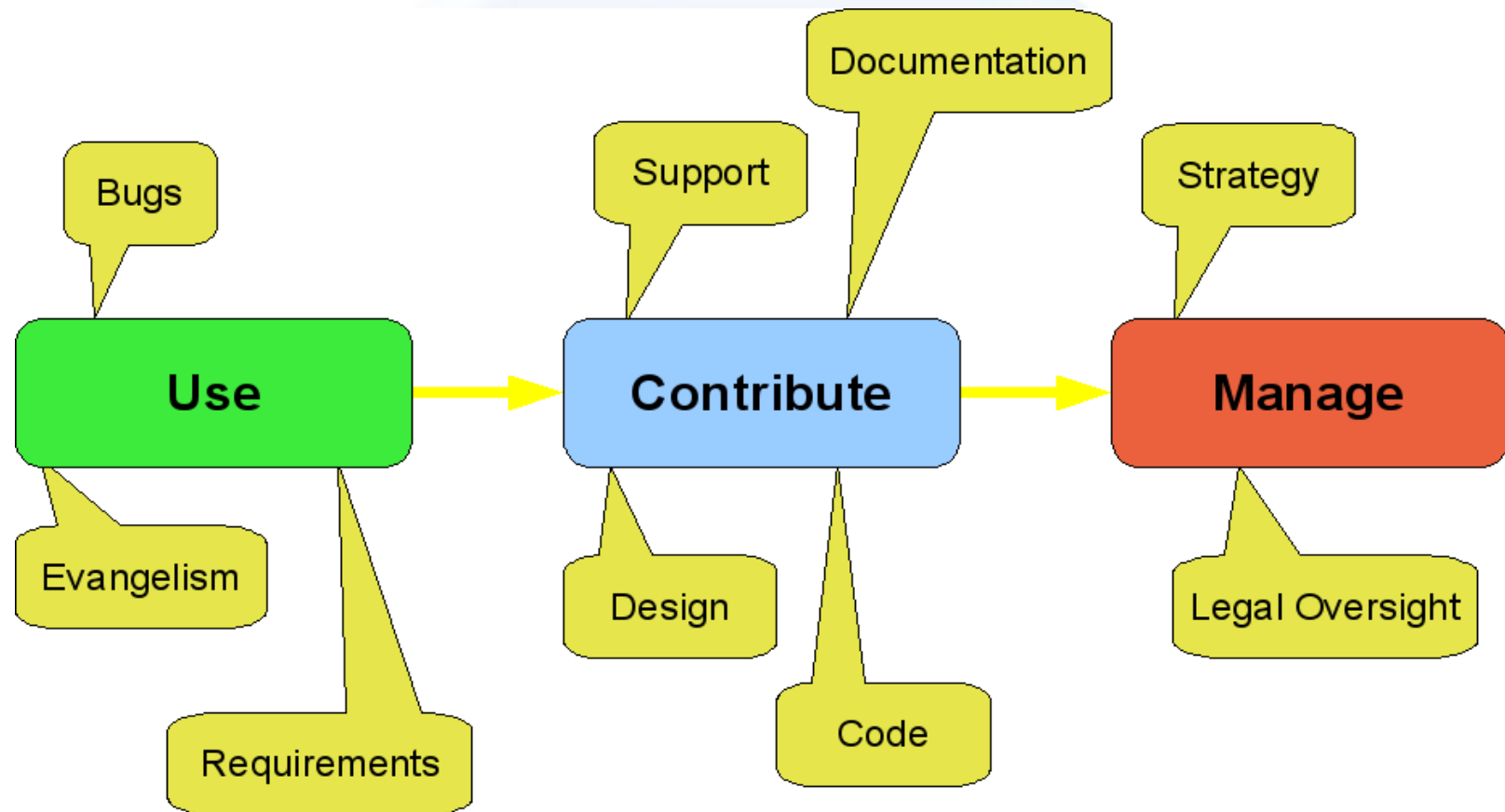
Open development

- More than code dumping
- Distributed development.
- Peer reviewed contributions
- Meritocratic governance
- Open source licence protection
- Sustainability



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The fundamentals

- Governance
- Copyright, IP, CLAs
- Licences
- Community tools
- Interactions with other projects



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Project Governance

Clear contribution & management policy

- 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 & IP management

- Track ownership information
- Revision control software is critical
- Ensure contributors consider IP
- Contributor Licence Agreements



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Choose a licence

- Liberal
- Copyleft
- Impacts community and exploitation
- OSI Approved - avoid proliferation



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Popular and widely used or with strong communities

- Apache License, 2.0
- New and Simplified BSD licenses
- GNU General Public License (GPL)
- GNU Library or "Lesser" General Public License (LGPL)
- MIT license
- Mozilla Public License 1.1 (MPL)
- Common Development and Distribution License
- Eclipse Public License



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Community Tools

Support process, reduce barriers to:

- Learn about the project
- Use it and experiment
- Follow history and decisions
- Engage and Contribute



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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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E.g.



moodle.org

- A vibrant, diverse global community of practitioners and developers
- Community is source of it's success
- Plug-in architecture extends community



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E.g. Straight street

- Open content
- Engaged users – limited to reviewers
- Website – core web app + contact
- Ticket tracker - 1st external ticket





E.g. Straight street

- Currently closed development of web app and api
- Concerned about sustainability
- Interested in more open development





E.g. Study Bar

- Blog (shared)
- Google code (shared)
- Google group list (shared)
- Early days but seeing benefits



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Open development win

“I really do think the way we have managed to get the group going and all the bug checking has really helped us speed up the process so much. It has been really useful!”

EA Draffan



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E.g. Study Bar

- Plenty to do for open up development
 - Improve entry experience
 - Governance, IP, release procedure....
- OSS Watch continue to advise
- What when passed on to TechDis?





OSS Watch - here to help you



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