

What is open source?

Steve Lee
OSS Watch

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OSS Watch

- Open source advisory service
- JISC Funded
- Free of charge to FE and HE

Steve Lee

- Consultant, developer, writer, user
- Trainer – Age Concern Exeter
- Open accessibility – best for users

Open Source is...

- Just software – wide range
- Good and bad
- Suitable for requirements, or not
- Required level of support, or not

Characterised by

- Licence – OSI approved



- No EULA to agree
- Almost no restrictions on use
- Still copyright protected

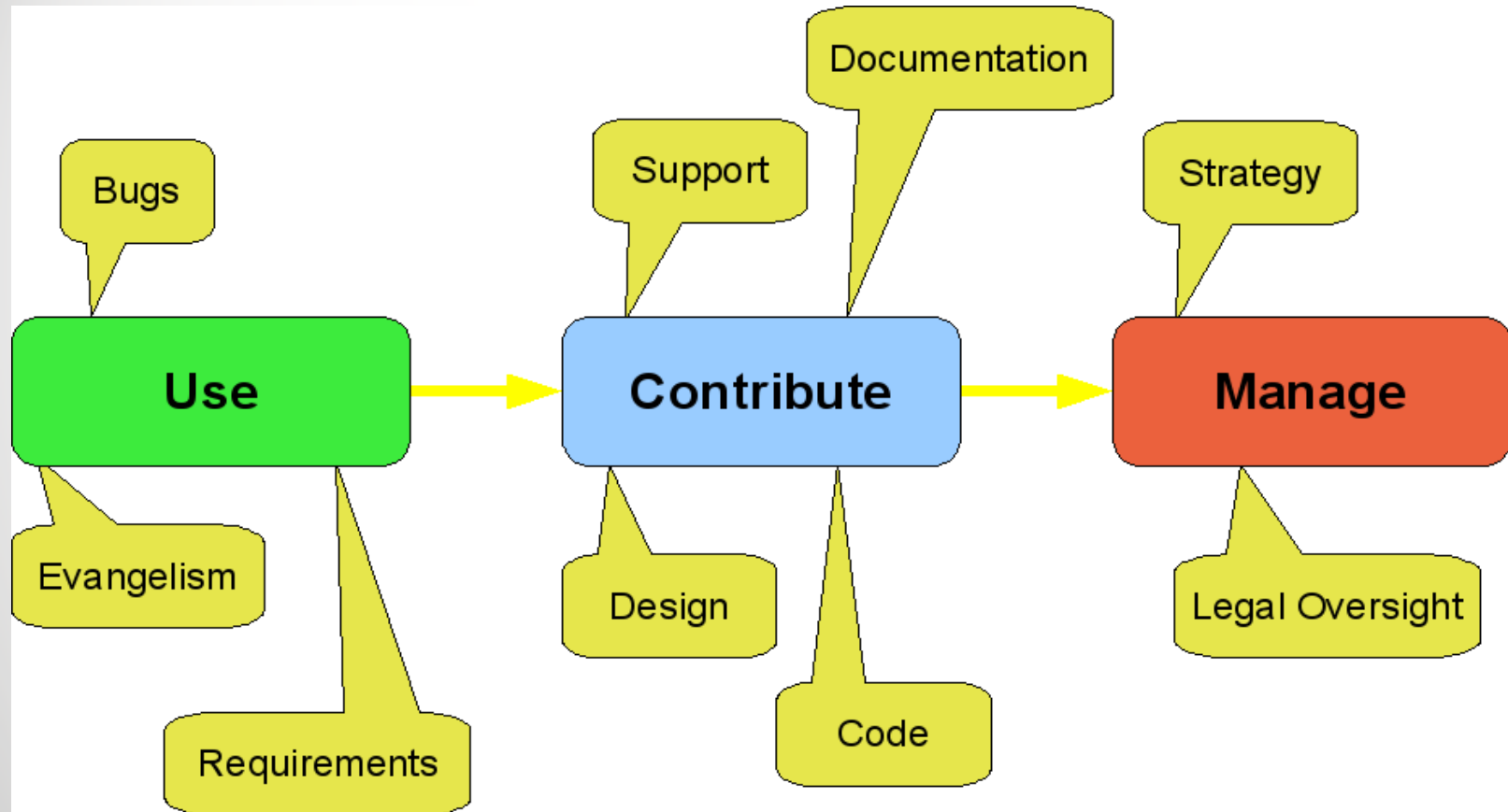
Open source definition

- Free redistribution
- Source code
- Derived works
- Integrity of author's work
- No discrimination against persons or groups

Characterised by

- Community development
- No secrets
- Peer reviewed
- User engagement
- Meritocracy

Project Community



For Libraries?

- Public resource – code commons
- Avoid data / resource lock-in
- Zero licence cost – low support cost
- Access for all
- International & accessibility

A Video

- [Ubuntu at the Library](#)
- 1st time through complete
- 2nd time pause and explain points

Your User Needs?

- Low cost
- Safety
- Interoperability & sharing
- Reliability
- Choice

Your Enterprise Needs?

- Managing risk - support
- Flexibility
- Interoperability & integration
- Avoidance of lock-in
- Viable alternatives

Support options

- Community
- Paid for
- Self – develop in house skills
- Mixture
- All work best when contribute back

What is needed in tenders?

- Focus on user needs not products or technology
- Recognise customisation is always needed
- Recognise the value of reuse through collaboration

What is needed for adoption?

- Understand the open source development model
- Engage with the OSS development model (not just programming)
- Become aware of *professional* and *true* open source companies

Conclusions

- **oss-watch.ac.uk** info@....
- Open source starts with a licence, but works thanks to the community and development practices.
- System integrators provide support
- Volunteers, small and big businesses...
- Trend is towards more OSS in FE & HE

Some Ideas

- Use OSS yourselves
- Provide information or training in OSS
- Give software used to ICT trainees
- Let visitors make custom collections
- Create own resource sets