

Open Source Program Offices (OSPOs)

ROLES

- Governance
- Project Management
- Licensing
- Security
- Community engagement
- Developer Education

RESPONSIBILITIES

OS Leadership

- Provides open source consultancy and become a strategic partner
 - Evaluate the behavior and performance of the project
 - Advise on which open source technologies to adopt or remove
 - Provide insights into OSS trends
 - Help to understand and navigate project politics
 - Help maintain a neutral posture on techno-nationalism
 - Cultivate personal and working relationships

OS Community Engagement

- Incubate and launch OS projects into the public sphere
 - Develop internal resources for project incubation and post launch
 - Develop processes for project incubation and post launch
 - Develop playbooks, checklists and tooling
 - Vet, organize and operate OS projects
 - Train and coach OS Leaders

OS Community Education

- Create educational programs
 - Good OSS hygiene
 - Technical programs
 - Basics in OS tech stack
 - how to request features
 - how to file bug reports
 - how to contribute basic code
- Optimize open outbound source contributions

OS Legal Education

- Educate Developers
 - Build CLA Policies and documentation
 - Create education programs
 - Use of CLAs
 - Risks of noncompliant OSS consumption
 - Approval processes for introducing OSS projects
 - Nuances of different license types
 - Guidance on how to judge OSS Health
- Manage Legal Risks and Licenses
 - Security Standards
 - License Compliance Policies
 - Tooling
 - Build in-house
 - Adopt existing tools
 - Design OSS infrastructure

- Taking Software Inventory
 - Set up software inventory processes
 - Build software bill of materials (SBOM)

BEHAVIOR

- Software Company
 - more likely to incubate or participate in big projects and more likely to have dedicated developers working exclusively on OS
 - EXAMPLE: The software companies that dominate the core development team of the Linux Project
- Technology Strategy Experts
 - Evaluate viable open source technologies and help senior IT managers to lay out a technology roadmap
 - EXAMPLE: OSPOs that act as internal OS consultants to help developers and teams
- Open Source First
 - Help the org to prioritize OSS consumption and make OS the first choice
 - OSPOs that work closely with CTOs and company strategists to map open source projects and capabilities
- Big Project Facilitators
 - Form or facilitate the formation of large, complex open source projects inside an organization
 - EXAMPLE: Comcast incubated the Apache Traffic Control Project
 - Launch OS as publicly available projects
- Cross-Industry Collaborative
 - Work on foundational technology problems that cross industries
 - EXAMPLE: Bloomberg worked with Microsoft to make contributions to TypeScript
- Industry Collaborative
 - OS as a way for a specific industry to become more efficient through sharing costs and innovation for industry-specific needs
 - EXAMPLE: EU Automotive companies

SIZE

- Single FTE Managing multiple teams
- Virtual team (not FTE)
- FTE small team
- FTE large team