# NeuroFedora
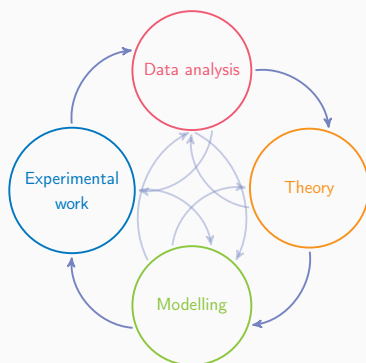
Free Software for Free Neuroscience

NeuroFedora Contributors

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## How: Research Pipeline

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## General workflow

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## Tools of the trade

Experimental:

- EEG, ECoG, intracellular and extracellular single and multi neuron recording,
- CT, DOI, MRI, f-MRI, MEG, PET,

Data analysis:

- Statistics,
- Machine Learning, Big Data, Deep learning,

Theory and modelling:

- Simulators of all kinds,

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## Tools of the trade: II

Tools for the dissemination of knowledge[4]:

- visualisation,
- academic writing,
- non academic writing: blogging . . . ,
- pod-casting,
- video making,
- creating teaching materials,
- collaborative tools and utilities

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[4]also to a non-specialist audience.

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## Free/Open (neuro) Science

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## The ideal, in short:

Free/Open Science:
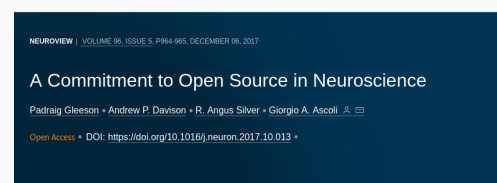Everyone should have the freedom to share, study, and modify scientific material.

FOSS:
Everyone should have the freedom to share, study, and modify software[5].

Free/Open Science includes and relies heavily on Free/Open Source Software (FOSS).

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[2]Free software foundation

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## So we strive to use more and more FOSS
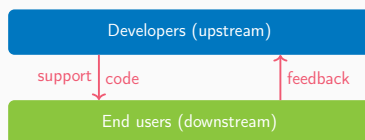
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[6]Open source for neuroscience

## NeuroFedora: why, how, what?

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## Neuroscience community: highly multidisciplinary

- various specialities: biologists, mathematicians, physicists, chemists, psychologists, . . . ,
- small proportion of trained software developers

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## FOSS: Developers and users



Developers (upstream)

support | code          feedback

End users (downstream)

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## (Anecdotal) notes on development of research software

- often single developer, or small development teams
- limited maintenance, short-lived projects
- limited access to hardware/resources
- limited code quality
- limited use of established best practices
- limited testing for correctness (!)
- complex dependency chains
- lack of documentation and support
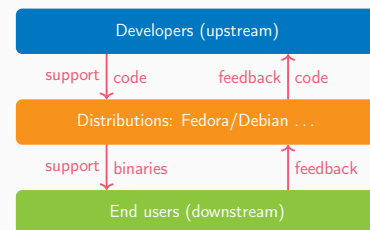- lack of community development know-how

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## (Anecdotal) notes on users of research software

- waste time and effort installing (and reinstalling) their software stacks
- rarely run test suites (!)
- rarely report bugs upstream
- rarely send improvements upstream
- are unaware of helpful development tools

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## Distributions liaison between developers and users



Developers (upstream)

support | code          feedback | code

Distributions: Fedora/Debian . . .

support | binaries          feedback

End users (downstream)

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## Distributions, like Fedora, are in a unique position:

- liaison between upstream and users
- have the infrastructure
- follow best practices in software development
- constantly work on community development
- learn from one another—train while working
- disseminate information to end-users

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## NeuroFedora:

Primary goal:

- Provide a ready to use, integrated FOSS platform for neuroscientists[7].

Secondary/collateral goals:

- help improve the standard and maintenance of tools
- help users develop software development skills
- make neuroscience accessible to non-specialists

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[7]Researchers, academics, hobbyists, anyone!

## NeuroFedora: current metrics

- Turned a year old, in September 2019[8],
- 20 volunteers
  - 16 package maintainers
  - 5 designers, newcomers
  - only 5 from a neuroscience background
- software:
  - 135 tools (packages) ready to install[9]:
    - Neuron, InterViews, NEST, Genesis, Brian (v1 and v2), Moose, python-libNeuroML, PyLEMS, PyNWB, . . .
  - ~180 in queue[10].
    - NeuroMLlite, pyNeuroML, NetPyNE, . . .

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[8] in its second iteration
[9] src.fedoraproject.org: Neuro-SIG
[10] Pagure.io: Neuro-SIG: issues

## Search: "NeuroFedora"

Mailing list: neuro-sig@lists.fedoraproject.org
IRC: #fedora-neuro on Freenode
Telegram: t.me/NeuroFedora
Documentation neuro.fedoraproject.org
Blog: neuroblog.fedoraproject.org
Pagure.io (FOSS Git forge): neuro-sig/NeuroFedora