

Open Source Checklist

There are a number of things to consider when determining whether to release code into the open source community. These things come under two basic categories:

1. Does this provide either the process or insight into processes that we consider to be a component of our competitive advantage? Alternatively, does it make public code that we consider proprietary?
2. Will providing this code infringe on any commercial opportunity in the future?

With these categories in mind, the following set of questions help you decide and document those decisions for code deemed to fit to release into the open source community.

Contributor & Community Identification:

1. Contributor: (Person proposing the code release)
2. Community: (The Repository owner)
3. Project Name: (Where in the community the code will reside)
4. Project URL: (The URL of repository holding the code)

Contribution:

1. What is the proposed contribution?
2. What problem does it aim to solve?
3. Is the contribution new code or does it exist in another form somewhere else?
4. What license will cover the contribution?
5. Does it rely on existing open source code?
6. Does the proposed license conflict with the license in the existing code you are using?
7. Is this a one time or ongoing contribution?
8. How large is the contribution?
9. Will you be acting as a committer or maintainer of this code?
10. Do you expect others to contribute?

Value to the Company:

1. Does this code in anyway expose the company proprietary Processes or Code?
2. Is there a possibility that this code can be seen as providing the company a competitive advantage over another provider?
3. If a competitor were to use this contribution, would it diminish the company's competitive advantage?
4. Does this require any investment by the company in the future?
5. Will there be any publicity associated with this contribution?
6. Does this contribution enhance the company's reputation in any customer community?