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Afternoon Group B

Identifying Cross-context Health and Sustainability Issues

Goal:

Getting Contributors

Question:

How do you attract people?

What kinds of contributors are needed during different phases of the project?

When do you need new contributors and what is a good level of new contributor inflow?

Metric:

Marketing efficiency (look at marketing metrics - reach, click through rate, ...)

Measure the skill - (we don't know how)

- perceived skills of users vs. perceived skill of manager/maintainer
 - OSS: changes to contributions after submission
- Tenure and experience within a project

Figure out the needs of the project: what contributors are needed at a specific phase of a project.

[NOTE: project vs. person metrics ? should we measure contributors?]

Sub-Goal:

Get new contributors

(Move skilled people between projects without cannibalizing effective projects)

Question:

How do we understand movement between projects?

Metric:

Social network analysis

History of projects people engaged in

Sub-Goal:

Train, socialize, or onboard people

Questions:

How do we need to train, socialize, or onboard people?

How do you know that your training works.

Metrics:

Measure skill level

Questions:

What fraction of contributors are able to go through a project activity on the first try?

(example for open source: What fraction of contributor questions show that the person has been able to check out and build the project?)

What fraction show that the asker has not yet been successful?

Metrics:

Classify questions within phases of install and build phases and track how far people get until they fail and have to ask questions (look for specific error message text that is present at different stages of the download/build/install/configure/test process?)

Number of attempts to complete an activity - activity varies by project needs

Questions:

How do we measure progress, skills, learning? Content knowledge can be extremely hard to evaluate, task learning is quick and easy

Goals:

Define community for sustainability and health

Questions:

What are the community boundaries? Are these technological, socio, norms? - there are existing definitions to determine, but what are

How does sustainability and health look different at different levels of analysis? - individual, group, system levels, ecosystem -s

Do these goals and questions address the health and sustainability at the micro and macro levels? (broader questions)

Who are we determining these metrics for? project manager, funders, government, NGO

Metrics:

Diversity of communication location - social media, project owned, etc

Successful resolution of Code of Conduct reports

Goals:

Reduce exodus of contributors, retain people.

Questions:

How many people are leaving the project?

Metrics:

Average tenure of people in project

Questions:

What makes people leave?

Metrics:

Survey of reasons why people leave

Questions:

What draws contributors?

Metrics:

Survey of reasons why people are contributing

Goals:

Community Handoff / Retirement - projects with known lifespans

Questions:

Metrics:

Goals:

Can we classify projects and based on those classification can we group metrics relevant to those projects as a measure of health and

Questions:

Metrics:

Goal:

Project meets the needs of the communities and technologies that depend on it

Questions:

Are projects that depend on this project able to use it productively?

In Citizen Science; how do science teams integrate citizen science work into their scientific practices?

Metrics:

Number of private forks maintained by other projects == number of people using the same protocol and platforms/software developed

Changes in dependency patterns

Number of articles being published based on citizen science data/analysis

Goals:

Project is a source of rewarding employment opportunities

Questions:

Are people able to earn money with their skills in this project?

Metrics:

Presence of this project in lists of skills in job postings

Salary surveys for users of this project vs. other software in same category

[NOTE: The concept of forking exists in OSS and CS - sharing best practices and protocols]

Goals:

Share best practices between projects and avoid redundancy

Final check on governance (better governed fork continues sustainable community)

[NOTE: there are other motivations to fork, e.g. credit for work in scientific software]

Questions:

How much redundancy do we see in the space of the project?

Which best practices have been adopted and by whom? (entire project or factions)

What causes projects to split up?

Metrics:

Reuse of protocols, code,

Number of similar projects (competing projects)

Churn rate of participants and roles

Upstreaming rate of changes from the original content - (fork code and upstream changes/fixes, citsci protocol improvements)

Goals:

Develop and sustain productive governance structures

Questions:

How do governance structures impact participation and engagement?

Metrics:

Goals:

Questions:

Metrics:

Similarities and Differences and Anything New:

Workshop outcome: Method papers discussing how we study, measure, analyze some of the key questions raised above.