



10 quick tips for making your software outlive your job

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.06484>

Richard Littauer - <http://richard.social>

Who is this Richard Littauer, anyway

- PhD student in CS

Building Tools for Community Science Datasets to Model Bird Populations and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Aotearoa New Zealand

Also:

- [Python.nz](https://python.nz) and KiwiPycon.nz
- CURIOSS.org
- SustainOSS.org
- OpenSustain.Tech



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Why care?

- Academic life is uncertain
- Funding changes and people move between roles
- National and international funding is at risk
- Open Source software is more resilient
- Your work will last longer if you care about it lasting longer.



1. Stay within the law

- Ask about university policies
- Ask about department policies
- Ask about coauthors
- Ask about your next role

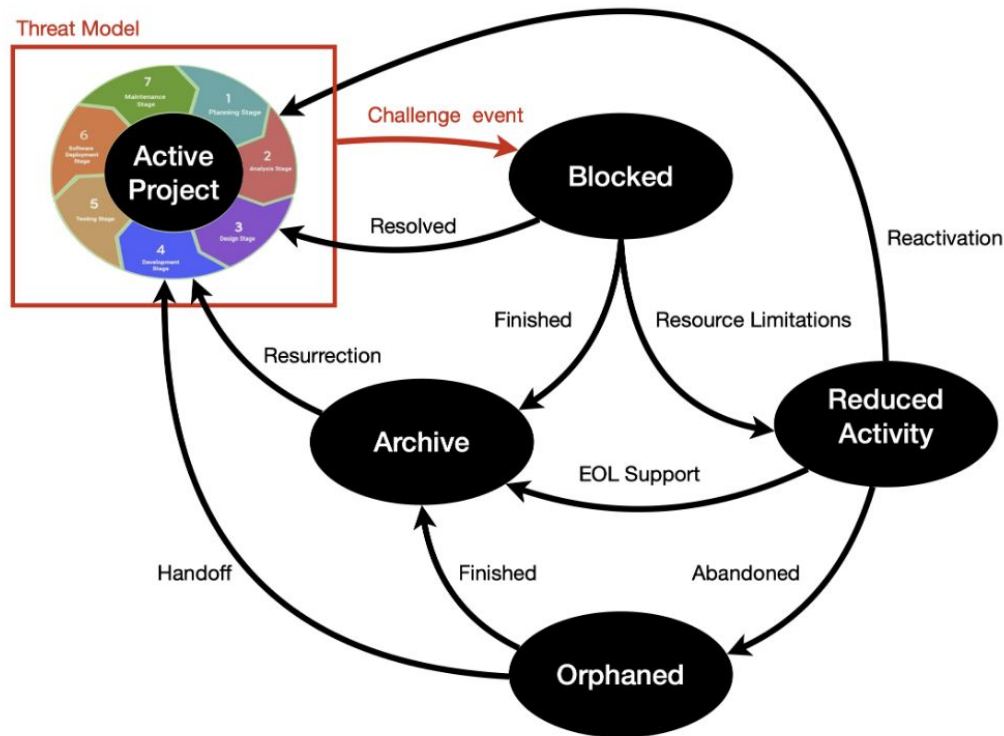


2. Define your threat model

- Individual
- Leadership
- Institutional
- Global



3. Decide if you are ending, pausing, or handing off



4. Choose an open license (if you can)

- [Choosealicense.com](https://choosealicense.com)
- Open Source Initiative
- Ethical licenses
- Tikanga licenses



5: Save everything in multiple places

- GitHub
- Codeberg
- Personal websites



6: Encourage community adoption

- Publishing != publicizing
- Social media, forums, mailing lists
- Tutorials, conferences



7: Do what you're supposed to (if you have time)

- DOI with Zenodo
- Peer review
- Document
- Document data
- Describe dependencies
- Write tests
- Contribution guides



8: Do what you can (if you have to act quickly)

- Say what your code does and how to use it
- Make a screencast
- Save it in the Software Heritage Archive
- Clean up code
- Say why you're leaving



9: Talk about what you're doing

- Share what you're doing beyond the code
- Write down what has happened in your own logs
- Process your emotions.



10: Organize

- Don't just play defense.
- Professional societies
- Boards, academic or otherwise
- Scientific comms work.



Thank you.

Questions?

