**Title**: Using Pirate Metrics to measure success of open source projects

**Link**: <https://opensource.com/business/16/6/pirate-metrics>

**Summary**:

The article discusses the use of “Pirate Metrics” (redeveloped from another model) to measure community involvement and retention in open source software projects. It mentions that metrics for community involvement are especially useful for smaller projects to ascertain if it’s heading down a good trajectory. These metrics measure the following:

* Acquisition: A user visits the website or repository
* Activation: A user downloads the product
* Retention: A user opens up an issue in the community
* Referral: A user stars the repository on GitHub (useful user feedback)
* Revenue: A user regularly opens issues or contributes to code

**Limitation**: It may be difficult to measure some of these specific metrics on our end. This idea is advertised as more of a self-reflection framework whereby a developer may analyze their own work.

**Title:** The size of open-source communities and its impact upon activity, licensing, and hosting

**Link**: <http://redmonk.com/dberkholz/2013/04/22/the-size-of-open-source-communities-and-its-impact-upon-activity-licensing-and-hosting/>

**Summary**:

The post makes an interesting discussion on the fact that once a project reaches a certain number of contributors, it appears to behave differently than a smaller project. The author uses a comparative chart/spreadsheet to show that committers tend to be more active, as a whole, in larger projects. These larger projects also tend to become more self-hosted, and pay attention to things like licensing.

**Limitation**: While this is an excellent way of explaining why a larger community can be better, it doesn’t necessarily “prove” that more committers equals a better product.

**Title**: Open Source Metrics

**Link**: <https://opensource.guide/metrics/>

**Summary**:

The article makes a case for measuring certain metrics when creating open source projects. Utilizing metrics helps creators in responding to user feedback, see project popularity, understand how the project is used, etc. The primary reference the author uses is based upon the metric graphs that appear on GitHub projects. They divide the metrics into the following categories:

* Discovery: is the project being seen by people
* Usage: is the project being downloaded/cloned
* Retention: are people regularly committing to the project

**Limitation**: These metrics are quite useful for checking community involvement, however the examples they use are limited to GitHub (they provide minor alternatives). Similar to previous community articles, this is more directed towards actual creators and how they can better their own projects (possible limitation on research application).

**Note**: The final metrics in the “Retention” section have some points on issue turnover rate (how often issues are resolved), which in itself may be another useful metric.