

Open Source Labor Economics

Prof. Dr. Dirk Riehle

Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg

FOSS C07

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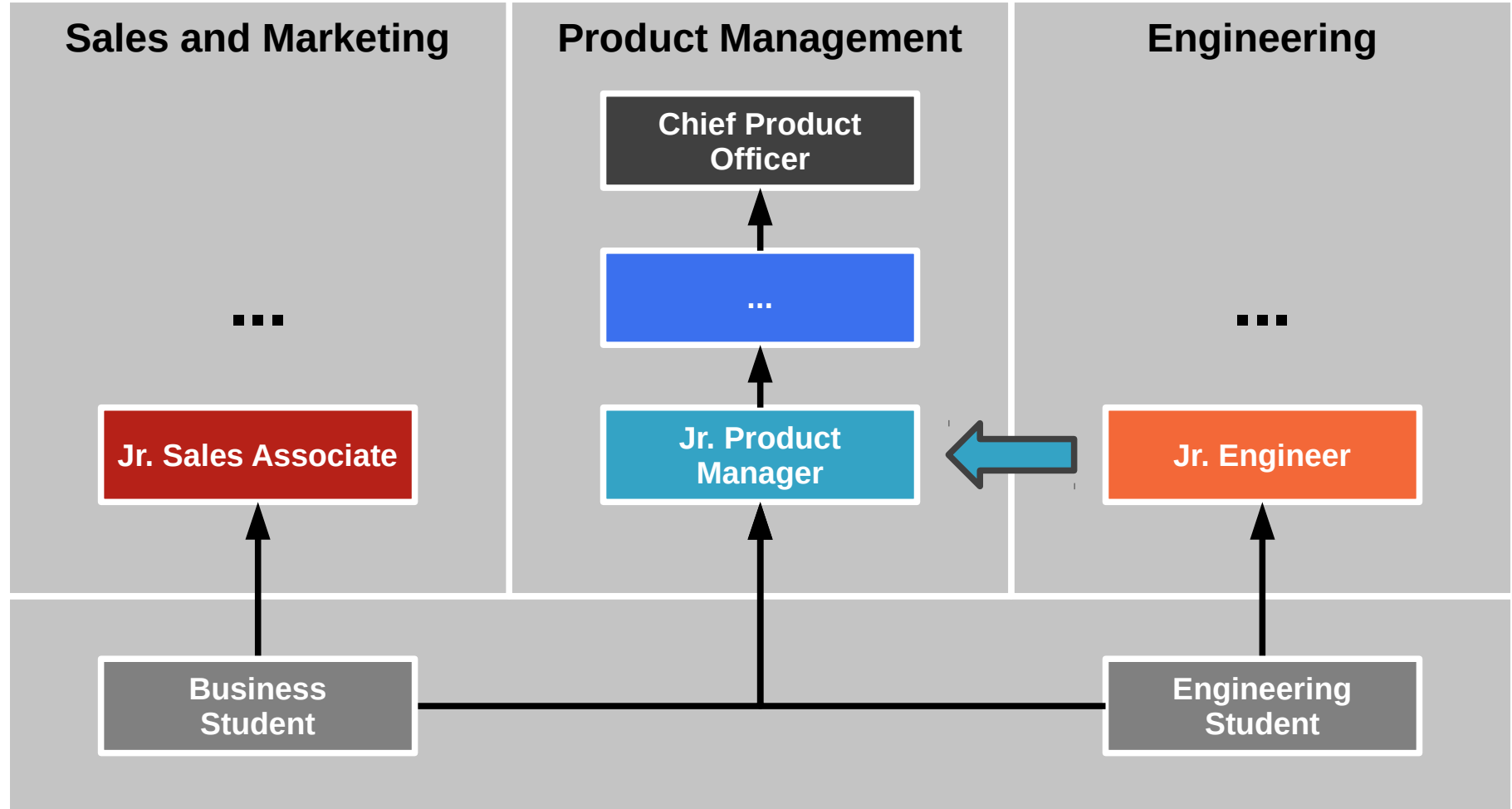
Linus Torvalds

**Why you should choose a career
in Linux and open source**

Video Lesson

- Traditional motivations for participating in open source
 - Do something good (altruism)
 - Learn something
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Traditional Developer Careers





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Erich Gamma [R15a]


Committers in Your Network



 committer   Advanced




Championing Open Source and Everything-as-a-Service - Cloud Computing, SDN and DevOps
Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina Area • Computer Software
▶ 29 shared connections • Similar •  500+



Current: **Committer** at Apache CloudStack




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Example (LinkedIn) Resume

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Experience

Member of Technical Staff

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April 2012 – Present (2 years 2 months) | Bristol, England

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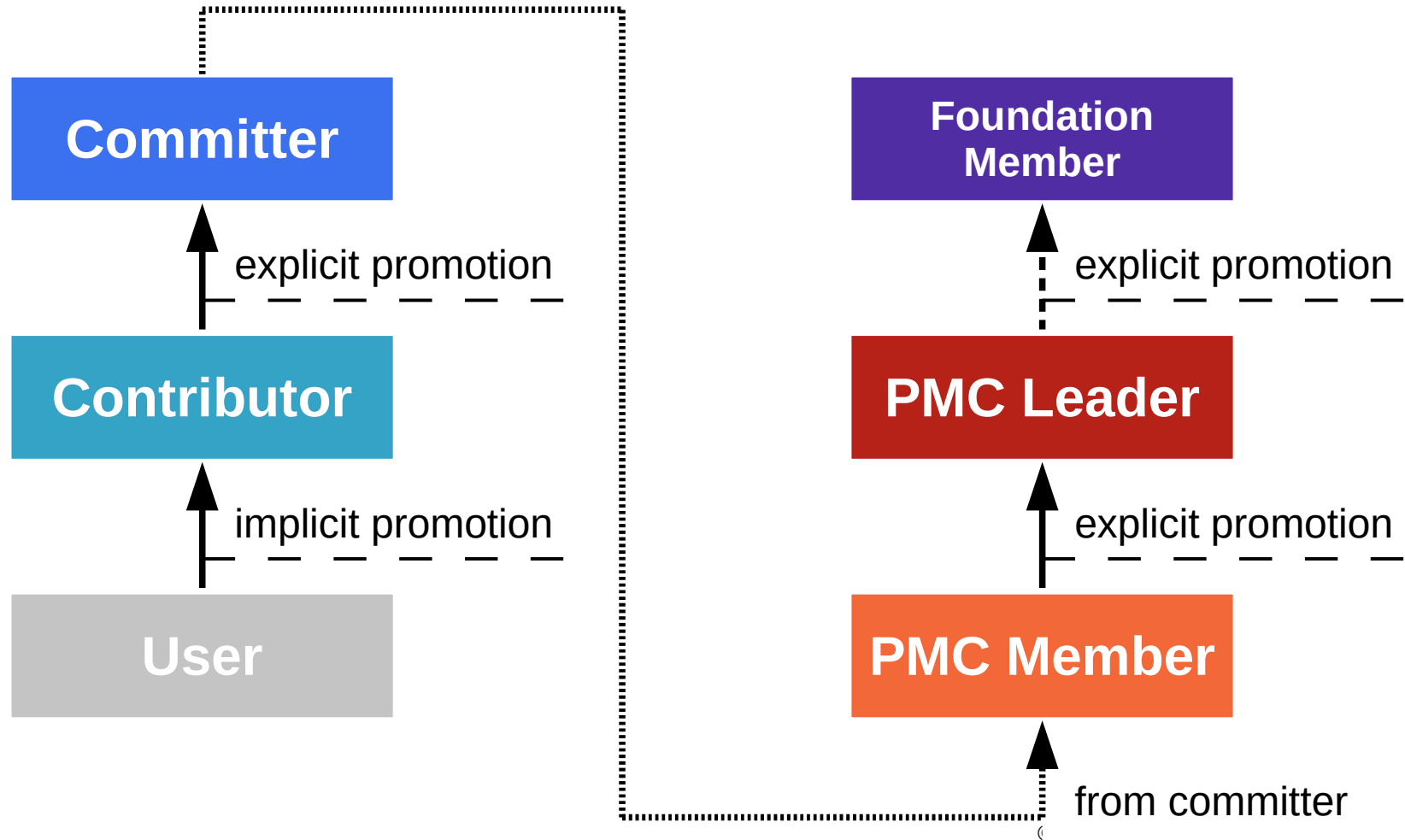
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- 1. Open source career stages**
- 2. Value creation, signaling**
- 3. Value appropriation**

Open Source Developer Career Path



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- II. Peer-confirmed competencies**
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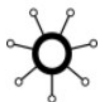
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collectd

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I Use This!

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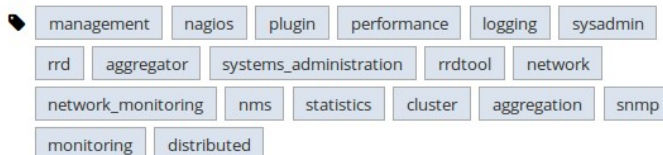
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Tags



Share



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Languages



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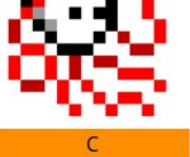
72%

Perl

17%

12 Other

11%



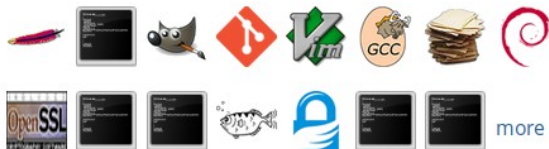
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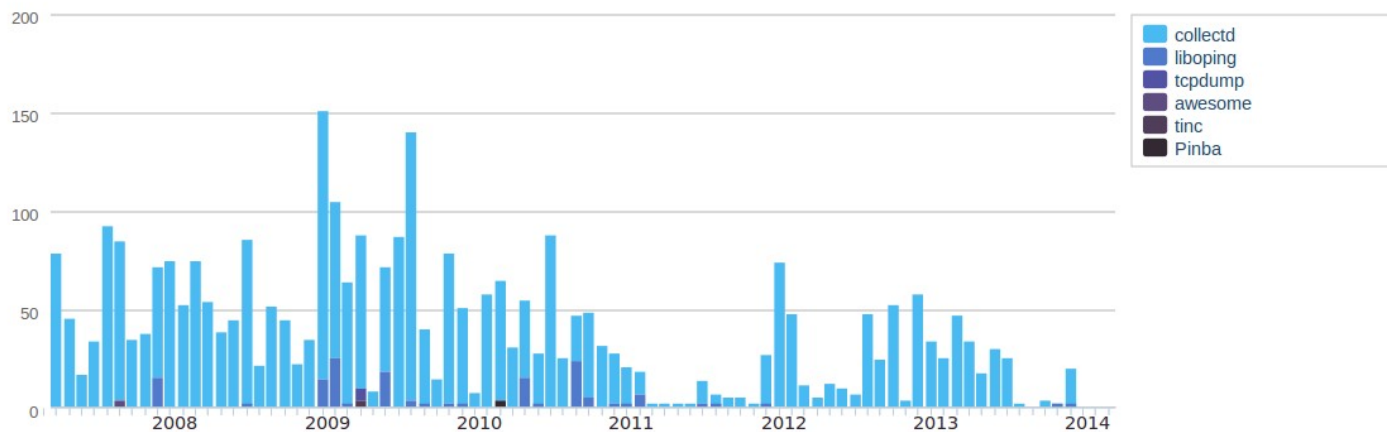
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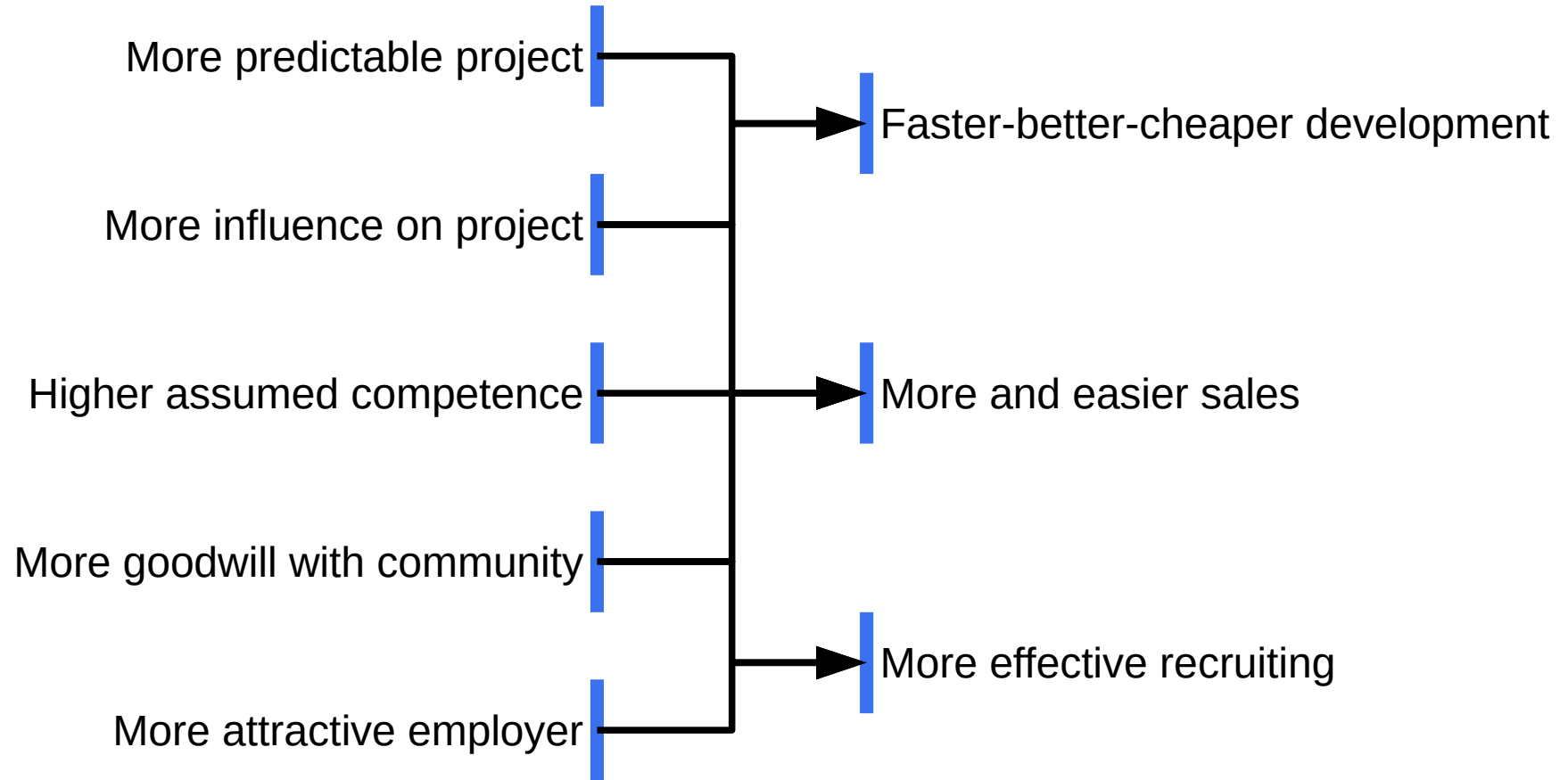
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Conclusions

- A new career path has emerged
 - It is related but different to prior paths
- Hypothesized effects on careers
 - In the short-run, open source developers may improve their wages
 - In the long-run, some form of peer confirmation becomes a must
- Effects on developer labor market
 - Reduced barriers to market entry make life harder for developers
 - The way out is to become a committer, but that is a scarce status
 - Committers to relevant open source projects can benefit significantly

Review / Summary of Session

- Developer engagement
 - Career stages
 - Value and signals
 - Value appropriation
- Value to company
 - Faster-better-cheaper development
 - More and easier sales
 - More effective recruiting
- Value to developer
 - Higher salary
 - Higher job security
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Thank you! Questions?

dirk.riehle@fau.de – <http://osr.cs.fau.de>

dirk@riehle.org – <http://dirkriehle.com> – [@dirkriehle](#)

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It is Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg – FAU, in short.
Corporate identity wants us to say “Friedrich-Alexander University”.

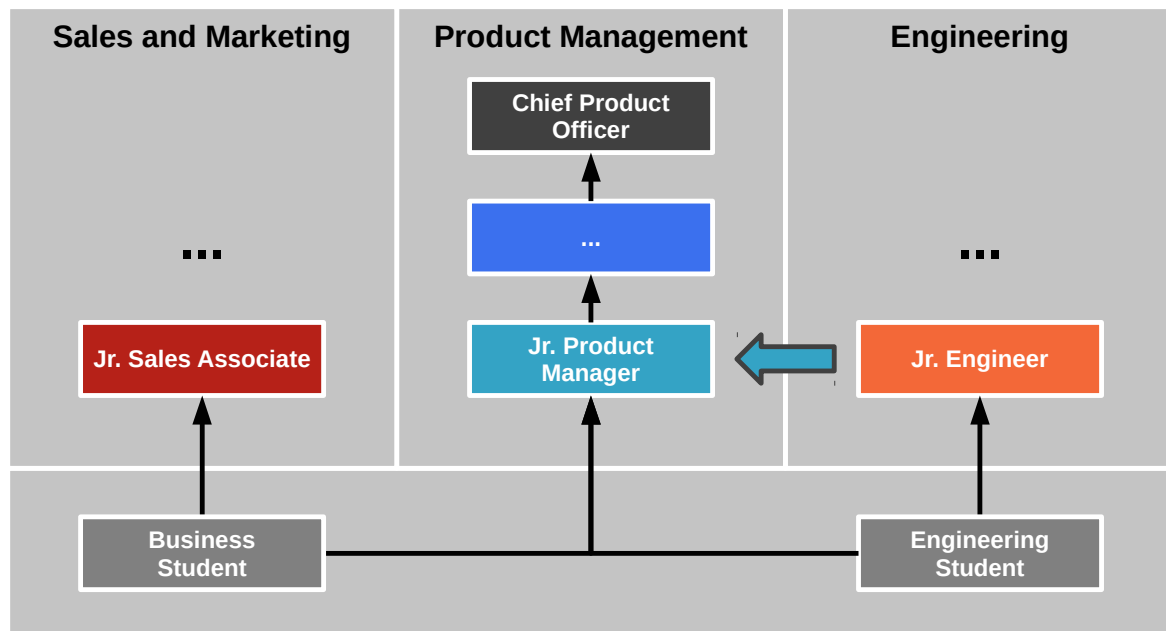
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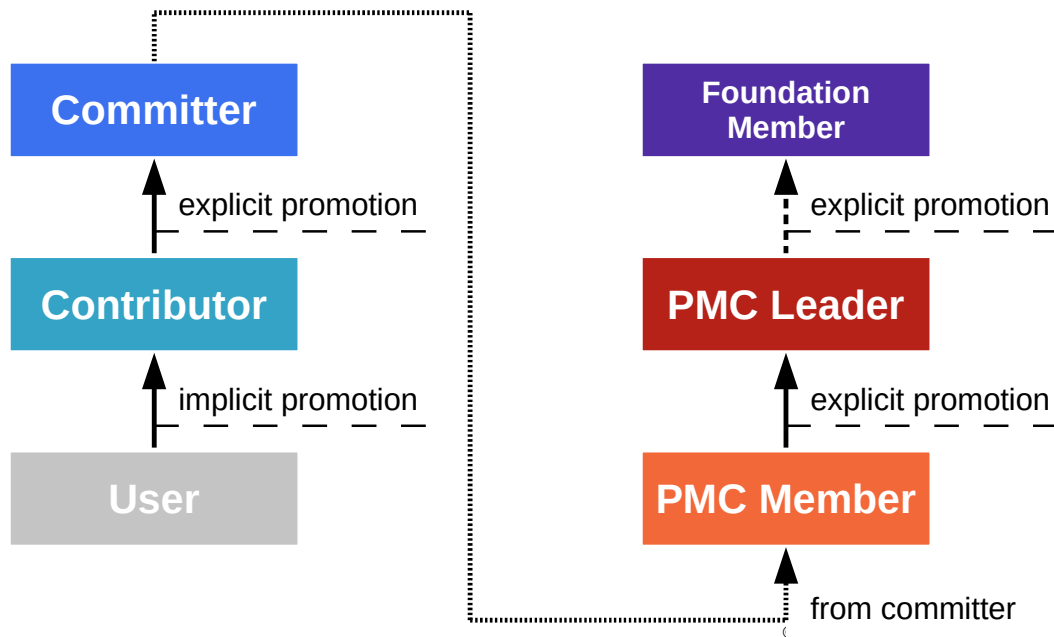


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collectd

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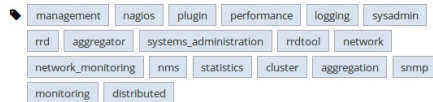
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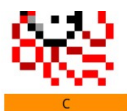
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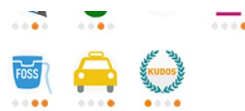
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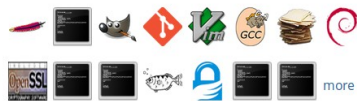
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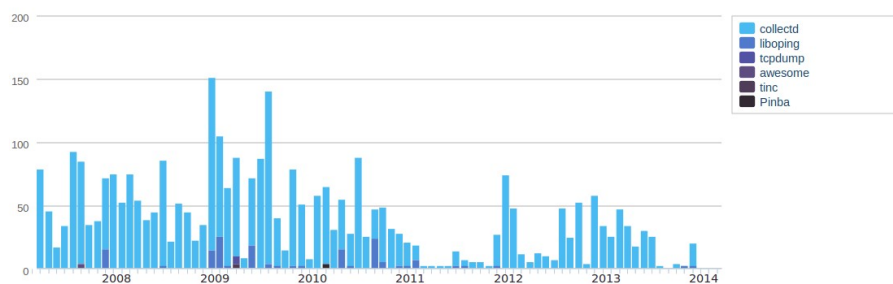
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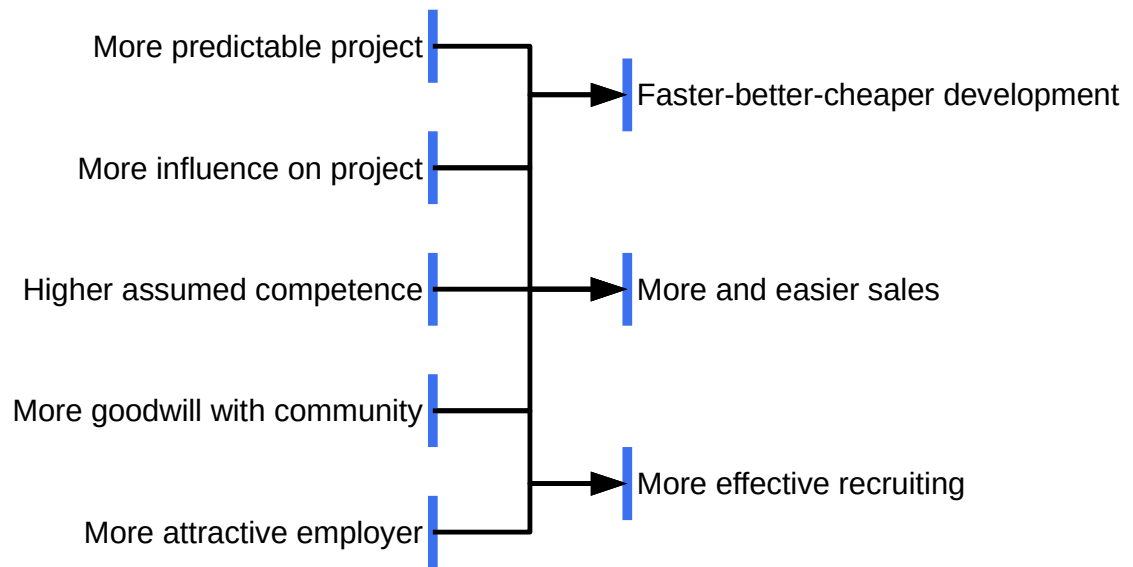
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- Hypothesized effects on careers
 - In the short-run, open source developers may improve their wages
 - In the long-run, some form of peer confirmation becomes a must
- Effects on developer labor market
 - Reduced barriers to market entry make life harder for developers
 - The way out is to become a committer, but that is a scarce status
 - Committers to relevant open source projects can benefit significantly

Review / Summary of Session

- Developer engagement
 - Career stages
 - Value and signals
 - Value appropriation
- Value to company
 - Faster-better-cheaper development
 - More and easier sales
 - More effective recruiting
- Value to developer
 - Higher salary
 - Higher job security
 - Richer job experience

Thank you! Questions?

dirk.riehle@fau.de – <http://osr.cs.fau.de>

dirk@riehle.org – <http://dirkriehle.com> – [@dirkriehle](#)

DR

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