Building a career in open source

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Who Am I?

- Linux Kernel developer at Oracle

- Working in kernel security engineering group

- Associated with the open source internship programs like GSoC, RGSoC, GCI, Outreachy etc.

My funny story…

What I am not going to talk about

Agenda

- Why you should work on open source?

- How companies make money out of open source?

- Different ways to work on open source projects

- Process of getting involved with the open source projects

- How to get paid for working on open source?

Why work on open source projects?

Open source == Freedom

- Open as in free use and access for all irrespective of your gender, race, geographical location etc.

- Dozons of License types

- Modiafiable and usuable for any purpose

Passion for FOSS & technology

- If technology excites you then sharing your work feels wonderful

- It's also about belief in openness, freedom and equal access to technology

- Collaborating with like minded people to work on a single project

Scratching your own itch

- If you find some useful tool/product, open source gives you freedom to improve it

- If you want to work on some problem, open source helps you in finding other people who might be interested in finding solution of that problem.

Open Philosophy

- Opportunity for international collaboration

- Work with people from different cultures

- Travel around the world for different conferences, summits, meetups etc

- The concept of working as we == community

Be part of the biggest projects

- Linux runs every Android phone and tablet on Earth. And even if you're on an iPhone or a Mac or a Windows machine, Linux is working behind the scenes, serving up most of the webpages you view and powering most of the apps you use.

- Firefox web browser has 10-15% of the market share

- According to Netcraft, Apache is currently used by 46% of all websites. In 2009, it became the 1st web server to be used by more than 100 million websites.

Professional Development

- You get to experience the process of actual development before you're employed

- Your Portfolio == Your CV

- Online collaboration with different cultures improves valuable communication skills

How companies make money?

- Providing support

- Customization of code and creating special plugins

- Deployment and management

Ways to work on open source

Bugs

- Finding bugs

- Reporting bugs

- Fixing bugs

Testing

- Using tools

- Testing of new features

- Performance testing

Documentation

- Contributing to the existing docs

- Writing blogs

- Adding new docs

Some other ways

- Translation

- Localization

- Community involvement and helping others

- Support

How to get involved?

The common process

- Choose a project

- Set up an environment in your local machine

- Subscribe to mailing list and connect over IRC

- Read documentation and tutorials

- Bug trackers and github issues

- Understanding community best practices

Tips

- Respect other contributors and their work

- Be patient but follow through with commitments

- Be open for new ideas and focus on constructive criticism only

- Be visible
  - Write about your open source learning and work
  - Attend/speak at events/conferences
  - Engage with other users of the projects

How to get paid: Job seeking

- List your open source work on your resume, include links

- Reach out to your contacts in communities, also ask on social media

- Attend conferences where companies are hiring

- Companies to look for

Questions?