

Building Open Source Communities

NOVEMBER 16, 2018

NODESOURCE®

\$ whoami

NODESOURCE®

DEVELOPER ADVOCATE



Community Committee

Moderation Team

Website Redesign

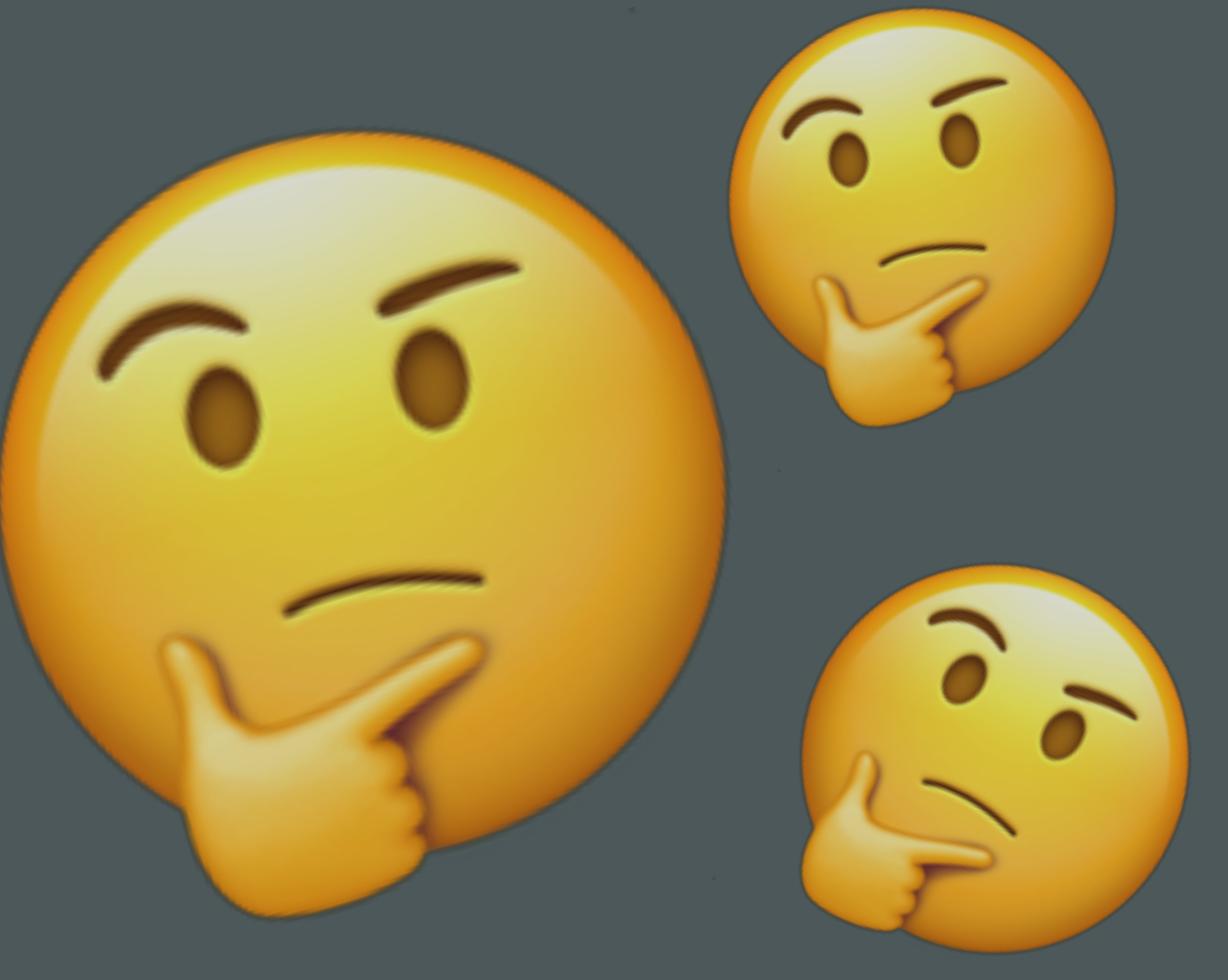
Automation

Governance

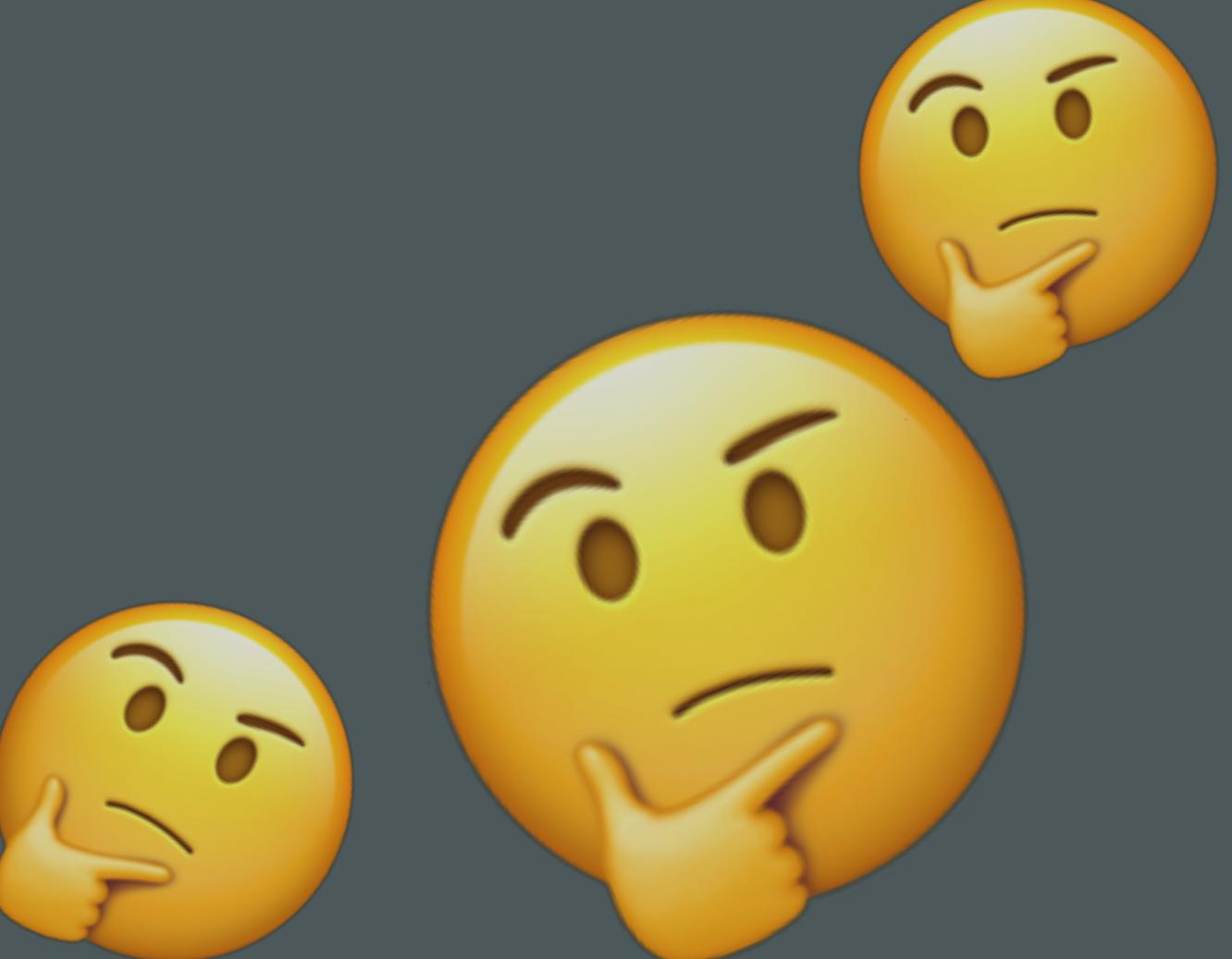
Bootstrap

@bitandbang





What is an Open Source Community?



“What is an Open Source Community?”

Liran Tal @liran_tal · Jun 12
Replies to @bitandbang
people who value transparency, openness and respectfully collaborate together on a project.
 2 1 2 1

Antonino Urbano @antonino_u · Jun 12
Replies to @bitandbang @peakwinter
For me it means sharing solutions to problems that you think other people do or might also have. As someone who mainly works on proprietary things, contributing to already open source libraries is my small way of giving back.
 4 1 4 1

Felix Heck @_theheck · 3h
Replies to @bitandbang @brooklyn_js
A highly motivated group of people which is happy to help/support each other and to contribute in the form of PRs, plugins, feedback,... 🙌 best community is btw the @hapijs one 😊
 3 1 3 1

Mike Samuel @mvsamuel · 3h
I like the "feedback..." In this definition because doesn't limit to code creation. It leaves on scope communities related to learning (how) or discussing how software affects people (should).
 2 1 2 1

Jay Phelps @_jayphelps · 1m
Replies to @bitandbang
The group of people who use, contribute, or create open source software.
 1 1 1 1

actually a kat girl @maybekatz · 2m
Replies to @bitandbang
A feel-good label used for exploitation of free labor 🤖
 6 1 6 1

© Hassan Sani @iNidAName · 11h
Replies to @bitandbang
A chance to give back
 2 1 2 1

Gaurav Sachdeva @gauravano · 16m
Replies to @bitandbang @brooklyn_js
It's a place where people try to build something great, learn new things, make new friends and many more purposes, but while doing all this, they do it together. One can assume Open Source Community as a family where people may not recognize/know each other very well but..
 1 1 1 1

Gaurav Sachdeva @gauravano · 9m
they share thanks with each comment/message. Some people join a community to make a great impact, to see their work doing magic and so community is also source of happiness. Sometimes, one may feel, they know less or don't know enough to be a part, but
 1 1 1 1

Gaurav Sachdeva @gauravano · 4m
at that time one should remember why they joined - 'to learn something new, to become great developer'. And, Open Source is full of awesome people, who motivate you, inspire you to do great work. I started my journey of Open Source with a PR full of errors, but..
 1 1 1 1

Rabbi Ben Greenberg @RabbiGreenberg · Jun 12
Replies to @bitandbang
Perhaps it can be articulated as a community of people that are united by their commitment to the notion that a more open, more accessible, more transparent society makes us all better. This is visible in our code but has ramifications far beyond.
 1 1 1 1

Sean Tilley @DeadSuperHero · Jun 12
Replies to @bitandbang
Well, it's a definition that can apply to different parts of the space in a myriad of ways.
 1 1 1 1

At its core, the notion is about sharing knowledge in the form of a usable implementation or framework that can be modified, reused, reshared and extended.
 1 1 1 1

Sean Tilley @DeadSuperHero · Jun 12
The community itself varies, however. For example, a number of large tech companies produce Open Source projects that are extremely niche, such as Lyft's microservice framework.
 1 1 1 1

The culture there is markedly different than, say, user-facing apps or communication platforms.
 1 1 1 1

nsrc.io/oss-community

TL;DR:

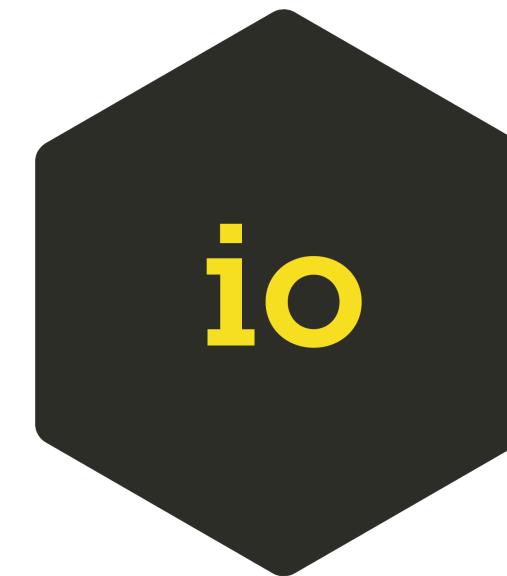
There isn't consensus on any one
definition or thought process.

Open Source community is
everything beyond the code.

So, how does one *build* an open
source community?

Lessons Learned from Building Open Source Communities

My Open Source Community Experiences



Lesson #1

Don't Build Too Much

Lesson From:





* WIND WHISTLING *

Having empty spaces to “grow
into” limits and discourages
growth.

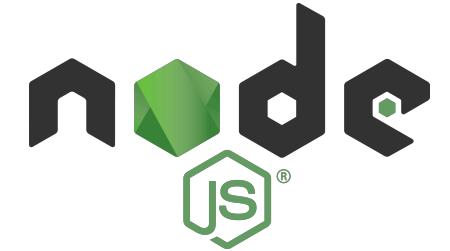
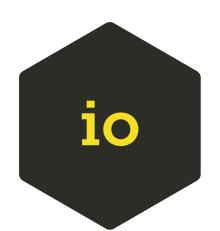


Too much red tape limits growth

Lesson #2

Ensure Contributors are Empowered

Lesson From:

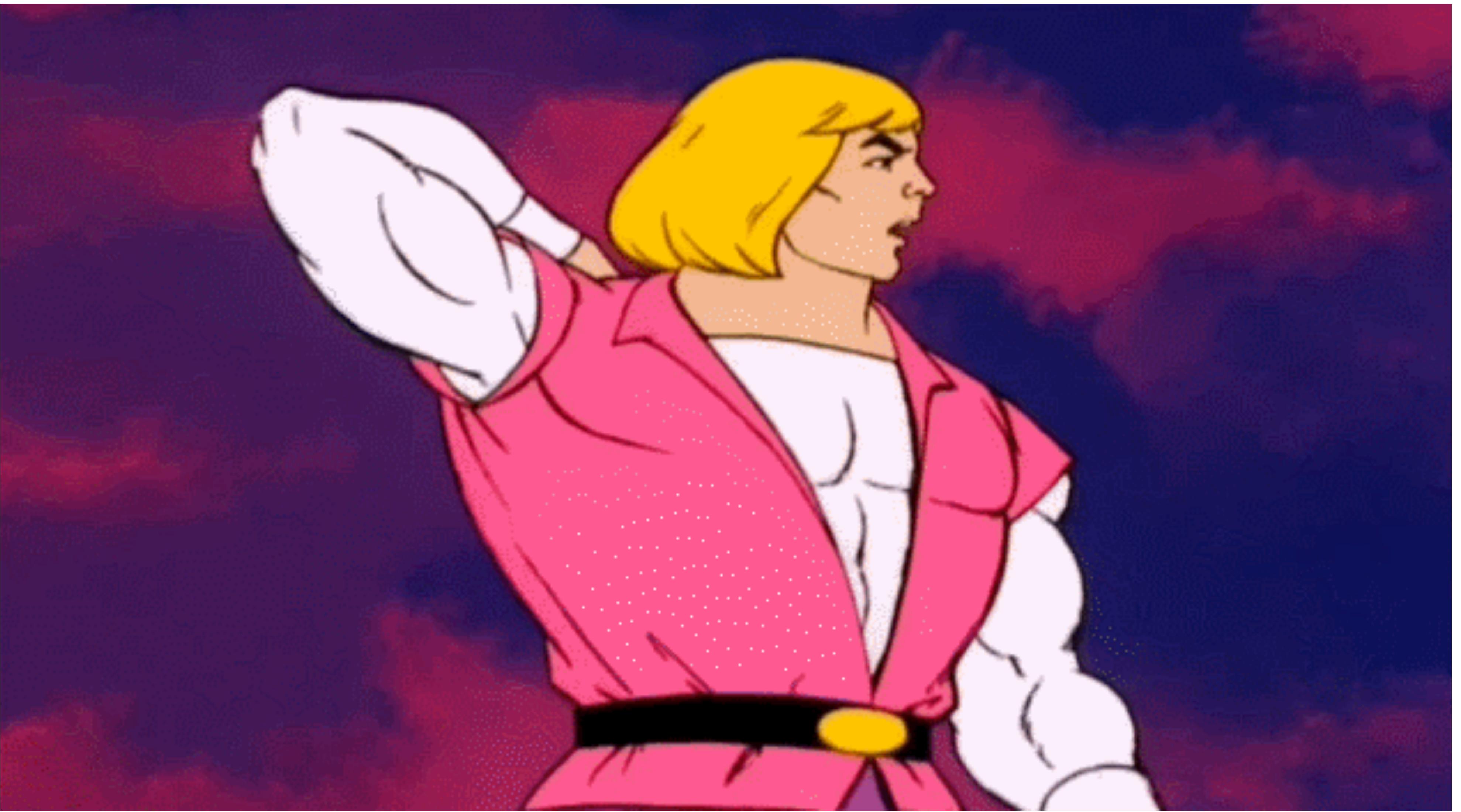


Empowering contributors to do the
work they want to do enables
communities to grow naturally



Please, sir, can I have some more?

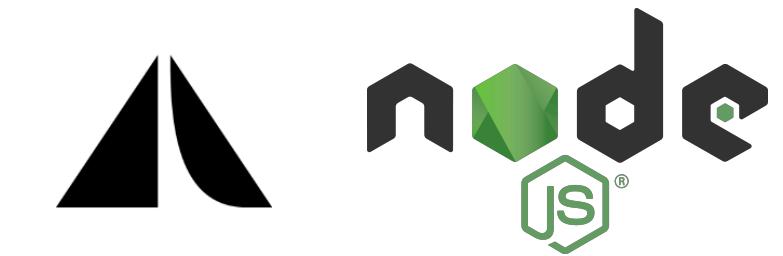
Once empowered, individuals can begin
to feel needed and do cool stuffs.



Lesson #3

Accept Help Along the Way

Lesson From:



Communities can be led, but
not owned.



Communities can outgrow
their leaders.

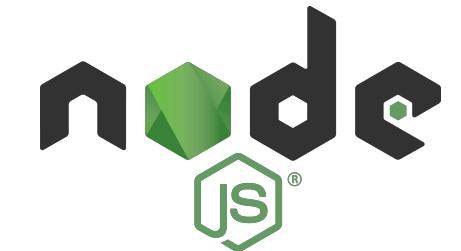
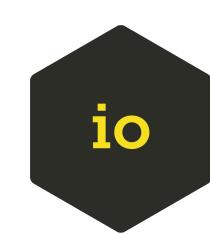
Once you let Community lead,
things change in interesting ways.



Lesson #4

Take Multiple Approaches

Lesson From:

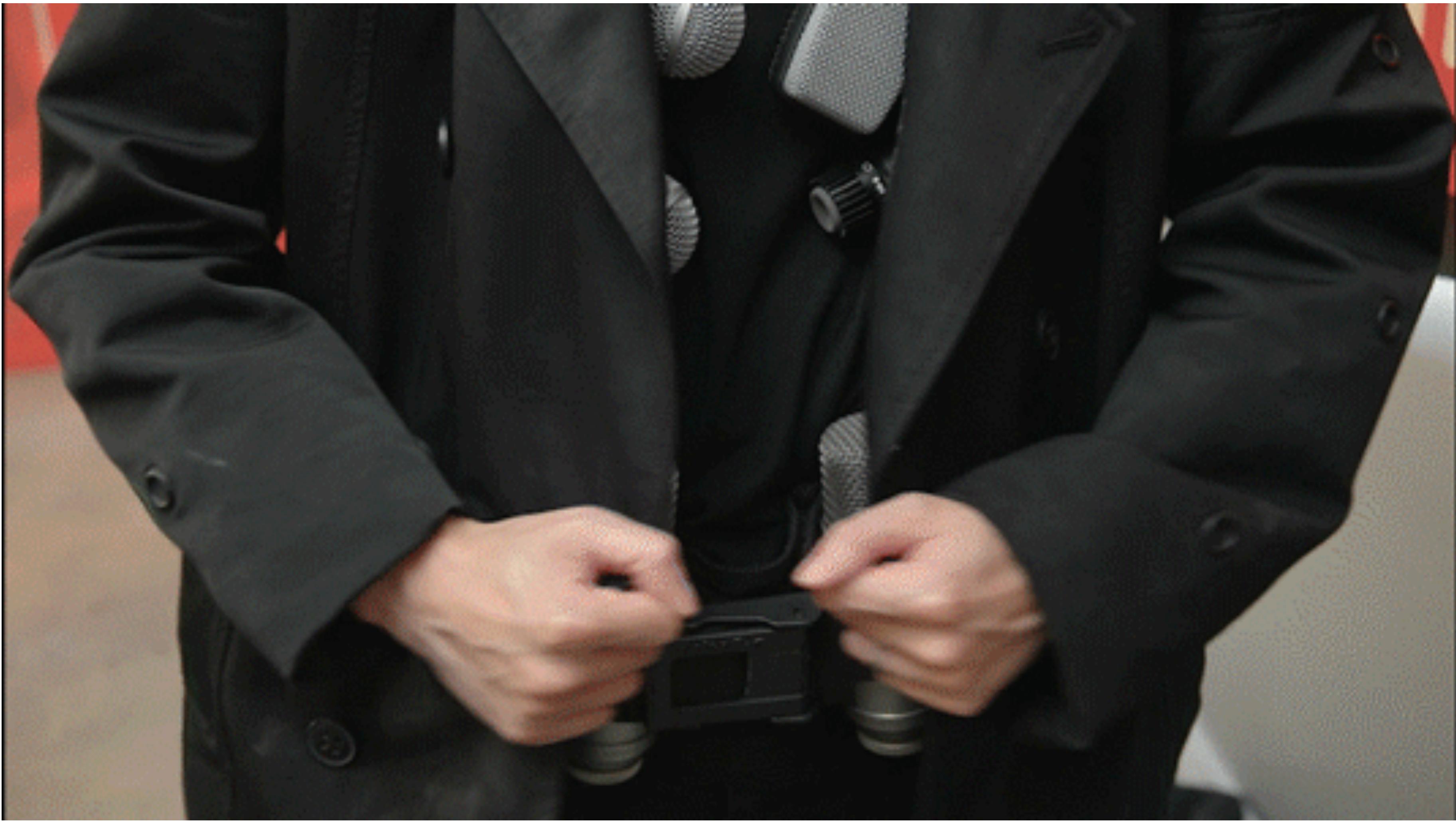


Not everyone uses the same media,
or has the same preferences.

Cater to as many as possible.



Certain channels will eventually emerge as
your primary channels. That's okay!



Quick Recap

Lesson #1

Don't Build *Too Much*

Lesson #2

Ensure Contributors are Empowered

Lesson #3

Accept Help Along the Way

Lesson #4

Take Multiple Approaches

How you can apply these four lessons, today:

- Have a purposeful plan and scope.
- Have a path to meaningful contributions.
- Don't "own" a community. Be a part of a community.
- Communicate your intents precisely and dynamically.

Thank you.

Tierney Cyren

tierney@nodesource.com

@bitandbang



NODESOURCE®