

Steven Deobald

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Dear Personnel Committee,

I have been in technology leadership roles for over 10 years. Starting with my time at ThoughtWorks and DRW Trading, I led and mentored teams of dozens of developers. When I left DRW, I moved to India and started Nilenso Software, an employee-owned software consultancy with a mission to work with clients building critical infrastructure products, whether for-profit like GoJek or non-profit like Simple.org. Throughout these roles, I was constantly evaluating software and architecture choices, while mentoring staff and client developers. Open source always formed the foundation of these choices. While running Nilenso, I managed all hiring and supervision of staff. I also supervised all of our software delivery projects with clients, regardless of whether I was a part of the delivery team or not.

For the past 5 years, I have been actively contributing to the Pariyatti open source digital library as a volunteer engineering/project manager. This work requires that I manage both Pariyatti's paid staff and their interactions with a large team of volunteers who have varying involvement in the project. I'm also the Centre Manager for Atlantic Canada Vipassana Meditation, a non-profit based in Nova Scotia which provides completely free 10-Day meditation courses. This work is entirely comprised of volunteers and funded entirely by donations, which is a significant management challenge.

While I was running Nilenso, we had a contract with MapBox. At the time, OpenStreetMap was well-established and an exceptional example of distributed and coordinated effort toward the common good. Nearly a decade later, I remain in awe of everything the OSM team has achieved and the fact that it remains one of the most successful open data projects on the planet. I would love to contribute toward the OSM effort and help guide it toward continued success.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SD' followed by a stylized flourish.

Steven Deobald