FOSS Foundations Enable Community Growth

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What is a Foundation?

Foundations are non-profits* that provide:

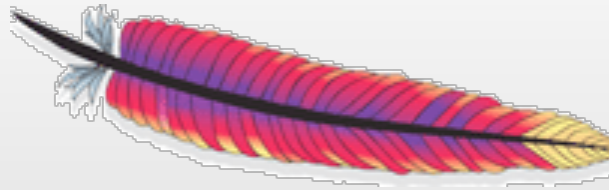Legal Structure

Business Operations

Technical Services

OUTERCURVE.ORG

* But they are still businesses

Foundations

* But they are still businesses

Corporate Projects

Why does it matter?

Neutrality encourages contribution

Clean IP encourages adoption

Foundations act as community centre-of-gravity

Foundation as Community Centre-of-Gravity
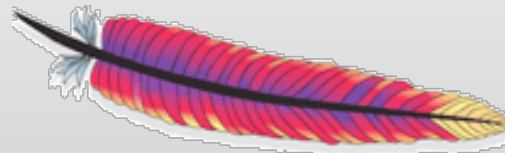
Creating Strong Communities

- Support an Architecture of Participation
- Make it easy to join the conversation
- Support and grow committers
- Support lines of communications
- Provide technical services (forges, code signing, etc.)

Neutrality Encourages Contribution (Inbound)

Neutrality and Ownership

- Henrik Ingo statistics on foundations and project activity (http://bit.ly/f3O34M)

Neutrality and Ownership

- Successful Projects Grow and Evolve until ...
  - Apache Software Foundation
  - OSDL/Linux Foundation
  - Eclipse Foundation

Clean IP Encourages Adoption (Outbound)

Legal Structures are Important

- License (inbound/outbound)
- Assignments and Contribution Licenses
- Provenance tracking
- Liability and risk management
- Committer indemnification

Questions?

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