



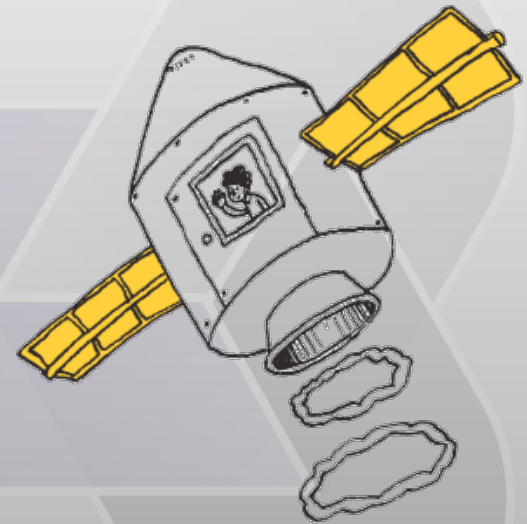
OUTERcurve
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Symbian: collaboration, open, closed, dead?

Stephen R. Walli
September 2011

A Symbian Timeline

- 1998 Symbian Ltd. created
- 2008 Symbian has ~66% market share
- 2008 Nokia acquires Symbian Ltd.
- 2009 Symbian Foundation launches
- 2010 (early) Foundation “ships” first “open” release
- 2010 (end) Nokia announces Foundations end
- 2011 Foundation closes



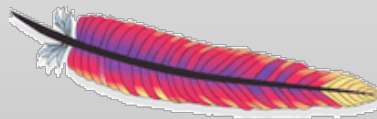
What is a Foundation?

Foundations are non-profits* that provide:

Legal Structure

Business Operations

Technical Services



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OUTERcurve.ORG

* But they are still businesses

Why does it matter?

Foundations act as community centre-of-gravity

Neutrality encourages contribution

Clean IP encourages adoption

Foundation as Community Centre-of-Gravity



Creating Strong Communities*

- Create an Architecture of Participation
 - Start the conversation with code and great technology
 - Have frequent releases
- Need to make it easy to join the conversation
 - Give people things to do
 - Build tutorials, documentation, books
- Find and support your tribal leader(s)
- Committers need to be strong communicators with good conflict resolution skills
- Be as transparent as possible
 - No internal mailing lists
 - Publish the bug database
 - Push everything to the edge

A Failure to Communicate*

- Not all developers are good communicators
- Marketers still want to be in control
 - Remember you win by giving up control
 - Novell Hula failure (Keeping the “cool features” back to make a “big splash”)
- Too easy to fall back into the old way of doing things
- How do you know when you are successful?
 - Metrics are hard to gather
- If you publish it the world will NOT beat a path to your door (Mozilla)
- Not invented here and a second class community (OpenSolaris)
- Holding back technology (Hula)
- Holding back information is a breach of trust

Berkus's Ten Steps to Destroy Your Community

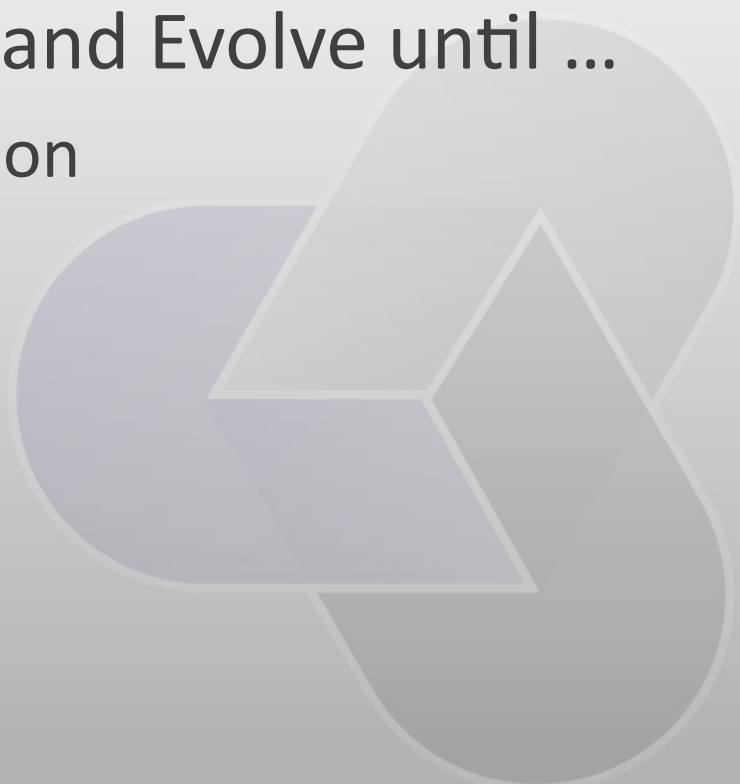
Difficult Tools
Poisonous People
No Documentation
Closed Door Meetings
Legalese, Legalese, Legalese
Bad Liaison
Governance Obfuscation
Screw around with Licenses
No Outside Committers
Be Silent

Neutrality Encourages Contribution (Inbound)



Neutrality and Ownership

- Henrik Ingo statistics on foundations and project activity (<http://bit.ly/f3O34M>)
- Successful Projects Grow and Evolve until ...
 - Apache Software Foundation
 - OSDL/Linux Foundation
 - Eclipse Foundation



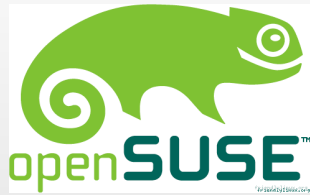
Clean IP Encourages Adoption (Outbound)



Legal Structures are Important

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

Corporate Projects



versus



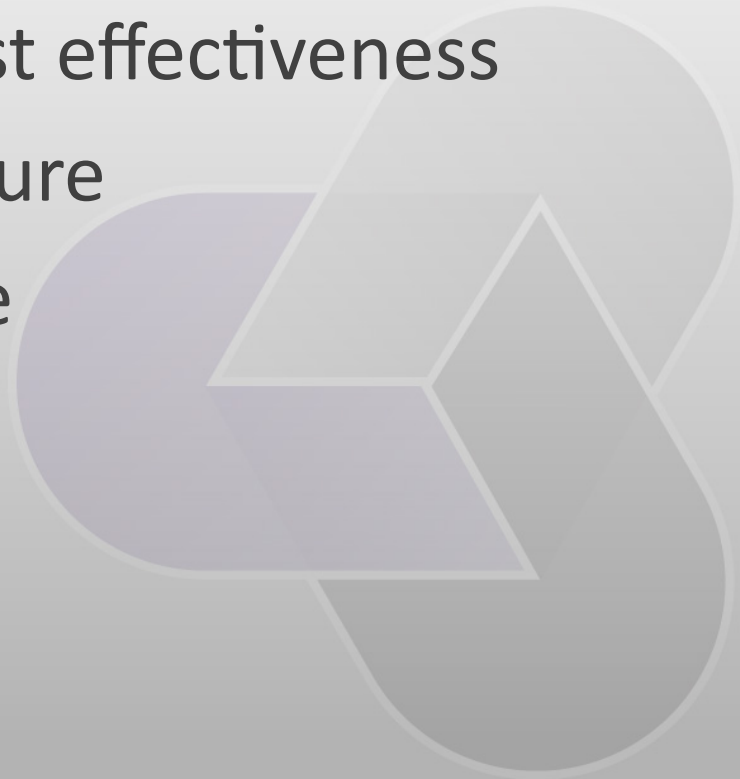
Symbian Foundation Execution

Code flow and neutrality

Efficiency and cost effectiveness

Membership culture

Corporate culture



Symbian now ...

Not Open Source, just Open for Business

We have received questions about the use of words “open”, “open source”, and about having a registration process before allowing access to the code.

As we have consistently said, Nokia is making the Symbian platform available under an alternative, open and direct model, to enable us to continue working with the remaining Japanese OEMs and the relatively small community of platform development collaborators we are already working with.

Through these pages we are releasing source code to these collaborators, but are not maintaining Symbian as an open source development project. Consistent with this, the Nokia Symbian License is an alternative license which provides an access to Nokia’s additional Symbian development for parties which collaborate with Nokia on the Symbian platform.

Also consistently with the announcement, we are monitoring the registrations and approving the aforementioned platform collaborators only. There is a backlog of registrations which we are processing continuously.

Additionally, Nokia is committed to supporting application developers to leverage the continuing opportunity from Symbian and Qt, they can get that support, including development tools, documentation and other assistance from Forum Nokia.

<http://bit.ly/ffcKZ9>

Questions?

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