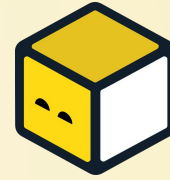


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Mutually Assured Development

Christian Mesh - OpenTofu Tech Lead

The Terraform Ecosystem (2023)



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- Terraform: A tool to manage changes to your infrastructure
- Providers: API integrations for OpenTofu/Terraform
 - ~4000, most by the community
- Modules: Reusable code pieces
 - ~25000, most by the community
- Terraform Registry: An index of providers/modules usable in Terraform
- Hashicorp Cloud: Hosted orchestration on top of Terraform
- Ecosystem of free and paid extensions / orchestrations on top of Terraform.



- When is Open Source not truly “Open”?
- Contributor License Agreement pitfalls
- August 2023: Rug pulled
- License change for Terraform and other projects.
 - MPL2.0 -> BUSL
 - “Visible Source” license with additional restrictions
- HashiCorp ToS: Terraform Registry can not be used with a fork.

The Community Response



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- The community invested significant resources in the ecosystem.
- The license change broke the trust of the community.
- Manifesto created to pressure Hashicorp into reverting the changes
 - Significant community support
 - Trying to find a compromise
- Forking: the “open source insurance policy”
- Easy to say “fork”, hard to accomplish

What's preventing a fork?



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- Incomplete features at the time of the fork
- Data required to function may not be available (registry)
- Build tools may be unavailable
- Build and release processes are usually undocumented
- Unclear which repositories are needed
- User documentation may not be available under an open license
- Historic knowledge is missing

The Founders of OpenTF/OpenTofu



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- The most immediately impacted by the license changes is the TACOS
 - IaC automation and orchestration companies
 - Threatens the core of their business
 - Customers left in the lurch
 - Direct competitors with each other and Hashicorp
- Open ecosystem and tooling required to function
- Competition was set aside overnight as it became clear that collaboration was the only path forward
- Ideas are great, how to accomplish this in practice?



- How do you prevent another rug pull under the new fork?
- Organized under the Linux Foundation
 - Trademark is owned by LF
 - Governance and organizational changes overseen by LF
 - Impartial oversight
- Inbound = outbound licensing, no Contributor License Agreement
- Multiple contributing companies ensure no one voice can rule the ecosystem
- Everything is open source and designed to be easy to fork (e.g. ppc64le)



- Core Team
 - Develops features, reviews contributions, supports the community.
- Tech Lead
 - Leads day-to-day business, part of the Core Team.
- Technical Steering Committee
 - Makes decisions with strategic or legal implications.
- Linux Foundation
 - Oversees/assists the Technical Steering Committee

What drives OpenTofu development



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- Look to the community for important issues and to guide prioritization
- RFC process allows anyone to pitch or weigh in on complex proposals
- Each company hires their own employees, but the hiring process is standardized
- Core developers are OpenTofu first, employees second

Following the community voice



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Top-Ranking Issues #1496



Open

cube2222 opened this issue on Apr 16 · 0 comments



cube2222 commented on Apr 16 • edited by github-actions (bot) ▾

Member



Top Enhancements

1. [Dynamic provider configuration assignment](#) #300 - 256 🍌
2. [Support OCI registries for provider and module distribution.](#) #308 - 98 🍌
3. [Direct support for conditional single-instance resources](#) #1306 - 83 🍌
4. [tofu plan -light](#) #1703 - 78 🍌
5. [Support OpenTofu in the VS Code Language Server](#) #970 - 78 🍌
6. [Unlocking Terraform's S3 Backend: Going DynamoDB-Free](#) #599 - 57 🍌
7. [Use variables in lifecycle attributes such as prevent_destroy or ignore_changes](#) #1329 - 54 🍌
8. [\[State Encryption\] Key providers \(Azure Key Vault\)](#) #1171 - 52 🍌
9. [Add support for lifecycle meta-argument in modules](#) #304 - 47 🍌
10. [Allow Variable Validation Conditions to Refer to Other Variables](#) #1336 - 45 🍌
11. [Support Dependabot for update automation](#) #1236 - 41 🍌
12. [Allow providers to be loaded from the command line with the --provider flag](#) #1805 - 36 🍌

The future of OpenTofu



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- You tell us!
- Join the community meetings on Wednesdays!
- Open or vote on issues!



- “Source available” makes forks harder:
 - Several contributions were inspired by or directly copied from Terraform.
 - A no-AI policy. (Accessibility problem)
- We had to respond to an incorrectly researched C&D letter and DMCA
- Opening up our Governance
 - Cathedral to the Bazaar
 - Community involvement with the roadmap / larger features