Why Do Many Open Source Software Projects Fail?

THE LINUX FOUNDATION

Why Projects Fail?

- The vast majority of OSS projects do not succeed; some of the reasons why include:
  - Insufficient interest
  - Competition from more established projects that duplicate the intended functionality (even if the new project seems to have features the older one does not)
  - Poor leadership
  - Not enough developers
  - Insufficient funding
  - Insufficient or uninformed attention to licensing issues
  - Low barrier to entry - projects are very easy to start

- The low survival rate should not be seen as a bad thing; most (but not all) successful open source projects start small and it can be quite difficult to predict which ones will survive and thrive