Typical open source projects

A starting point for discussion in ORCWG oei@edvina.net - 2025-04-28 v 1.0

Roles

- Maintainer: Manage the project, maintain it long-term
- Contributor: Contributes code or documentation helps with triaging issues, mailing list responses
- Committer: Has rights to modify or add source code
- Core team: A team that leads the code project
- BDFL: Benevolent Dictator for Life

https://opensource.guide/leadership-and-governance/

Hobbyist

- Creates source code, maintains code base, in spare time
- Makes all decisions
- Publishes on github without a lot of marketing
- May want attribution

Meritocracy

- Open Source project with no legal organisation
- Copyright by contributors
- A few contributors that work for a longer period of time keep the project alive and managed
- Commit rights given based on merit and commitment to project
- Some contributors offer consulting, training, installation support in various companies
- Maybe a "management" group to oversee general rules, maintain core systems, manage conflicts

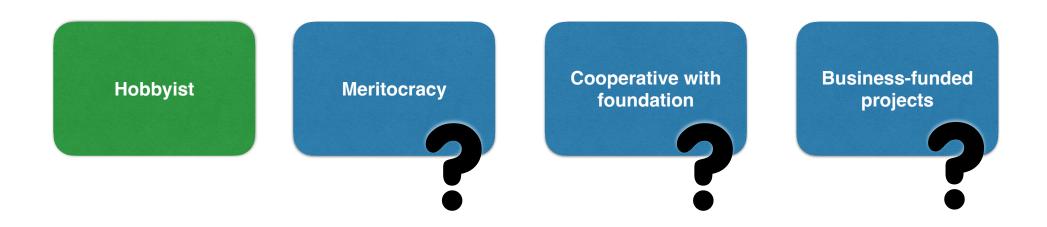
Cooperative Open Source

- Many companies has the need of a software platform join a foundation to share the cost of development
- Employees of member companies produce the code, elect member to govern the project
- Almost no hobbyists participate
- Foundation employees manage the project

Open Source business

- Creates homepage with .com for business and .org for the open source side
- The company has all of the rights to the repository
- Code published under restrictive license
- A few community contributions that are to be approved by the company, contributions may use a separate license to make it possible to publish commercial versions
- Community has to sign contribution agreement, giving rights to the company
- Community contributions may compete with business model of the company (which leads to governance problems)

What is excluded from the CRA



Depends on commercial intent.

If not fully excluded, then...

If projects are not in the green, how are they affected?