

I would like to build an OSS community, should I? NO! YES!

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Linux Day Napoli 2019

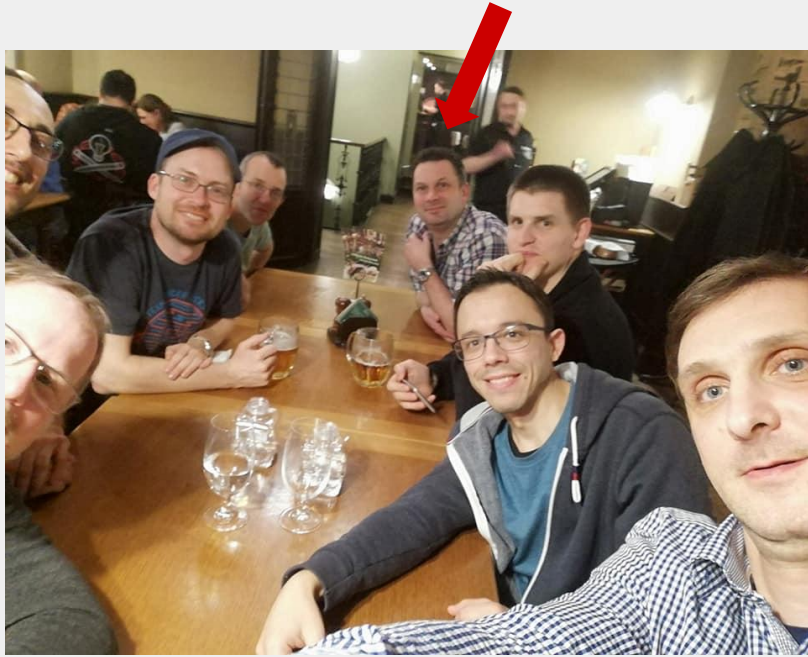
Who am I ?

- Principal Software Engineer @ Red Hat
 - Messaging & IoT team
- Committer @ Cloud Native Computing Foundation
 - Strimzi: Apache Kafka on Kubernetes
- Committer @ Eclipse Foundation
 - Hono, Paho and Vert.x projects
- Microsoft MVP Azure/IoT
- Dad of two, husband of one
- #running, #swimming, #VR46 #SSCNapoli



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Before starting ... credits



“Inspired by a similar session delivered by my awesome boss Simon!”



“Where were we last year?”



“Oh right! We were talking about pizza!”



“Actually it was about community!”

community

/kə'mju:nɪti/ 

noun

1. a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
"Montreal's Italian community"
synonyms: [group](#), [section](#), [body](#), [company](#), [set](#), [circle](#), [clique](#), [coterie](#), [ring](#), [band](#), [faction](#); [More](#)
2. the condition of sharing or having certain attitudes and interests in common.
"the sense of community that organized religion can provide"



Community: recipe and ingredients

- Project
 - An idea and a topic for discussion ...
 - ... for building “something” around that
- Noble principles
 - For having an “healthy” community
- People
 - Who share passion and common interests
 - No matter what’s your skills level



Do you want to build an OSS community?

“Should I really create a community
around MY project?”



Do you want to build an OSS community?



Why NOT!?

“Do you have time?”



Why NOT!?

- Quite often you have a so called “weekend” project
 - Workdays as employee
 - Weekend as ... self-employed :-)
- Helping people who are trying to use your project
- Letting other developers learn
- Documentation
- Publicize



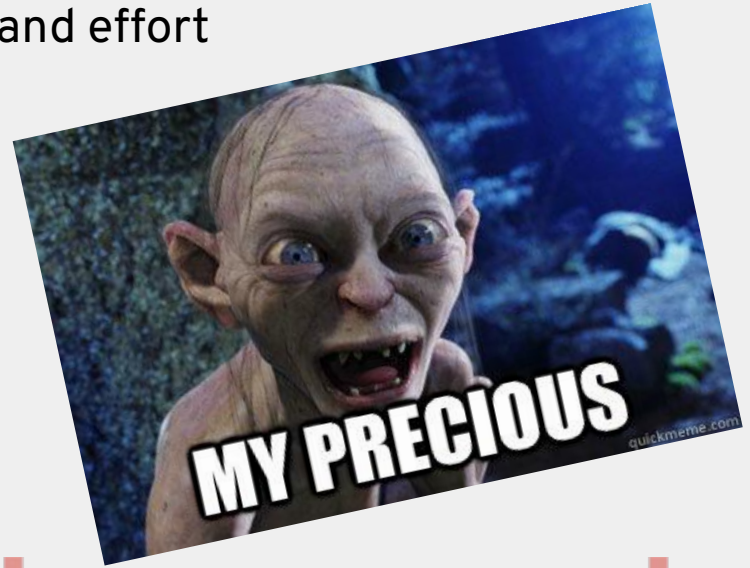
Why NOT!?

“Are you prepared to relinquish the control?”



Why NOT!?

- Allow others to have a sense of ownership on ... your “baby”
- Allow community to influence the direction and effort
- Maybe making a committee?
 - What are the rules?
 - Who can merge the PRs?
- It will be not your “precious” anymore!



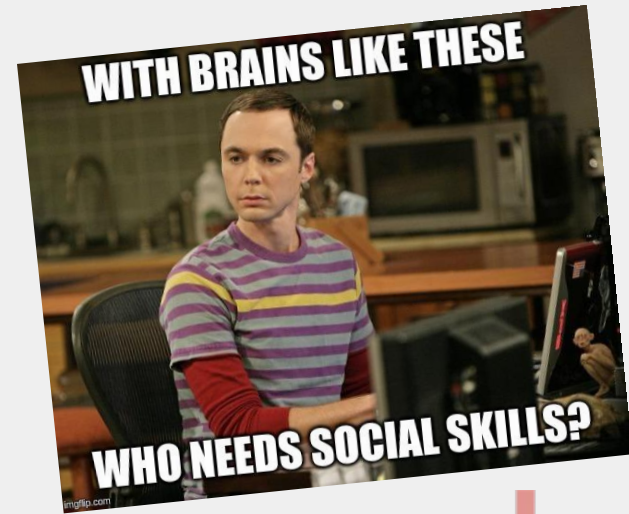
Why NOT!?

“As developer, do you really have the right soft skills?”



Why NOT!?

- You are great as developer but you need ...
 - Skills to promote, grow and maintain the community
- A stale blog cannot help, tweeting is pretty useful
- Promotion, enthusiasm, inclusion
- Dealing with conflict



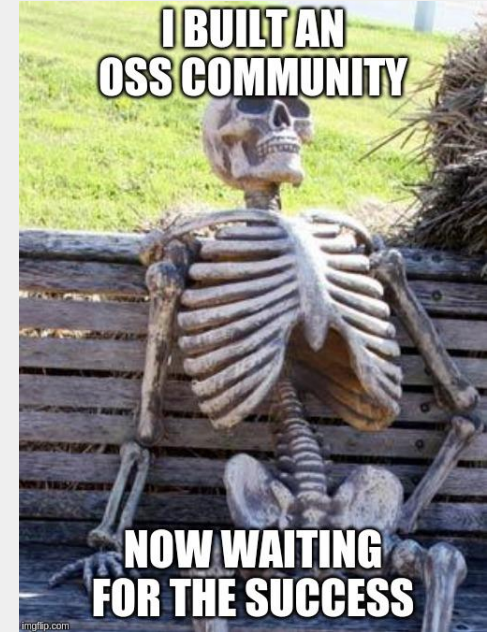
Why NOT!?

“Chance of success? It’s like winning the lottery!”

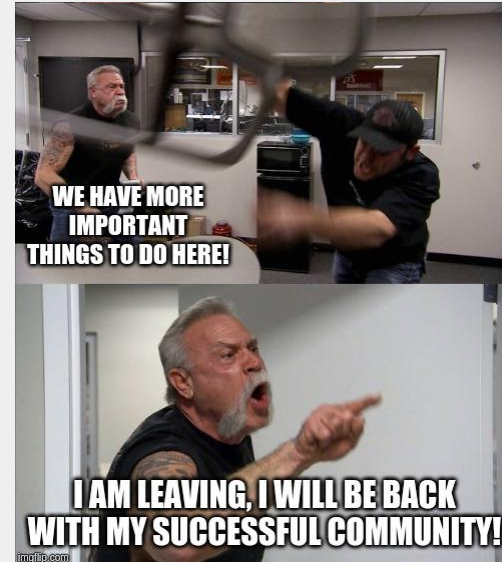


Why NOT!?

- Chance of building a thriving community is small
 - Simpler to contribute to an existing community
- Maybe you have to think what do you mean about success
- Do you really think to be the next Linus Torvalds, Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, ...
 - ... well if you work in a garage it's a good starting point :-)



Did I say NO? I am going to say YES!



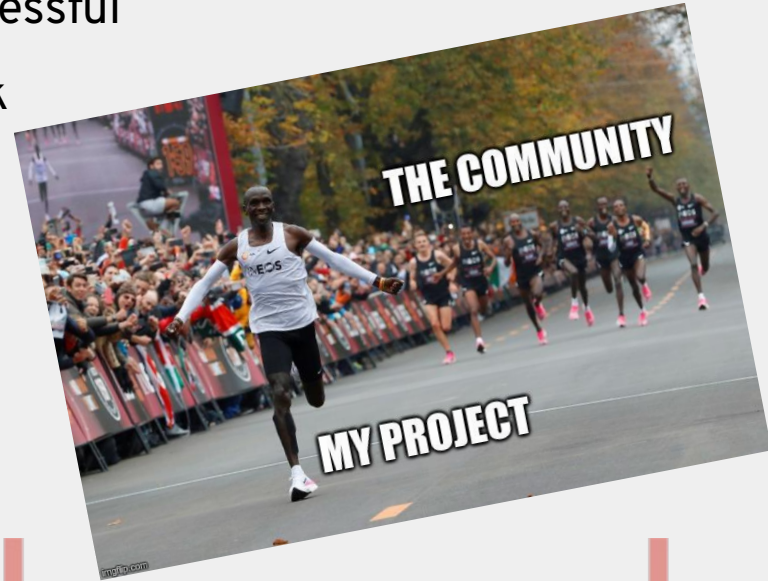
Why YES!?

“Going faster, reach more people, have an impact”



Why YES!?

- You are not alone anymore, with community you can accelerate
- More people can help the project to be successful
- You are open to collaboration and teamwork
- More people will cite your project



Why YES!?

“Someone else can have the skills you need”



Why YES!?

- You are good to develop, let other people to ...
 - Publicize
 - Writing documentation
 - Testing
- Different skills, experiences, ... powers



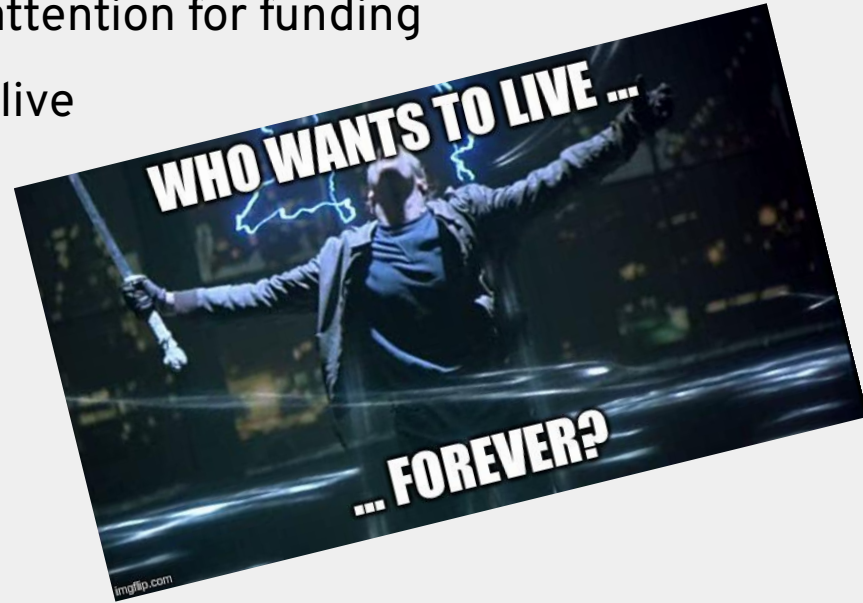
Why YES!?

“Your baby can live longer”



Why YES!?

- With a community, you could get more attention for funding
- If you leave, the project will continue to live



Why YES!?

“Do we want to talk about your career?”

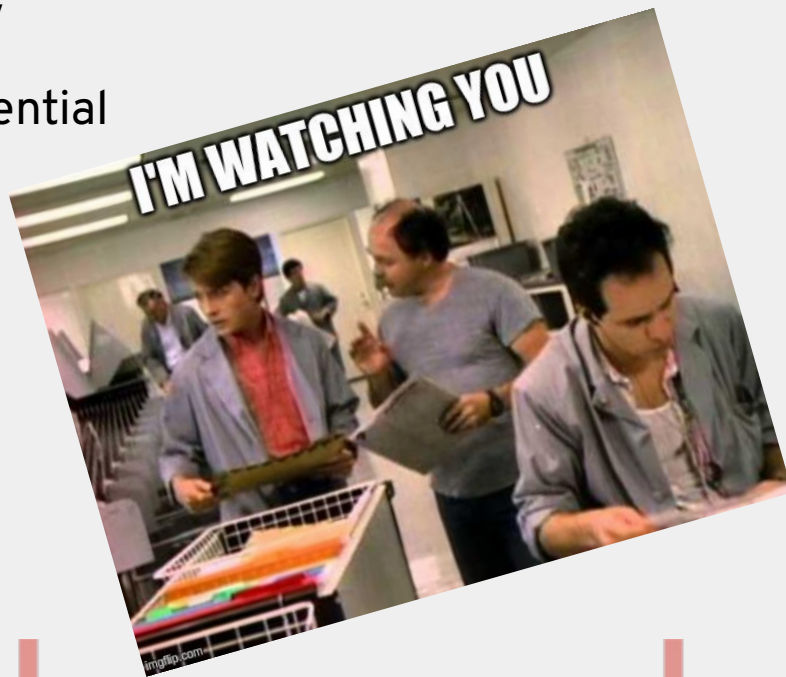
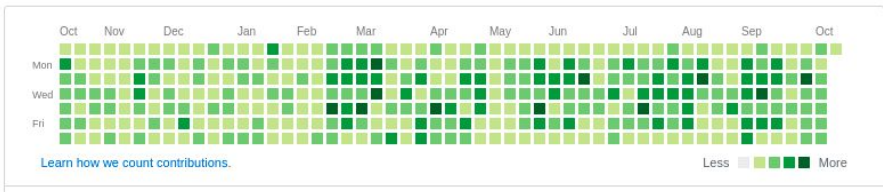


Why YES!?

- In the open source, GitHub is the new ... CV
 - It shows your knowledge and your potential
 - It shows your engagement
- Being part of a community boosts your CV
- Even failing, you learn a lot

1,969 contributions in the last year

Contribution settings ▼



Why YES!?

“You could get some money out of it”



Why YES!?

- You can make money through open source
 - Support
 - Training
- I know a company doing that :-) ...
 - 7 years ago became the first \$ 1 billion open source software company
 - It has been acquired by IBM for \$ 34 billion
 - The only IP is the logo, everything else is open source
 - It has “only” passionate employees ...
 - wearing a red fedora hat



How?

“Ok, you convinced me! But how?”



Community model

- Governance model
 - Reviewing and approving PRs, voting, ...
- License
 - Pick an existing one or a popular one, it has to fit your needs
 - OSI approved
- Code of Conduct
 - You are not in the wild-west, your project is not a saloon opened for bar fights



Code



git



Code

- GitHub
 - Popular, owned by Microsoft, private repos, issues, PRs
- GitLab
 - Open core, can be self hosted, private repos, issues, PRs
- BitBucket
 - Private repos, mercurial hosting



Documentation

- Purposes for your project
 - What is it?
 - How do I use it?
 - FAQ
 - Reporting bugs
- Tools
 - Markdown, asciidoc, ...
 - Wikis



READING
THE
DOCUMENTATION



TRIAL
AND ERROR

Communication

- Not only in-person meeting, what about others who cannot attend?
- Always summarize what happens during a meeting
- Real time communication on chat
 - Slack, Gerrit, IRC, ...
- Mailing list for asynchronous communication



Publicity

- Write blog posts
- Social media
 - Twitter is the best one
- Technical articles



Thanks !



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IoT Day Italy 2019 - www.iotdayit.org - November 28th

The Italian conference on IoT, Industry 4.0 and Digital Transformation

IOT DAY ITALY

November 28th, 2019

