

ETHBerlin04



fossfind

White Paper

Quickly & easily discovering healthy (Web3) FOSS projects and
communities

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Executive Summary

Organizations and individual users operating in any sort of FOSS context are facing multiple challenges in sustainably engaging with the ecosystem. This document details the problems, and how FOSS Find solves these. The essence revolves around quick & easy assessment and discovery of healthy (Web3) FOSS projects and communities by incorporating (the most) meaningful metrics, and providing stakeholders with (the most) insightful data possible. This White Paper outlines the benefits and features of the solution.

Introduction

One part of the identity crisis in our view is that long-term, decentralized (Web3) FOSS communities and projects need to focus on healthy community, sustainability to survive long term and stay aligned with their original goals. There are projects that give some insight into projects/repositories such as [observer.opensource](#), [OSSF scorecard](#), [CHAOSS](#), and [opensauced.pizza](#). However they are either focusing on the metrics that are not particularly meaningful, such as growth, security, licensing, and stars, or they are just not very accessible and hard to interpret (CHAOSS). Because of this, FOSS Find focuses on providing highly informative overviews using metrics that provide more clear indications of sustainable and resilient communities and ,projects and make these easily accessible and comparable. Aggregate metrics also provide a key set of foundations that can facilitate interoperability and comparability, for example via discovery.

Problem Definition

- It can be difficult and is often cumbersome to find & choose suitable (let alone the best) FOSS projects/tools, especially when trying to compare different options.
- It is risky to work with FOSS, for example since you might adopt a (soon) dead project, one that might be rug-pulled via licensing, or one that has a hostile maintainer or community.
- The ideas and technosocial systems associated with FOSS are under pressure due to a lack of transparency, industry pressures, and lack of discoverability.
- Any existing insight into the FOSS landscape is not widely deployed or very accessible or focuses on the wrong metrics

As a whole, the development and use of FOSS is stifled by the above, which further exacerbates the issues of fragmentation, incompatibility, and discovery.

Solution & Benefits

There are various ideas of metrics that help to indicate how to measure FOSS project health and quality, such as [Open Sauced Pizza](#), [CHAOSS](#) and a [Red Flag Checker](#), and FOSS Find builds further upon these metrics with the aim to achieve the highest possible quality data-

driven insights, and to automate the dataset that shows a sort of "Leaderboard" of FOSS projects, allows for filtering/weighting of metrics, and takes in new data with a scraper or other data input method automatically.

This benefits FOSS overall, and especially also the Web3 community, for whom FOSS and source access in various forms is very important. Further details are listed below, as a set of specific *Design Considerations*.

Functions / principles:

- Quickly & easily assess and discover healthy (Web3) FOSS projects by way of a Sorted table (or even 'leaderboard').
- Enables developers, companies and users to use / contribute to FOSS more quickly, impactfully, and sustainably.
- Widely deployed & highly accessible.
- Spot less risky / better 'functionally suited' projects/tools to work with, e.g. minimize risks of so-called 'License rug-pull'.
- ETHBerlin04 - 'Identity Crisis':
 - Open access, fully private: no ID required, no personal data involved, zero tracking.
 - Easier to actively shape your own (healthier) identity within the broader FOSS ecosystem.
 - Help resolve the identity crisis of the (FOSS Web3) ecosystem as a whole by highlighting more healthy projects and sustainable communities in better ways.
- Specific metrics (see 2.A. Report: FOSS project Data (type) / metrics #3), specific 'roll-ups' / aggregates
- Identify interoperability/integration potential (stretch / mid term goal).
- Aggregate 'Health' scores/indicators, maybe 'Impact' (likely out of scope for hackathon)
- Sorting (column)
- Compare function (likely out of scope for hackathon)
- Out of scope:
 - o Filters
 - o 'Weighting'
 - o Update 'Health' & sorting regularly
 - o Search
 - o Detail page (click on project name), with URL (e.g. GH/website on top), displays multiple additional (individual & aggregated) 'health' metrics (TBD), think 'infographic' style

UX/UI:

- Overall website layout: 2 columns.
- Colors: light, white, with orange calls to action and green primary.
- Font: Roboto, body & menu 14, headings 18.

- Minimalistic theme/style.
- Lightweight: as little use of images and graphics as possible, strong emphasis on 'function over form', and plenty with a focus the best possible UX.
- Responsive, 'mobile first' design.

Conclusion

FOSS Find can make a major positive difference in the way organizations and individuals engage with the FOSS ecosystem, by highlighting healthy and sustainable projects and communities. By extension, this can also have a major positive impact on the Web3 community, enabling it to truly start building the things we really need, such as healthy, open-source, integrated/interoperable (Decentralized) systems.

Come and join our community!

Support us by finding bugs, making suggestions, and help make this an awesome piece of FOSS benefiting the overall FOSS ecosystem!