

# oVirt—Ten years of open source

## Reflections from a Community Architect

Karsten Wade, Senior Community Architect  
oVirt 2021 Online conference, 14 Sep 2021

oVirt Project | The Open +

web.archive.org/web/20110922153515/http://www.ovirt.org/

The screenshot shows the oVirt website's homepage. At the top is a navigation bar with links for HOME, GET OVIRT, PROJECT, NEWS AND EVENTS, GOVERNANCE, and ABOUT. Below the navigation is a large banner with the oVirt logo and a screenshot of a server management interface. The main content area features a green sidebar on the left with the following text:

**Complete and Comprehensive Open Source Infrastructure and Management Virtualization Platform for the Data Center**

... or for anyone that cares about Linux-based KVM virtualization.

The oVirt Project is an open virtualization project providing a feature-rich server virtualization management system with advanced capabilities for hosts and guests, including high availability, live migration, storage management, system scheduler, and more.

By open we mean open source & open governance, done right.

oVirt is an umbrella project for multiple sub-projects delivering a complete integrated platform on a well defined release schedule. These are components designed and tested to work together.

In addition oVirt provides a crucial venue for user and developer cooperation, and is the first truly open and comprehensive data centre virtualization management initiative.

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Join us for a three-day workshop at Cisco main campus, San Jose, California, 1st – 3rd November 2011. We'll be introducing the project, the technologies inside of the new projects, and having technical breakouts for learning and hacking.

Read more on the [event page](#).

Below the sidebar is a news section with the following headlines:

**SEARCH SITE**

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- #oVirt workshop 1-3 Nov in San Jose @Cisco - <http://t.co/3Wyzfq2v> & [rsvp@ovirt.org](mailto:rsvp@ovirt.org). 1 day ago
- The new oVirt project webpage is now live with lots of explanation of the project (re)launch: <http://t.co/aVZXDICb> 2 days ago

**NEWS**

- oVirt kick-off workshop 1 – 3 Nov 2011 September 12, 2011

**#OVIRT ON TWITTER**

- RT @ecuageek: oVirt - Plataforma de infraestructura y manejo de #virtualizacion para DataCenters <http://t.co/Ai4nW3X> #ovirt via @ricardoanguello September 22, 2011
- oVirt - Plataforma de infraestructura y manejo de #virtualizacion para DataCenters <http://t.co/Ai4nW3X> #ovirt via @ricardoanguello September 22, 2011
- oVirt is the new upstream for Red Hat Enterprise Virtualization: <http://t.co/IvgSYK0> #ovirt September 22, 2011
- RT @vincenzodvdc: #RHEV is going opensource. The relaunch of #ovirt <http://t.co/0cTR4Mj3> September 21, 2011
- Thanks to rwmj for writing up a blog with some info on #ovirt: <http://t.co/nN4fG2H>

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The screenshot shows the oVirt website's homepage for the 2021 online conference. The header includes the oVirt logo and navigation links for Download, Documentation, Developers, Community, Forum, and Blog. The main content area features a large blue and black graphic with the text "oVirt 2021 Online conference" and "September 14th, 2021". Below this is a "REGISTER NOW!" button. The background is a dark blue with white text and graphics. At the bottom is a "Donate Hardware!" button.

**REGISTER NOW!**

**POWERFUL OPEN SOURCE VIRTUALIZATION**

oVirt is a free open-source virtualization solution for your entire enterprise

**Download 4.4.8** **Release Notes**

**Donate Hardware!**

 web.archive.org/web/20140908034423/http://www.ovirt.org/Home

# oVirt

HOME DOWNLOAD DOCUMENTATION COMMUNITY DEVELOP SEARCH

## Open your virtual datacenter



oVirt manages virtual machines, storage and virtualized networks.



oVirt is a virtualization platform with an easy-to-use web interface



oVirt is powered by the Open Source you know - KVM on Linux.

**Start using oVirt now »**

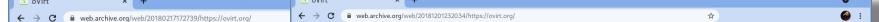
### oVirt 3.4.3 Released!

The oVirt development team is pleased to announce the general availability of oVirt 3.4.3 as of Jul 18th 2014. This release continues to place oVirt as a leading KVM management application and open source alternative to VMware vSphere.

oVirt is available now for Fedora

### Packed with Features

- Choice of stand-alone Hypervisor or install-on-top of your existing Linux installation
- High availability
- Live migration
- Load balancing
- Web-based management
- iSCSI, FC, NFS, and local storage
- Enhanced security: SELinux and Mandatory Access Control for VMs and hypervisor
- Scalability: up to 64 vCPU and 2TB vRAM per guest
- Memory overcommit support

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# oVirt

Home Blog Download Documentation

## Introducing oVirt 4.2

A more powerful open source virtualization solution

- All new Administration Portal,
- High performance VM type, apic
- Support for OVN, enabling user-defined networking
- Support for Nvidia vGPU, for GPU passthrough
- and much more

Get started with oVirt 4.2.1 (2018-02-12)

### What is oVirt?

oVirt is a complete virtualization management platform built on open source software. oVirt builds on the powerful kernel-based hypervisor and on the RHEV-M management server, resulting in a highly reliable, easy-to-use, and cost-effective open source community.

### COMMUNITY POWERED

oVirt is an open-source distributed virtualization solution, designed to manage your entire enterprise infrastructure. oVirt uses the trusted KVM hypervisor and is built upon several other community projects, including libvirt, Gluster, PatternFly, and Ansible.



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The Red Hat Community Architecture and Leadership Team's mission is to facilitate the growth, development and success of communities that are strategic to Red Hat's business.

Our team's mission is inspired by Red Hat's mission statement: to be the catalyst in communities of customers, contributors and partners creating better technology the open source way.

We know that stronger communities come from applying principles of the open source way to any domain, building scaffolding and supporting the emergence of natural and organic leadership. We work to articulate, enact and teach the open source way.

[Meet our team](#) [Read our blogs](#)

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# Applying the principles

- Started with the workshop in Nov 2011, put together by Robyn and myself.
- Infrastructure of participation around the existing developers and leaders:
  - Mailing lists
  - Websites
  - Blogs
  - Version control
  - Etc.
- By the end of 2012 our involvement tapered off
- But we learned a lot about the use and evolution of the principles of the open source way

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**oVirt**

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# Three example principles

- Governance and self-direction
- Creating value from the codebase
- Your contribution, your CV

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title 'THE OPEN SOURCE WAY' and the URL 'theopensourceway.org/the\_open\_source\_way-guidebook-2.0.html#...'. The page content is titled 'Project and Community Governance' and includes sections like 'Introduction', 'What is governance?', 'Roles', and 'A great deal of activity hinges on roles-related governance in open source projects.' The left sidebar contains a 'Table of Contents' with various chapters such as 'Presenting the Open Source Way', 'The Shape of Things (i.e., Assumptions We Are Making)', 'Structure of This Guide', 'A Community of Practice Always Rebuilding Itself', 'Getting Started', 'Community 101: Understanding, Joining, or Forming a New Community', 'New Project Checklist', 'Creating an Open Source Product Strategy', 'Attracting Users', 'Communication Norms in Open Source Software Projects', 'To Build Diverse Open Source Communities, Make Them Inclusive First', 'Guiding Participants', 'Why Do People Participate in Open Source Communities?', 'Growing Contributors', 'From Users to Contributors', 'What is a Contribution?', 'Essentials of Building a Community', 'Onboarding', 'Creating a Culture of Mentorship', 'Project and Community Governance', 'Community Roles', 'Community Manager Self-Care', and 'Measuring Success'.

## Project and Community Governance

### Introduction

In this chapter, we'll discuss assessing and evolving an open source project or community governance model.

All organizations operate in and with governance structures. The term "governance" carries multiple meanings in an organizational context. It can refer to regulatory matters or risk management issues, for example. More generally, though, it can also refer to a system of rules, roles, and procedures that determine how power in an organization gets distributed.

Because open source projects are organizations, every one features governance structures. Some of these structures are more *explicit* than others. Some are more *formal* than others. But every project has them.

Unfortunately, too many discussions of open source project governance focus on activities or resources, like "speaking for the project" or "ownership of the web domain." While documenting these functions is useful, we should remember that these are *aspects* of a project's governance, but they are not the full extent of it. At its heart, open source project and community governance is about *people*—their rights and responsibilities as part of a project and the expectations others have for them.

#### What is governance?

Simply put, "governance" refers to, "The rules or customs that determine who gets to do what (or is supposed to do what), how they're supposed to do it, and when."

Two categories of governance-related issues are most pertinent to open source projects: those related to *roles* and those related to *policies and procedures*. For the purpose of explanation, we'll discuss each of these issues separately. In practice, however, they're inseparable—two sides of the same coin, as our forthcoming example will demonstrate.

#### Roles

A great deal of activity hinges on roles-related governance in open source projects.

# Governance principles

- We adopted recent models e.g. from OpenStack
- We applied the open source way principles
- Now more robust guidance for governance and similar principles

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## Creating an Open Source Product Strategy

"Should we open source this project?"

This chapter won't answer that question for you. But it *will* outline some considerations you should make as you answer the question when it arises.

First, ask yourself why you are considering an open source approach. Before committing to creating and maintaining an open source project, understand *why* open sourcing the project will help you or your organization achieve certain goals. Identifying those benefits is the first step in creating an open source strategy.

### Understand the economics of open source

Open source is not a business model. It is a way to develop software collaboratively and increase a project's distribution and reach by lowering acquisition costs. To understand the business rationale that makes an open source strategy appealing, consider these economic principles:

#### Reducing the price of a good increases the demand for it

In the case of open source, lowering the cost of acquisition maximizes demand and, therefore, project adoption. Note that the cost of adoption is not only monetary; it also includes the time and effort needed to adopt and migrate from whatever solution you're currently using.

#### When the price of one good decreases, demand for its substitutes also decreases

Open source projects can undermine established proprietary software companies by being convenient to adopt at a lower cost. This principle explains how open source can be an agent for market disruption. Disruption is an opportunity to capitalize on the adoption of alternatives and grow another market.

#### All else being equal, when the price of a good decreases, demand for its complements increases

Every successful commercial open source strategy is based on this principle. If your goal is revenue, then you will need to determine the complements to the software that you'll be releasing as open source. Those complements should

# Creating value

- Creating value in many ways: products, managed services, integrated solutions, research, etc.
- From the general idea then, now we have processes

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title 'THE OPEN SOURCE WAY' and the URL 'theopensourceway.org/the\_open\_source\_way-guidebook...'. The main content area is titled 'Community Roles'. It discusses the various roles one can take in an open source community, emphasizing that all contributions are of equal value. The page includes sections on communication norms, diversity, guiding participants, growing contributors, and ways to contribute.

**Table of Contents**

- Presenting the Open Source Way
  - The Shape of Things (I.e., Assumptions We Are Making)
- Structure of This Guide
  - A Community of Practice
  - Always Rebuilding Itself
- Getting Started
  - Community 101: Understanding, Joining, or Forming a New Community
  - New Project Checklist
  - Creating an Open Source Product Strategy
- Attracting Users
  - Communication Norms in Open Source Software Projects
  - To Build Diverse Open Source Communities, Make Them Inclusive First
- Guiding Participants
  - Why Do People Participate in Open Source Communities?
- Growing Contributors
  - From Users to Contributors
  - What Is a Contribution?
  - Essentials of Building a Community Onboarding
  - Creating a Culture of Mentorship
  - Project and Community Governance
  - Community Roles
  - Community Manager Self-Care
- Measuring Success

**Community Roles**

The roles one takes in an open source community are defined around the ways a role participates, collaborates, and contributes to the community and the various community outputs. It is a common misconception that the only or most valuable way to contribute to an open source project is to write code. There is a saying, "All contributions are of equal value," that sums up the best approach to take.

One part of this is simply not trying to predict the future—you literally cannot know or predict which contribution or contributor is going to have lasting impact on the project. An accumulation of small contributions, for example, can easily have the same impact as a smaller number of large, splashy contributions. Someone might participate in a short user experience workshop and provide a valuable, lasting impact they are not even aware of beyond their brief interaction.

The most important part of why all contributions should have equal weight is that a community is made up of people, and the feelings and experiences of these people literally are community. The things each person brings to the community—their contributions—become a very personal currency in the project, a way of knowing who can be relied upon to do what.

As people grow in their skills over time in a welcoming and inclusive community, whatever the nature of their contributions are, they will have impact far beyond the reach of one person. They are better able to grow to their greatest potential by being allowed to stretch themselves into, then beyond, their roles. One way this "being allowed" manifests is by removing any level of judgement, difference of value, or even shame over different types of contributions.

So it's a way of recognizing that all people are of equal value in the world, and what they bring each day needs to be weighed as simply the best of a human being in that moment. This is a meaningful way of being inclusive, permitting people to be a 100% contributor regardless of however they are able to participate and behave on any given day.

**Ways to Contribute**

It's never too early to think of how you can make a contribution to a project or group you'd like to join. By doing so, you catapult the project further ahead in

# Valuing all contributions

- oVirt clearly works to showcase and value contributions of all types
  - Docs, social media, design, UX, etc.
- It is useful to attract contributors around their career interests

The open source way is a **way of thinking** about **how people collaborate within a community** to achieve common goals and interests.

In the end, it is ...

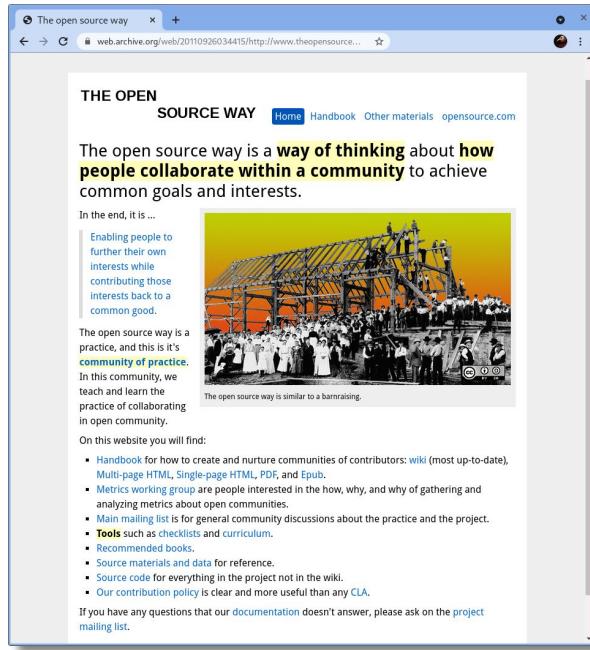
Enabling people to further their own interests while contributing those interests back to a common good.

The open source way is a practice, and this is its **community of practice**. In this community, we teach and learn the practice of collaborating in open community.

On this website you will find:

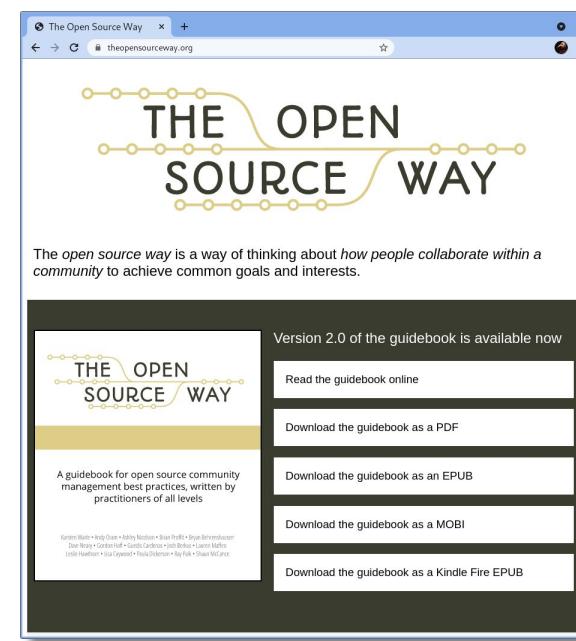
- Handbook for how to create and nurture communities of contributors: [wiki](#) (most up-to-date), Multi-page HTML, Single-page HTML, PDF, and EPUB.
- Metrics working group are people interested in the how, why, and why of gathering and analyzing metrics about open communities.
- Main mailing list is for general community discussions about the practice and the project.
- Tools such as checklists and curriculum.
- Recommended books.
- Source materials and data for reference.
- Source code for everything in the project not in the wiki.
- Our contribution policy is clear and more useful than any CLA.

If you have any questions that our documentation doesn't answer, please ask on the [project mailing list](#).



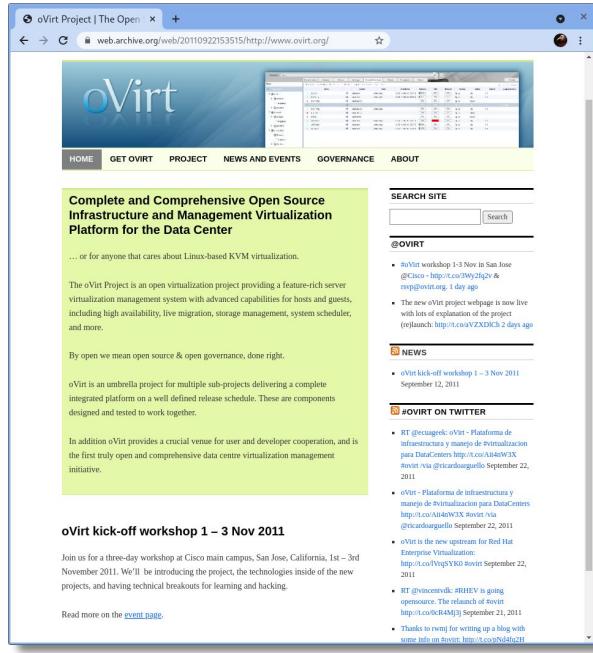
# THE OPEN SOURCE WAY

The open source way is a way of thinking about *how people collaborate within a community* to achieve common goals and interests.



<https://theOpenSourceWay.org>

<https://www.theopensourceway.org/presentations/oVirt—a decade of open source.pdf>



# oVirt—Ten years of open source

## Reflections from a Community Architect

<https://theopensourceway.org> ... @quaid