



Contribute to OS without Coding

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SCALE
14x
The Fourteenth Annual
Southern California Linux Expo

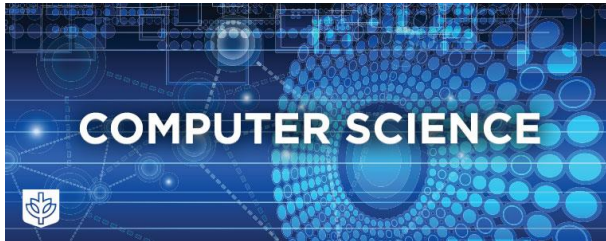
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Something About Me

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Open Source Work:
SGI, Tripwire, Avaya, Intel

yocto .
PROJECT



Twitter @nithyaruff

SanDisk Enables Innovation



**Enterprise and
Hyperscale
Data Centers**



Client Computing



**Mobile and Connected
Devices**



Consumer

Open Source



Code

Successful Open Source Has Many Dimensions



Documentation Makes a Project Accessible

What Do they Do?

Document the workings of the code

Skills:

Self motivated

Technical

Curious, inquisitive

Resources:

Bob Reselman's talk at SCALE

<https://opensource.com/business/16/1/scale-14x-interview-bob-reselman>

Follow @annegentle



Anne Gentle
Principal Engineer
Rackspace

Community Engagement

What Do they Do?

Get the community to work together

Skills:

Often a developer or user in the project

Generalist

Peacemaker and works well across the group

Resources:

<http://www.communityleadershipsummit.com/>

Jono Bacon's Book "The Art of Community"

Follow @geekygirl dawn, @jonobacon



Dawn Foster
Phd Student,
Former Dir. Of Community
Puppet Labs

Legal Advice and Corporate Compliance

What Do they Do?

Policy, Licenses, Compliance, Guidance

Skills:

Can see the technical side of things

Open Minded, friendly and helpful

Balances Risk with Innovation

Read of Community Norms

Resources:

Legal Track at SCALE

Open Source for Business – Heather Meeker

Open Source Licensing – Lawrence Rosen

OpenChain

@laforgeJD



Lisa LaForge

Legal Director and
Chairperson of Open Source
Steering Committee, SanDisk

Outreach and Legal Education

What Do they Do?

Educate, connect people, demystify legal aspects of Open Source

Skills:

Can see the technical side of things

Open Minded, friendly and helpful

Able to connect the dots and be data driven

Resources:

Legal Track at SCALE

<http://www.openinventionnetwork.com/>

Deb's talk at SCALE

Look for #debnichols on Twitter



Deb Nicholson

Director of Outreach - OIN

Board Member - OpenHatch

Project Advocacy and Marketing

What Do they Do?

Awareness, evangelize, advocate, events

Skills:

Understand audiences,

Key messages and positioning

Communication and program management

Resources:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_OGueGPhfs

Talk to experts like Tracey and me

Look for talks at events like SCALE, OSCON, LinuxCon



Tracey Erway

Product & Open Source Marketing
Yocto Project, MinnowBoard.org
Intel

Rikki Endsley - Evangelist and Tech. Journalist

What Do they Do?

Promote Open Source and the Open Way
Education on Open Source

Skills:

Helps to have a journalism background
Keen interest in the technology
Understanding of Open Source community

Resources:

Opensource.com
Linux.com
Openstack.org



Rikki Endsley
Community Manager
Opensource.com, Red Hat

Project Financial and Operational Management

What Do they Do?

Manage the operations and finances of the project
Help keep things moving

Skills:

Program Management
Organized
Integrity

Resources:

Not to many. But find someone
Good in finance, ops and educate them on OS

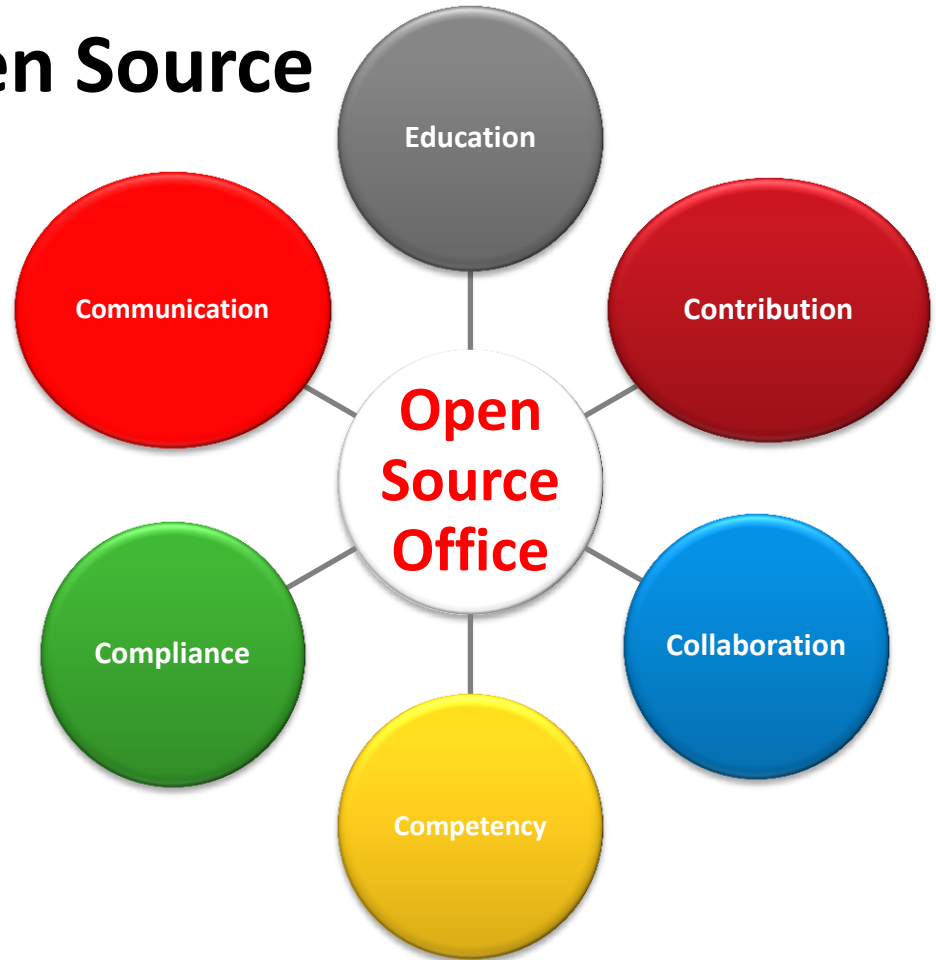


Lieu Ta

Advisory Board, Yocto Project
Director, Wind River Systems

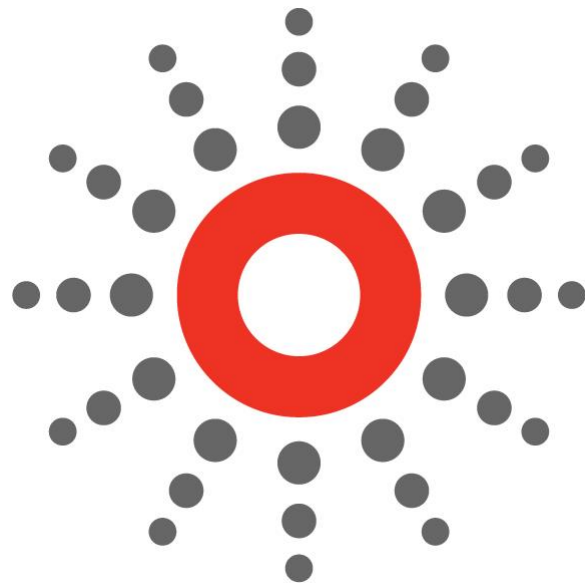
How I contribute to Open Source

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What we like about FOSS?

- Collaboration
- Rebellious
- Innovation
- Openness and transparency
- People of Open Source
- Pay it forward, the willingness to help new entrants
- Inspect, use, modify and contribute code
- People come together to solve problems especially humanitarian ones



What are some of the barriers to entry in FOSS?

- No one path to participate
- Every project is different
- Tools can be intimidating and established
- Fear and ignorance of open source
- No low-hanging-fruit work for newbies
- Training does not scale today
- Contributing in the open can be intimidating



Best Way For A New Person To Get Involved?

- Attend conferences and go to the beginner session
- Pick a project that aligns with your interests and dive in
- Volunteer to help on a project – share your strengths
- If you are a user, submit bug reports, fix a bug or documentation
- Design a t-shirt, blog, write a grant
- Present the project or technology at a conference
- Ask someone for help; seek a mentor



Ideas To Welcome New Contributions

- Appreciate people, show they are important
- Make time to bring in new people with varying capabilities and time
- Make projects friendly – communication tools, mentors, starter projects
- Make a special effort to have a section of the conference for new people – classes, BoF, scholarships etc.
- Have project members at booth; Easier for new people to approach people vs. on mailing lists
- Be friendly, help new people, be a mentor
- Open Source and tech. education in schools

Resources

- <https://openhatch.org/>
- <http://www.openinventionnetwork.com/>
- <http://www.openstack.org/>
- <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/>
- <http://opensource.org/>
- <https://www.linux.com/>
- <https://www.gnome.org/outreachy/>
- <http://www.linuxpromagazine.com/>



Takeaways

- We need to grow Open Source and make it more inclusive
- Recognize the contributions of non-coders
- Create an environment where new people find it easy to get involved

Thank You



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@nithyaruff

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Abstract

- Many people want to make a difference but believe that they need to be a coder or a developer to make a difference in open source projects and communities.
- However, there are many roles in open source that need someone who supports and believes in collaborative development to create change.
- I will cover some of these areas and show how you can get involved, make a difference and create an impact.
- My own personal story is one where I have worked in commercial company creating an open source based product; I have done open source marketing and advocacy for the Yocto project and now am the open source strategy person for my company. These roles have allowed me to increase open source understanding and engagement forward in a positive way without coding.
- This is aimed at encouraging people new to enter open source and to find their own ways of contributing.