Foundation-based vs. Company-led Open Source projects

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Agenda

• Foundation-based vs. Company-led projects
• Cultural differences
• Community metrics
• Key takeaways
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The entire DevOps lifecycle in one application.

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Who is GitLab?

- **We have an Open Core business model** and “Everyone can contribute”
- GitLab Community Edition (CE) is open source and GitLab Enterprise Edition (EE) is source-available
- **First commit** on October 8, 2011
- Some CE + EE numbers since January’2016...
100% SOFTWARE SOLUTION
FOR ANY STANDARD x86 SERVER PLATFORM

RING
PRIVATE CLOUD

MULTI-CLOUD DATA CONTROLLER
TO ACCESS AND MANAGE DATA ACROSS CLOUDS

object & file storage in a single system · peer to peer architecture · unlimited scalability · unbounded scale-out performance · most adaptive set of robust data protection mechanisms · autonomous self-healing · designed in close collaboration with the biggest (cloud-scale) service providers in the world

a single, unified API across all clouds to simplify application development · the only multi-cloud data management solution independent of the storage system · stores data in standard cloud format to make the data consumable directly by native cloud apps and services · true multi-cloud IT · global search across all managed data independent of cloud location
Scality open source projects

- Zenko
- CloudServer
- Backbeat
- Arsenal
- MetalK8s
- QuadIron

![Scality GitHub repository]

- **Zenko**
  - Zenko is the open source multi-cloud data controller: own and keep control of your data on any cloud.
  - Python
  - 209 stars
  - 45 forks

- **metalk8s**
  - An opinionated Kubernetes distribution with a focus on long-term on-prem deployments.
  - Python
  - 81 stars
  - 11 forks

- **cloudserver**
  - Zenko CloudServer, an open-source Node.js implementation of the Amazon S3 protocol on the front-end and backend storage capabilities to multiple clouds, including Azure and Google.
  - JavaScript
  - 810 stars
  - 156 forks

- **backbeat**
  - Backbeat is the core engine for asynchronous replication, optimized for queuing metadata updates and dispatching work to long-running tasks in the background.
  - JavaScript
  - 19 stars
  - 13 forks

- **quadiron**
  - Fast Erasure Coding Library for Large Number of Data and Paritites.
  - C++
  - 14 stars
  - 3 forks

- **Arsenal**
  - Common utilities for the open-source Scality S3 project components.
  - JavaScript
  - 7 stars
  - 9 forks
Contributor motivation
Working with community members*

*Employees should also be considered as wider community members
Spot the difference

Photo by Marcel Heil on Unsplash

Photo by Sam Loyd on Unsplash
“The Four Opens”
https://www.openstack.org/four-opens/

• Open Source
  • We are committed to creating truly open source software that is usable and scalable. Truly open source software is not feature or performance limited. There will be no “Enterprise Edition”.

• Open Design
  • The community controls the design process. You can help make this software meet your needs.

• Open Development
  • We maintain a publicly available source code repository through the entire development process. We do public code reviews. We have public roadmaps.

• Open Community
  • Most decisions are made using a lazy consensus model. All processes are documented, open and transparent. Discussions are all public and archived (in text form.)
Migrating to open practice is hard

- Processes
- Tools
- People/skillset
How to bring software to the people is different
What’s the ROI of your community?
Different focus for community metrics

**Foundation-based projects**
- Organizational contribution data
- Project-level activities
- “Bus” or “pony” factors

**For all open source projects**
- Awareness
- New contributors
- Active contributors
- Throughput/Efficiency
- Community diversity
- Convert casual => regular contributors

**Company-led projects**
- Individual contribution data
- Time-to-merge for internal vs. community contributions
- Identifying bugs earlier
- Increased adoption (in the ecosystem)
- Hiring

**Hiring**
- Awareness
- New contributors
- Active contributors
- Throughput/Efficiency
- Community diversity
- Convert casual => regular contributors
The ROI of community at OpenStack

Lots of happy new contributors

- Lean onboarding
- Fast development
- Reduced friction

Usual suspects
Responsiveness to community contribution

- 3,263 Merge Requests
- 960 Submitters
- 52 Reviewers
- 3,898 Median Time Open (Days)
Individual contribution data
Key takeaways

There are differences in

• What motivates community members to participate & contribute
• How you engage with community members
• How you need to do your outreach
• Which community metrics that you focus on
• …

between foundation-based vs. company-led open source projects

However, key success ingredients

• Transparency
• Personal touch
• A sense of community or common mission
• Ensuring diverse members/perspectives
• …

for community management are the same