Foundations Considered Essential

Mike Milinkovich
Executive Director, Eclipse Foundation
October 10, 2023
Apache considered harmful
Nov 22 2011

"Institutions will try to preserve the problem to which they are the solution." -- Clay Shirky

This is a hard article to write. The way I think about technology, open source, and community has been shaped by Apache and while I appreciate all they have done I no longer believe they embody the values they claim.

Start with the basics. Why does Apache exist?
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Nov 22 2011

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Start with the basics. Why does Apache exist?
So what is it that we do?
Our Mission

- Protect User Freedom
- Protect and Empower Developers
- Enable Collaboration
Open Source Is About User Freedom

**Freedom 0**
- to run the program, for any purpose

**Freedom 1**
- to study how the program works, and change it to make it do what you wish

**Freedom 2**
- to redistribute copies

**Freedom 3**
- to distribute copies of your modified versions to others
Commercial vendors offer differentiated commercial products, including certified boards.

Vendors and open source contributors build core technologies.

Foundations creates the level playing field for collaboration.
Foundation Services

Collaboration Platform

Governance Platform

Infrastructure for Open Collaboration
Ecosystem Development
Community Governance & Processes
IP Management & Licensing
Unique Core Competencies

Rich culture
of community wisdom

Track Record
of nurturing thriving
developer communities with
audiences in the millions

Proven
Project development &
governance processes
Challenges to the Open Source Community

- User Freedoms
- Sustainability
- Security
- Regulation
Yes, open source licenses still matter!

Launch Of OpenTofu Spells Trouble For HashiCorp

The open source licensing war is over

It’s time for the open source Rambos to stop fighting and agree that developers care more about software’s access and ease of use than the purity of its license.

By Matt Asay
User freedom is more than just licensing

- Trademarks
- Vendor-neutrality
- Nonprofit stewardship
- IP management
Dependencies

All modern digital infrastructure

A project some random person in Nebraska has been thanklessly maintaining since 2003.
npm Dependency Maintainers

Source: https://anchore.com/blog/open-source-is-bigger-than-you-imagine/
npm Dependency Maintainers (top 5%)

Source: https://anchore.com/blog/open-source-is-bigger-than-you-imagine/
Foundations help make projects sustainable

- Community support
- Foundation support
- Resource recruitment
- Managed end of life
Cybercrime: World’s 3rd Largest Economy

$10.5 Trillion in damages by 2025

https://cybersecurityventures.com/hackerpocalypse-cybercrime-report-2016/
Software Supply Chain Attacks increase 742% in 3 years

[Chart showing the growth of software supply chain attacks from 2019 to 2022 with a 742% increase.]

Where are the Software Supply Chain Threats?

https://slsa.dev/
Foundations support supply chain security

- Infrastructure support
- Staff resources
- Security audits
- Training
- Reporting and tracking
Software ate the world...
...then open source gobbled up software
Be Careful What You Wish For....

With great power comes great responsibility
log4shell™
Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity

MAY 12, 2021

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

EU Cyber Resilience Act

For safer & more secure digital products

Calendar No. 677

S. 4913
[Report No. 117-278]

To establish the duties of the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency regarding open source software security, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

September 21, 2022

Mr. Peters (for himself and Mr. Portman) introduced the following bill, which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

December 19, 2022

Reported by Mr. Peters, with amendments.

A BILL

To establish the duties of the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency regarding open source software security, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the "Securing Open Source Software Act of 2022".
“Responsibility must be placed on the stakeholders most capable of taking action to prevent bad outcomes, not on the end-users that often bear the consequences of insecure software nor on the open-source developer of a component that is integrated into a commercial product.”
EU Cyber Resilience Act

For safer & more secure digital products

#DigitalEU #CyberSecEU
Foundations represent our communities in policy making

- Trusted resource to policy makers
- Community mobilization
- Staff resources
Foundations assist our communities in regulatory compliance

- Staff resources
- Policies and procedures
- Compliance and conformance
- Assumption of liability
- Insurance protection
Challenges to the Open Source Community

**User Freedoms**
Foundations are the ultimate guarantors of user freedom by going beyond licensing

**Sustainability**
Foundations help developers deal with ever-expanding expectations

**Security**
Supply chain security is in everyone’s interest

**Regulation**
Government regulation of the technology industry is coming, and open source will be impacted
"Institutions will try to preserve the problem to which they are the solution."
Clay Shirky

- Protect User Freedom
- Protect and Empower Developers
- Enable Collaboration
Thank you!

Questions?