

# **Being a Catalyst in Communities -**

**The scientific facts about  
the open source way**

**- Karsten 'quaid' Wade,  
Sr. Community Gardener**



**Who: @quaid**

**Fedora et al contributor**

**FOSS advocate for 10 years**

**Red Hat's community leadership team**



# Being a catalyst in communities

*To be the catalyst in communities of customers, contributors, and partners creating better technology the open source way.*



**An evolution of learning to be a better  
catalyst:**

**RHL => Fedora & RHEL**

**Fedora + SELinux = pain, gain**

**Virt dance: Xen, KVM, and libvirt**



--- BEGIN IRC LOG ---

<rh\_pr> We are announcing Red Hat Project! A community-based distribution!

<oss\_crowd> rh\_pr: Neat.

<rh\_dev> rh\_pr: Uh... I'm not ready.

\* rh\_pr is away: promoting rhel

<oss\_crowd> rh\_dev: what do we do?

<rh\_dev> oss\_crowd: I'm not sure.

<rh\_legal> rh\_dev: don't do anything until I say it's ok.

<oss\_crowd> rh\_dev: what can we do to help with Red Hat Project?

<rh\_dev> oss\_crowd: uh... file bugs and help test things.

<oss\_crowd> rh\_dev: didn't we always do that?

<rh\_sales> hey, all, if you really want a stable system, don't use fedora project. It will eat your brane. Buy RHEL instead.

<rh\_dev> rh\_sales: stfu

--- rh\_pr removes voice from rh\_sales

<fedora\_us> hey, all, check out our neat community-driven system for red hat development

<oss\_crowd> fedora\_us: ooooh!

<rh\_pr> fedora\_us: I like your name

--- fedora\_rh joined the channel

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<fedora\_us> I'm not dead yet.

<fedora\_rh> fedora\_us: don't confuse things.

<fedora\_us> fedora\_rh: does this mean we're merging?

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--- fedora\_us joined #limbo



Below Stats are based on active hosts, not total hosts

Archs	OS	Runlevel	Language	Vendor	Model	RAM	Swap	CPU	Kernel	Form
Factor	Selinux	Filesystems								

### SELinux Enabled

<b>1</b>	128515	<b>65.3 %</b>	
<b>0</b>	68170	<b>34.7 %</b>	

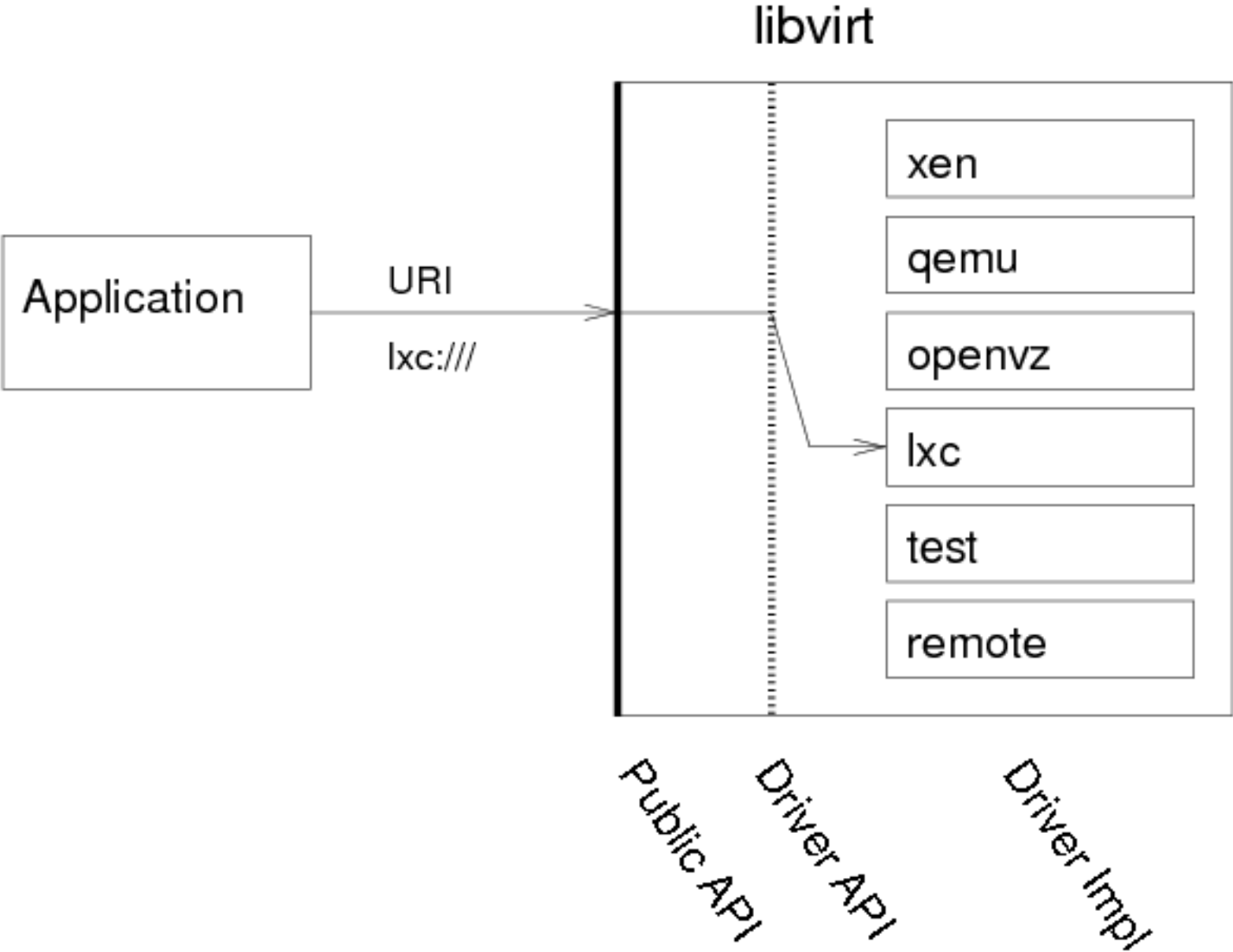
### SELinux Enforce

<b>Enforcing</b>	108496	<b>55.2 %</b>	
<b>Unknown</b>	37719	<b>19.2 %</b>	
<b>Not Installed</b>	24952	<b>12.7 %</b>	
<b>Disabled</b>	11507	<b>5.9 %</b>	
<b>Permissive</b>	10623	<b>5.4 %</b>	
<b>targeted</b>	3385	<b>1.7 %</b>	
<b>seedit</b>	2	<b>0.0 %</b>	
<b>mls</b>	1	<b>0.0 %</b>	

### SELinux Policy

<b>targeted</b>	167660	<b>85.2 %</b>	
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# Professors Open Source Summer Experience: POSSE

Being a catalyst in education



# Professors Open Source Summer Experience: POSSE RDU 2009



# From POSSE to Communities of Practice

*Communities of practice are formed by people who engage in a process of collective learning in a shared domain of human endeavor: a tribe learning to survive, a band of artists seeking new forms of expression, a group of engineers working on similar problems, a clique of pupils defining their identity in the school, a network of surgeons exploring novel techniques, a gathering of first-time managers helping each other cope. In a nutshell: Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.*

*- Wenger, McDermott, Snyder “Cultivating Communities of Practice”*



# Elements of a Communities of Practice

--

Domain (what)  
Community (who)  
Practice (how)



# Principles of Communities of Practice

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1. Design for evolution
2. Open a dialogue 'tween in/out
3. Invite different levels of participation
4. Develop public/private spaces
5. Focus on value
6. Combine familiarity & excitement
7. Create a rhythm for the community





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# **The Open Source Way:**

**Creating and nurturing  
communities of contributors**

**<http://www.TheOpenSourceWay.org/wiki>**

**<http://www.TheOpenSourceWay.org/book>**



**How does this matter to you?**



**How does this matter to you?**



# Questions?

## Links:

<http://www.TheOpenSourceWay.org/wiki>

<http://TeachingOpenSource.org/POSSE>

<http://quaid.fedorapeople.org/presentations>



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## Being a catalyst in communities

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Not just gut instinct, an understanding of community processes informed by science.

Tom Sawyer & the barn raising.

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catalyst:**

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<https://lwn.net/Articles/83360/>

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Fedora => RHEL & lessons learned.

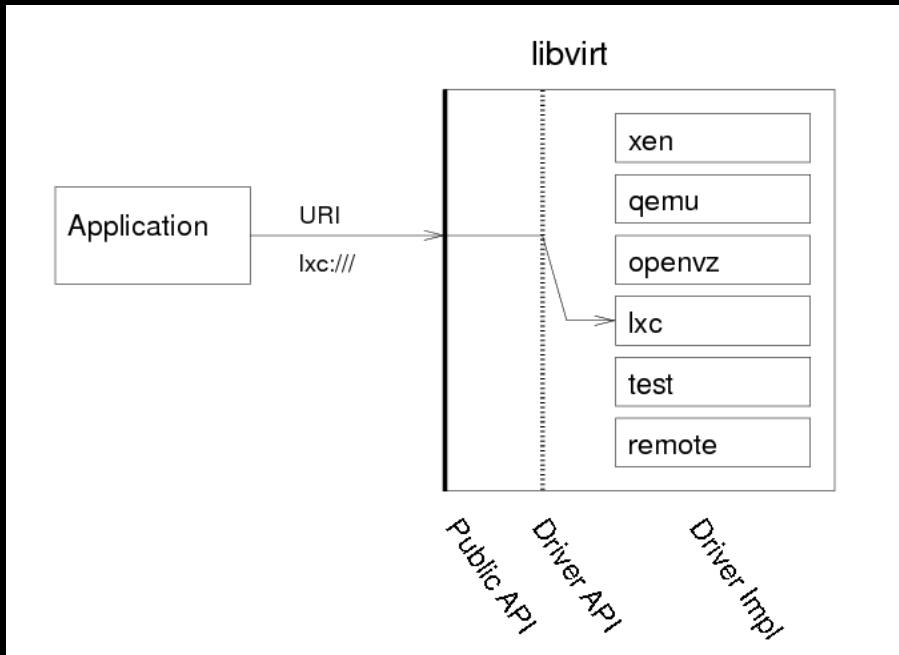
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# Professors Open Source Summer Experience: POSSE

Being a catalyst in education



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Focus on higher edu as a place to teach how to participate in open source, not just as a consumer.

Students are graduating without experience that FOSS gives.

Our team took observed, talked, and learned:

1. No single location for educators to discuss resources and processes.
2. Academic calendar is different from FOSS calendar.
3. Success formula: having the educator already a contributor.

TeachingOpenSource.org [Webpage] – a CoP that has helped in many cases, e.g. OSCON Edu track.

POSSE – taught by community & FOSS contributors; productively lost; [Pic]

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Greg's moment with Matt Jadud and Cam Seay.

FOSS is a big Community of Practice.

CoP scientific discipline is a better measuring stick than downloads and mailing list size. The principles and elements are there or not, working or not.

Pattern Language influence – how humans build environments, from home to cities.

## Elements of a Communities of Practice

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Domain (what)  
Community (who)  
Practice (how)

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3 structural elements:

Domain – area of knowledge: skateboarding, hunting,  
IP law

Community – set of people who care about the  
domain: skateboarders, hunters, lawyers  
- Don't judge by activities, silence, etc.

Practice -

## Principles of Communities of Practice

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7 principles:

Design for evolution – e.g. live spins

Open a dialog between inner and outer perspectives –  
e.g. clique is expected, show how to talk  
inward/outward

Invite different levels of participation – How to build  
experts with LPP

Develop both public and private community spaces –  
Makes the open, transparent work; brings in diff  
introvert/extrovert styles, etc.

Focus on value – What get from them, what they get

Combine familiarity and excitement – Prince St. Boston

Create a rhythm for the community – Meetings,  
releases, etc.



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How does this matter to you?



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Image: exploratorium.edu



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Image: exploratorium.edu



Scientific support via CoP and implementing TOSW and how it matters to you.

1. Individual trying to make headway adopting FOSS gains from the referenceability.
2. Helps you make a more compelling business case about using open source beyond low-cost. In addition, look at “The Open Source Triple Play.”
3. If your CoP intersects technically, this helps you make better open communities.
4. Handbook to help participate in open collaborations – good for learning, CV, personal networking.
5. Every time someone looks to FOSS for a model, this book helps them.

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