Being a Catalyst in Communities -

The scientific facts about the open source way

- Karsten 'quaid' Wade, Sr. Community Gardener

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Who: @quaid
Fedora et al contributor
FOSS advocate for 10 years
Red Hat's community leadership team

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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
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  <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
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  <rh_legal> rh_dev: don't do anything until I say it's ok.
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    <rh_dev> oss_crowd: uh... file bugs and help test things.
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  <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 joined #limbo

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Below Stats are based on active hosts, not total hosts

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**SELinux Enabled**

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**SELinux Policy**

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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”

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Elements of a Communities of Practice
--
Domain (what)
Community (who)
Practice (how)
Principles of Communities of Practice

--

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
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:

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http://TeachingOpenSource.org/POSSE

http://quaid.fedorapeople.org/presentations
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These are my bona fides, or why you should trust me.
Standing on the shoulders of giants who have been developing these models, methods, and stories for 20 years.

Questions:
How many people here can explain, in 60 seconds, what free and open source software is?
Have any of you ever tried to apply the principles of FOSS to another venue? General business, design, gardening clubs, etc.
Being a catalyst in communities

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

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

Tom Sawyer & the barn raising.
An evolution of learning to be a better catalyst:

RHL => Fedora & RHEL

Fedora + SELinux = pain, gain

Virt dance: Xen, KVM, and libvirt

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Fedora => RHEL & lessons learned.
### SELinux – Positive & Negative Lessons Learned

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Virt – Xen, KVM, and libvirt.
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

---

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

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 -
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.
Combine familiarity and excitement – Prince St. Boston
Create a rhythm for the community – Meetings, releases, etc.
Free <3 Open <3 Free

Constructed war v. healthy debate in a CoP.

Fundamentally, we are in violent agreement the majority of the time and cases.

But people associate themselves and feel put out or put off by e.g. “free software”, “open source software”.

Friedman’s “The World is Flat”, open source is one of the 10 flatteners; he calls it “the most disruptive force of all.” CIOs took notice.

We’ve noticed at Red Hat as our business grew across markets as much as deeper in them. Free software brand works great for hackers. Open source brand works great for business.

With both, we’ve benefited from innovators who didn’t feel a fit with the other term.
The Open Source Way:

Creating and nurturing communities of contributors

http://www.TheOpenSourceWay.org/wiki

http://www.TheOpenSourceWay.org/book

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How does this matter to you?

I told her to watch as I tossed my magnet, got it to stick, and then applied such a small force to the string that it was more a thought than a tug. I waited and did it again. After several such efforts, the first motion became visible. I timed my impulses with the pendulum, and within 5-10 minutes the motion was so great that the cylinder’s swing exceeded the length of my string and the magnet flew off. Resonance naturally amplifies even the smallest of properly coordinated incremental impulses.” - Tiemann on opensource.com, “Amplifying creativity and business performance with open source”
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.


5. Every time someone looks to FOSS for a model, this book helps them.
Questions?

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