

***The Open Source Way:  
Creating and nurturing  
communities of contributors***

**a community-written wiki &  
a branded community handbook  
about implementing  
the open source way  
(lowercase)**



**1st, it's a handbook:**

**principle (what) + implementation (how) +  
example (why)**

**2nd, it's created by those who know:**

**actual contributors and community experts**



**3rd, it's lightweight:**

**focus on spreading knowing with written knowledge**

**4th, it's *incomplete* on purpose:**

**to encourage participation and different sources for examples**



**Upstream: [TheOpenSourceWay.org/wiki](https://TheOpenSourceWay.org/wiki)**

**Following the open source way. Thus, why  
MediaWiki?**

**Ch. 4.8:**

**“Choose open tools that can be extended”**

**Ch. 3.2.3:**

**“Use lightweight, open collaboration tools –  
wikis ... - and give out access”**



**A book you can add to  
and build on  
for your community needs ...**

**... which teaches what you are  
tired of saying over and over**



**Questions?**

**Read: [theopensourceway.org/book](https://theopensourceway.org/book)**

**Write: [theopensourceway.org/wiki](https://theopensourceway.org/wiki)**



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*(Introduce yourself.)*

This is a book that comes out of the process of teaching leaders in the open source way (tosw). The methods of tosw are more than just for software. For example, the open source way is used in the production of this book. It's written by a community under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike license so the content remains free for any use. Including rebranding, commercial use, the whole lot. That's why we make a distinction between TOSW and tosw. The book is written using the method, and no coding is involved. It is self-evident proof of the usefulness of the methodology.

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In being a handbook, it provides a specific way of presenting each point in a way that makes it immediately understandable and useful.

The principle is the topic of each section.

The implementation is how to go about using the principle in your efforts.

The example shows why the principle matters or works, with the proof rooted in something that really happened

The book represents distilled community leadership knowledge. It was conceived and initially written by the community leadership team at Red Hat, who steward the ongoing work as free and open content.

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There are many good books that give in-depth understanding of why you want to follow tosw. An example of this is Producing Open Source Software. Since this handbook is a distillation, it can stand on the shoulders of the other works without having to be as long. The power of The Reference works here. Community leadership is a community of practice, and one important aspect of a CoP is that it takes the knowledge in the heads of practitioners and turns it in to knowing via writing it down. This book is not complete for many reasons. Tosw teaches us to release early and often for better long term results. We also create room for other people to put in ideas that are not just derived from free and open source software projects.

**Upstream: [TheOpenSourceWay.org/wiki](https://www.opensourceway.org/wiki)**

**Following the open source way. Thus, why MediaWiki?**

**Ch. 4.8:  
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Since this is free and open content designed to be remixed for multiple uses, it is essentially an upstream. This concept is from FOSS, where you think of a project in the way you think of the water you get from up the stream. It's worth a trip up there to see how things work. You may want to check in more often, or even station a person to be up there regularly ... if the water is important enough to you. This handbook is put together using tosw, and in particular by following the precepts within TOSW. For example, we chose MediaWiki because it is an open, extensible tool that is lightweight and many people are familiar with it. For creating a low barrier to entry, using MediaWiki is a great way.

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In the end, this is the primary reason to write this book. This is the original itch the Red Hat community team wanted to scratch. Do work in an open way so that it can be built upon. Do it so that it resolves your own needs first.

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