Being a Catalyst in Communities -

The scientific facts about the open source way

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

Who: @quaid

LA born, NorCal raised

FOSS advocate for 10 years

Red Hat Community Architecture team

Being a catalyst in communities

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

Professors Open Source Summer Experience: POSSE

Being a catalyst in education

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"

Free <3 Open <3 Free

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?
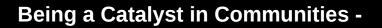
How does this matter to you?

Questions?

Links:

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http://www.TheOpenSourceWay.org/book

http://quaid.fedorapeople.org/presentations

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

Tom Sawyer & the barn raising.

Fedora => RHEL & lessons learned.

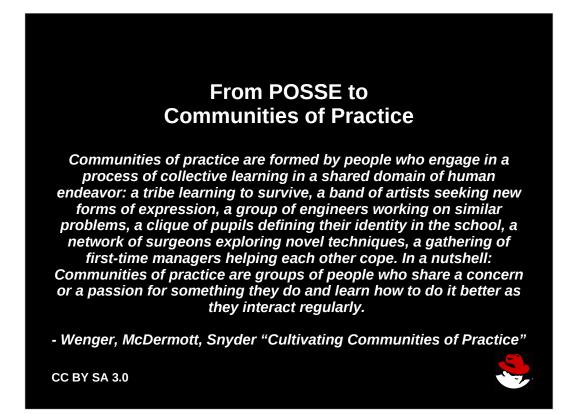SELinux – positive & negative lessons learned.

Virt – Xen, KVM, and libvirt.

Professors Open Source Summer Experience:
POSSE

Being a catalyst in education

Professors' Open Source Summer Experience

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

POSSE – taught by community & FOSS contributors; productively lost;

**From POSSE to
Communities of Practice**

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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.

3 structural elements: Domain, Community, Practice

7 principles:
Design for evolution
Open a dialog between inner and outer perspectives
Invite different levels of participation
Develop both public and private community spaces
Focus on value
Combine familiarity and excitement
Create a rhythm for the community

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

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Applying TOSW beyond technology, building on the
brand strength of open source.

It's a handbook: principle, implementation, example.
Designed for participation.

From internal cookbook, here to benefit to/from CoP
around community leadership & help raise the tide.

It's good protection from knowledge lost to a hungry
raptor. Plus, community work is going to be better,
over time, than what we can write/maintain.

Free content creators get to choose their tools. Mine:
MediaWiki, DocBook XML, Publican, git.

Free content creators get to choose their own license.
Ours is the CC BY SA 3.0 Unported.

How does this matter to you?

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

Individual trying to make headway adopting FOSS gains from the referencability.

Helps you make a more compelling business case about using open source beyond low-cost. In addition, look at "The Open Source Triple Play."

If your CoP intersects technically, this helps you make better open communities.

Handbook to help participate in open collaborations – good for learning, CV, personal networking.

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

Questions?

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