Why host your Project at the Linux Foundation?

2022
The LF has become a global commons for holding community assets

- 850+ projects with community assets
- Generally, no one company trusts another company to own assets for the community
- Assets include logos, trademarks, domains, gerrit/GitHub, CLAs all seen as potential control points

- Management of assets requires scale
- Over 29,000 CLAs signed for project communities that decide to require a CLA
- Over 1,000 project domains and DNS records
- Over 700 trademarks registrations and applications, hundreds of unregistered marks
- Over 15,000 source code repositories

- Neutral source for managing leveraged fundraising
- 3,000 unique member company relationships
- Our communities raised over $177 million in 2021 via 6,500+ invoices
- Our communities spending funds generate 180,000 transactions annually
The LF is a broad scope foundation hosting openly developed technologies across many segments

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<th>Security</th>
<th>Networking</th>
<th>Cloud</th>
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<tr>
<td>We are securing the internet via the world’s largest certificate authority providing 50M free TLS certificates.</td>
<td>We are home to 8 of the top 10 open source networking projects in the world, backed by the majority of global network providers.</td>
<td>We are creating a portability layer for the cloud, driving standards and developing reference tools for cloud native development.</td>
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**Let’s Encrypt**

#1 SSL provider in the world

**ONAP**

Support from carriers handling 70% of mobile subscribers

**Cloud Native Computing Foundation**

Every relevant public cloud provider now supports Kubernetes
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**Automotive**
Our Automotive Grade Linux platform is deployed in millions of production vehicles covering infotainment, telematics, autonomous, etc.

Support from OEMs covering 50% of global auto shipments

**Blockchain**
We are creating a permissioned, secure distributed ledger that makes it easier to create cost-efficient, decentralized business networks.

50% of the Fortune top 50 enterprise blockchain deployments use Hyperledger

**Web**
We are providing the application development framework for next generation web, mobile, serverless, and IoT applications.

Node.js packages are downloaded over 1 billion times per day
Successful open collaboration ecosystems come down to 4 core factors

**Neutrality**
No one company or organization can “take it away” from the community that forms around a project.

**Open Governance Do-ocracy**
The most successful projects that have stood the test of time have neutral, open governance models where those who do the work make the decisions in a defined governance model.

**IP Clarity**
Removal of IP uncertainty enables anyone to get involved as a contributor or implement as a user.

**Commercial Support Ecosystem**
Encouraging commercial engagement in the project leads to jobs, faster adoption, new contributions and features that address new use cases.
Projects support a continuous, sustainable ecosystem

Under the LF model projects become part of a continuous, sustainable ecosystem

- Sustainable projects have a developer community
- A developer community’s technology is used in commercial solutions that profit businesses
- The businesses then participate and reinvest back into the project
- The businesses then hire developers to work in the community

Neutral Project Governance & IP Model

Commercial Products/Solutions

Bug Fixes, Security Updates

Commercial dependency drives a virtuous cycle of commercial and community engagement based on accepted governance and IP models

Community Development
What do projects generally seek from the LF?

- **Neutrality**
  A neutral host foundation for intellectual property (IP)

- **Governance**
  Governance and community help

- **Resources**
  Events, community, marketing, training, CI/build infrastructure

- **Growth**
  Build momentum within the LF community thousands of global members

- **Funds**
  Ability to raise and manage funds (optional)

- **Experience**
  Colleagues who share deep open source experience

Projects often start with individual companies looking for a neutral home for their open source initiative, or individual developers seeking to elevate their project so that more companies and developers will participate.
The LF’s Support Programs help communities succeed

**Developer Community**
- **Release & Infrastructure Support**
  - CI/CD, release engineering, infrastructure, collaboration tools, DNS/web
- **Developer Engagement**
  - Dev Summits, Events, meetups, Events, Hackathons for maintainers and extended dev community
- **Mentorship**
  - Upskilling for better careers, expanding the pool of developers and next generation leaders

**Commercial Ecosystem**
- **Talent & Skills Development**
  - Educational engagement, training courses, professional certifications
- **Neutral Venue, Global presence**
  - Nonprofit entity, leadership and managers to engage on issues/ideas, neutral governance templates, global entities
- **Open Standards**
  - Open specifications, ISO standardization path
- **Resource Funding Options**
  - Ability to infuse resources into a community through funding options

**Project Maintainers**
- **Security**
  - Security audits, best practices, badges and scanning tools
- **Facilitation**
  - Neutral managers available to facilitate development and execution on priorities
- **Project Advocacy**
  - PR/AR, social media, blogs, videos, content creation highlighting their project

**OSPO & Legal Professionals**
- **Analytics & Insights**
  - Project health and dependability metrics
- **OSS Management**
  - TODO Group OSPO peer engagement, OSPO best practices and guides, Legal Summit and peer engagement
- **Compliance**
  - Process guides, license scanning, export control management, tools for internal use
Foundation as a Service Support

The LF provides a back-office infrastructure for projects and initiatives so they can focus on delivering value for their community.

### Finance, Accounting and Human Resources
- Profit and loss, balance sheet, and cash flow management
- Treasury
- Budgeting and quarterly forecasting
- Monthly financial reporting to the Project Budget and Finance Committee and consultation with The Linux Foundation’s finance team
- Payroll and benefits access and administration for project staff members
- Legal and tax compliance
- Accounts receivable and accounts payable management, including follow up with project members as needed regarding payment and management of pass-through expenses for third parties such as international public relations partners

### Operational Infrastructure and Support
- Access to and support on the infrastructure operated by The Linux Foundation, including Salesforce, ADP, NetSuite, Bill.com, and Expensify to manage finances as well as membership and business development information
- Domain management, trademark management

### Business Leadership and Shared Services
- Access to and support from The Linux Foundation management team regarding industry matters and governance issues such as the IP policy
Our LFX platform was purpose-built to deliver insights and automate routine community tasks

- Technical and ecosystem analytics about the projects you depend on
- Monitor contribution metrics across the entire project development lifecycle
With LFX, you can track your community trends and insights to measure community building and results.

- Measure open source developer activity and project health
- Understand which projects are gaining traction, losing momentum, or shifting to alternative code bases

The average count of active contributors was 9890 during the last 3 Years.
LF Projects: All Shapes and Sizes

- There is no “required” or “right” size or shape for a project at the LF
- Some raise funding and have members, others do not
- Some have dedicated staff to work on efforts, while others benefit from the community contributing to efforts
- Some have thousands of developers, others start off with a dozen or so
- Many are focused on code, while others are building specifications, standards or best practices
How We Structure Projects

**Community Project**
These projects take advantage of the governance structure and back-end resources that the Linux Foundation provides to all hosted projects.

**Examples**
SPDX, FOSSology, CHAOSS, Linuxboot and OpenBMC.

**Community Project + Funding**
These projects benefit from community-raised funding to provide resources and infrastructure like enhanced code repositories, continuous integration systems, testing resources, conformance programs, and developer events. Membership or funding support for these projects is never required to contribute.

**Examples**
Let’s Encrypt, Node.js, OpenAPI Initiative, and Open Mainframe.

**Umbrella Community + Funding**
These projects support several technical projects under the same funding structure and are focused on a technology area. This allows the community to pursue a strategic vision across a spectrum of opportunities while balancing demands on resources.

**Examples**
Automotive Grade Linux, Cloud Native Computing Foundation, Hyperledger, LF AI & Data and LF Networking.

There is no “one size fits all” approach to building a community for your open source project. The Linux Foundation exists to help you as an experienced, trusted advisor and facilitator.
The LF can structure different types of collaboration

- Open source software
- Open hardware
- Open standards
- Open data
- Open governance

Linux Foundation Project Hosting Requirements

- use an open source license for code (e.g. OSI approved);
- be supported by an LF member;
- allow neutral ownership of project assets such as a trademark, domain or GitHub account (the community can define rules and manage them);
- technical do-ocracy through separation of business governance from technical governance (we're flexible on the model) clearly documented in a charter;
- allow anyone to participate in the technical community, whether or not a financial member or supporter of the project (explicitly not pay-to-play)
If you would like to talk to the project formation team on hosting a project with The Linux Foundation, please reach out to us at:

formation@linuxfoundation.org.