

# A Practical Guide For Outbound Open Source



# Open Source Is About Collaboration... About Taking and Giving



Open source software is developed in a decentralized and collaborative way, relying on peer review and community production

Red Hat

<https://www.redhat.com/en/topics/open-source/what-is-open-source>

# Guidance

## Senior Management

- Strategic relevance of open source
  - Where would we be without Linux?
- Have an open source strategy ...

## Management

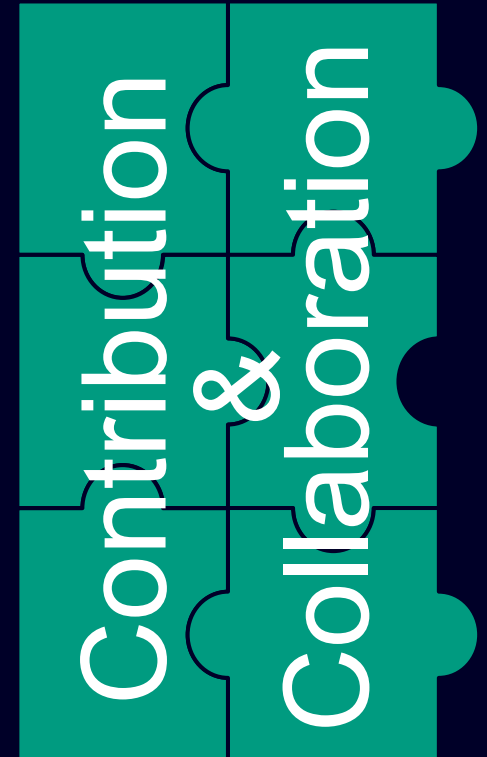
- Be more concrete about where to use open source
  - Component? Framework? Strategic relevance for a product?
- ...and where or when to contribute

## Developers

- When to think about open source contributions?
- What are they allowed to do ... and what they should not do
- What is the process?

# Why Do Open Source Contributions?

- Maintaining your own forks costs effort
  - Integrating "own" features into upstream projects
- Gain (co)copyright on open source software packages
  - Probably no one can change the license without acknowledgement
  - If you belong to the open source team, you are also in the loop for future directions of the project
- Fix bugs as soon as possible
- New way of collaboration with suppliers, customers, partners and even competitors
  - If you buy a new chip or a new hardware device, then the supplier should ensure that the drivers are already in the Linux kernel
- Last but not least: increase developer satisfaction



# The Mercedes-Benz FOSS Manifesto

## COMPANY PRINCIPLES

- I. Mercedes-Benz shall support and encourage its employees to use, contribute to, and create FOSS projects both in Open and Inner Source endeavors. [Encourage FOSS]
- II. Mercedes-Benz shall allow the appropriate time for its employees to participate in FOSS activities. [Facilitate FOSS Participation]
- III. Mercedes-Benz shall encourage and facilitate learning and advancement of its employees through FOSS activities. [Advancement through FOSS]
- IV. Mercedes-Benz shall promote visibility in Open Source communities. [FOSS Visibility]

## EMPLOYEE PRINCIPLES

- I. An engineer shall look for Open and Inner Source alternatives before writing custom code or using proprietary alternatives. [Prefer FOSS]
- II. An engineer shall strive to be active in the Inner Source communities. [Active FOSS Citizen]
- III. An engineer shall contribute to Open Source projects within the scope of his or her day-to-day work. [Contribute FOSS]
- IV. Any employee shall always act responsibly in Open and Inner Source communities, with care and respect in both content and communication, in order to uphold a positive image for both himself/herself and the company. [Responsible FOSS Citizen]

<https://opensource.mercedes-benz.com/manifesto/>



**Great job,  
thank you very much  
Mercedes Benz**

# The Siemens Open Source Manifesto

## The Siemens Open Source Manifesto

Siemens has resolved to be an active and reliable member in the Open Source ecosystem. We aim to benefit our customers, employees, and the company, while contributing to the wider community. We recognize the central role of Open Source in promoting software reuse in our growing digital world, which is an increasingly important contribution in our effort to responsibly handle resources.

To ensure we can achieve and maintain our active participation, we have decided to follow these guiding principles in our commitment to Open Source:

### Company Principles

1. **Encourage Open Source:** Siemens will support and empower its employees to use, contribute to, and create Open Source projects.
2. **Facilitate Participation:** Siemens will drive and foster active engagement in Open Source activities relevant to our company's projects.
3. **Grow Through Exposure:** Siemens will encourage and facilitate learning and advancement of its employees through Open Source activities.
4. **Promote Visibility:** Siemens will continuously improve and maintain a positive reputation in the Open Source community.

### Employee Principles

1. **Prefer Open Source:** Employees will look for suitable Open Source solutions before writing or using custom code.
2. **Contribute:** Employees will favor contributing to Open Source projects over local changes within the scope of their day-to-day work.
3. **Foster Teamwork:** Employees will collaborate and support each other in driving Open Source efforts.
4. **Be Responsible Citizens:** Employees will always act responsibly in the Open Source community, with care and respect in both content and communication.

Are you a Siemens employee and want to learn how the Manifesto is embedded in our overall Open Source Strategy?

[Learn more](#) 

Provide more information for employees!

<https://opensource.siemens.com/manifesto/>

## Have a Process

- Why do we need a process?
  - The developer is not the copyright holder of the code!

Section 69b Germany Copyright Law  
Authors in employment or service relationships

*Where a computer program is created by an employee in the execution of his duties or following the instructions of his employer, the employer exclusively shall be entitled to exercise all economic rights in the computer program, unless otherwise agreed.*



- Contributor License Agreements (CLAs) normally need to be signed by management

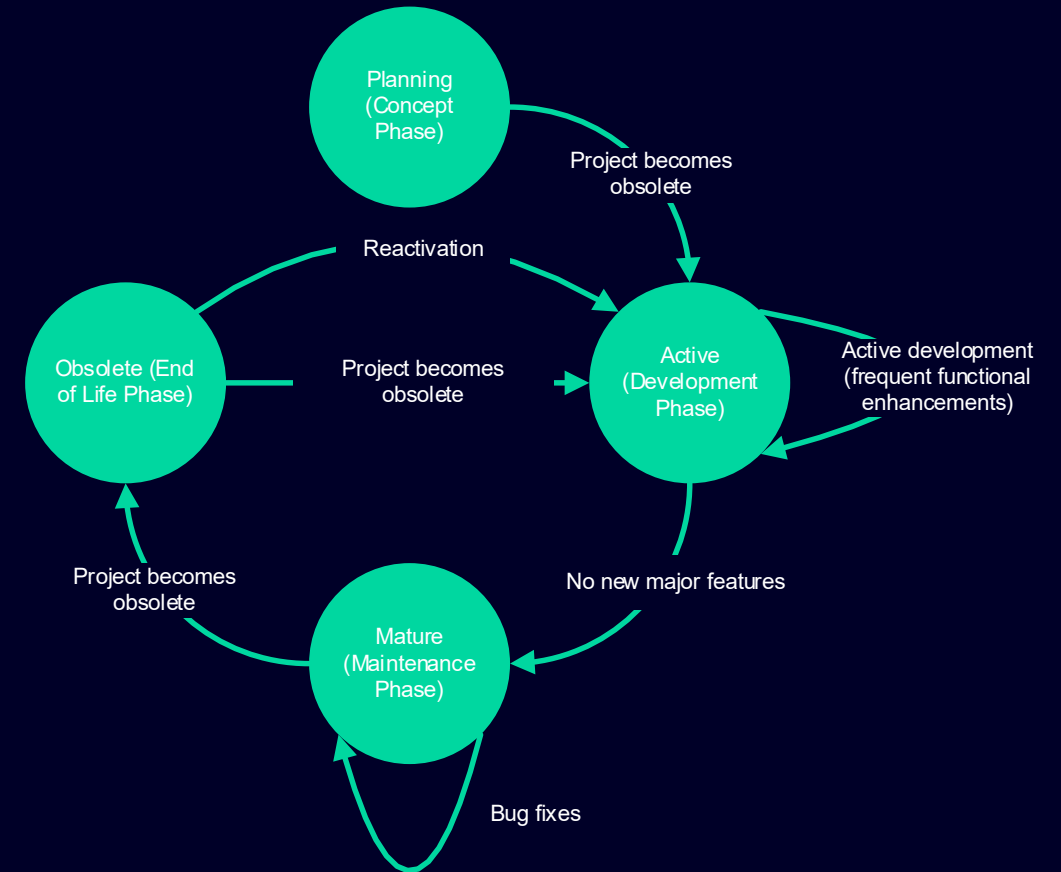


# The Process



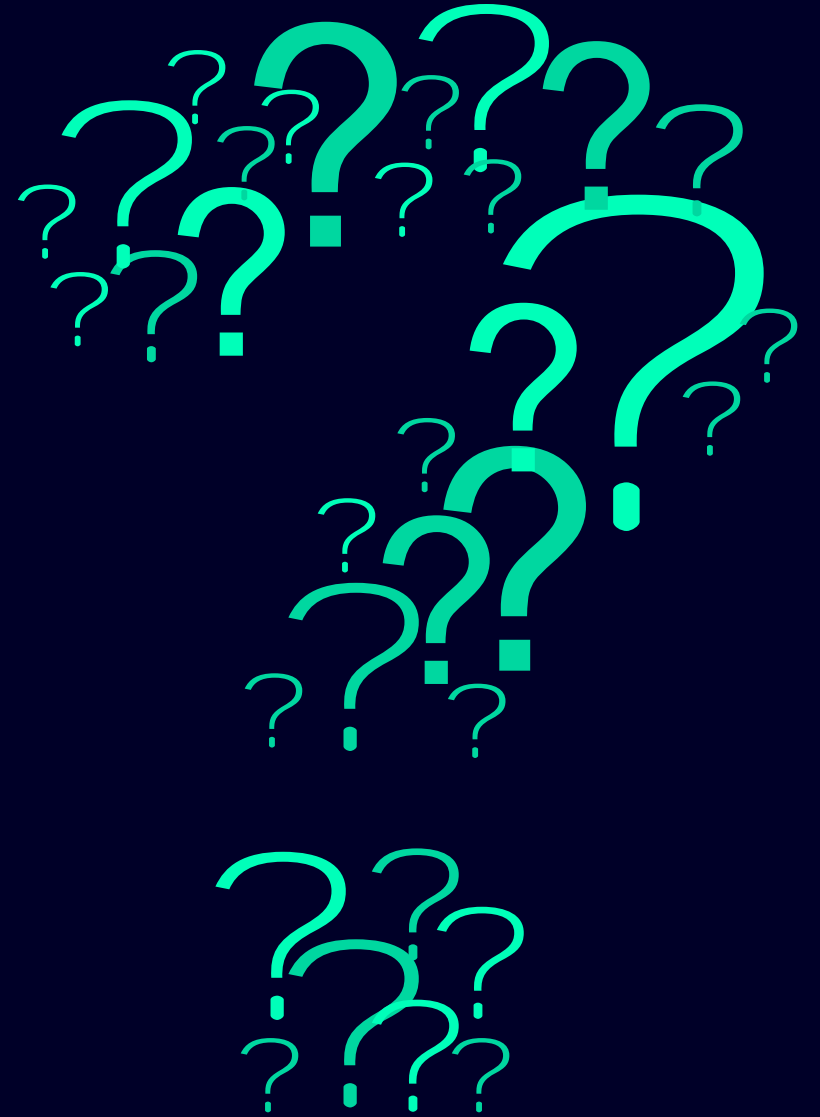
# Starting an Open Source Project

- An OSS project is not something that you just fire and forget!
- It is a software development project like any other software development project
  - It requires time and resources
- Launching a new OSS project is comparable to a product introduction
  - You should have a very clear picture why you want to make a certain chunk of code publicly available



## Questions To Be Answered

- What shall be achieved by launching this open source project?
- What problem is solved with this project?
- What value provides this project to **others**?
- Is the “long term” funding committed?
- Are there developers ready to work upstream?
- How mature is the implementation?
- What kind of upfront investment is required by interested parties?



## Best Practices @ Siemens: Inner Source vs. Open Source

- In every major part of the organization we have experts for open source
- On Siemens level we have the Siemens Open Source Task Force
- We use open source software in nearly every product
- We see which OSS components we use most
- We have a large social coding platform based on Gitlab
- Developers can start **inner source projects**, learn all what is needed and then make them open source
- Processes can be **adapted**



## Resources



Outbound Open Source

<https://github.com/todogroup/outbound-oss>



Mercedes-Benz AG - FOSS Manifesto

<https://opensource.mercedes-benz.com/manifesto>

**SIEMENS**

The Siemens Open Source Manifesto

<https://opensource.siemens.com/manifesto>



Red Hat – What is open source

<https://www.redhat.com/en/topics/open-source/what-is-open-source>

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# Q&A