

How to Build a Successful Co-Operation Around Open Source Software - Case Oskari

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SUMMARY

Many Open Source projects have started as endeavours to solve a small problem at hand. In due course, the developed software has been adopted by some other users, has proven itself useful and then, by magic, has become a popular solution with thousands of users worldwide. Fact or fiction?

This presentation outlines the success story of Oskari and co-operation around the software.

Oskari (<http://www.oskari.org>) is a popular open source platform for browsing, disseminating and analyzing geographic information, utilizing in particular distributed spatial data infrastructures. The Oskari collaboration network actively facilitates various projects extending the software and creating new innovative e-Government services. The network consists of 32 member organizations, of which 12 are private companies.

Success doesn't usually come without organized work. For the process of securing a successful co-operation, a few steps can be laid out.

- 1) Creating a useful piece of software with appropriate licensing
- 2) Co-operating with a number of early adopters
- 3) Starting a collaboration network
- 4) Adopting a sustainable model for collaboration and developing a product lifecycle management

plan

5) Measuring success and providing proof of benefits of both the software and co-operation

6) Continuous improvement of the process

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