

# Lessons from an Open Source Software Developer

Neal Gompa (Conan Kudo [ニール・ゴンパ])

# Who am I?

- Professional technologist
- Contributor and [package maintainer in the Fedora Project](#)
- Contributor and [package maintainer in Mageia Linux](#)
- Contributor to the openSUSE Project
- Contributor to RPM, DNF, and various related projects
- Diligent follower of the telecommunications industry
- DevOps Engineer at Datto, Inc.

## Contact Points:

- Twitter: [@Det\\_Conan\\_Kudo](#)
- Google+: [+NealGompa](#)

# Recap: What is Open Source Software?

*Open-source software (OSS) is computer software with its source code made available with a license in which the copyright holder provides the rights to study, change, and distribute the software to anyone and for any purpose.*

--- Wikipedia

# Recap: What is Open Source Software?

At its core, “open source software” is software that is offered on terms that allow people to use, modify, and share to others freely.

There are variations on the terms that the software is offered (in the form of different licenses), but they all effectively provide similar guarantees.

Other common terms in reference to open source software are “software libre” and “free software” (free as in freedom).

# Why am I talking about an open source software developer?

In our day to day lives, we leverage a lot of open source software in order to do things. Linux powers most computers in the world (smartphones, servers, TVs, etc.), BSD powers a lot of things too (game consoles, routers, switches).

Not many people think about what life is like for the people that actually make the software everyone relies on.

That said, this is about my personal experience, and others may differ a bit, so keep that in mind.

# Lessons from OSS Development



# Project Hosting and Administration

The most basic thing for developers to worry about is where the project is hosted and how to manage it.

In many cases, what you choose also tends to select the audience of people that will see the project and possibly help in its development.

There are a number of services out there, like Pagure, GitLab, SourceForge, BitBucket, and GitHub.

Some hosting sites are acceptable to certain people, while others are not. Alternatively, you may host everything yourself instead of relying on a service.



GitLab



Bitbucket

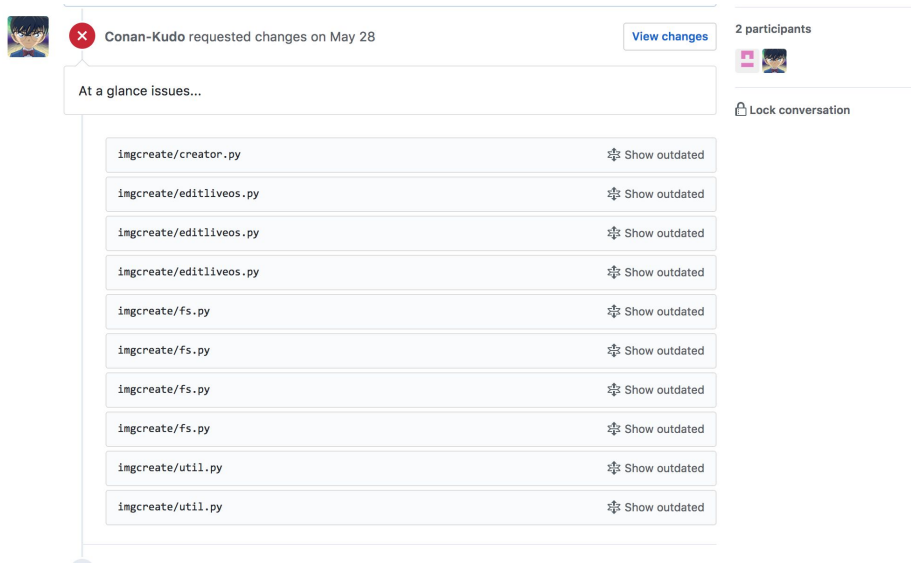
SOURCEFORGE

# Managing Contributions

If you want other people to be able to work on your code and share their changes back with you, you need to have a way for them to share it with you.

This also means you need to manage personalities from time to time.

Communication matters!



The screenshot displays a GitHub pull request interface. At the top, a notification from Conan-Kudo indicates requested changes on May 28, with a 'View changes' button. Below this, a section titled 'At a glance issues...' contains a list of files that are 'outdated'. Each file entry includes the file path and a 'Show outdated' link. On the right side of the interface, it shows '2 participants' and a 'Lock conversation' option.

File Path	Action
imgcreate/creator.py	Show outdated
imgcreate/editliveos.py	Show outdated
imgcreate/editliveos.py	Show outdated
imgcreate/editliveos.py	Show outdated
imgcreate/fs.py	Show outdated
imgcreate/fs.py	Show outdated
imgcreate/fs.py	Show outdated
imgcreate/fs.py	Show outdated
imgcreate/fs.py	Show outdated
imgcreate/util.py	Show outdated
imgcreate/util.py	Show outdated



# Interactions with Users

Most projects have many more users than they do contributors. This is because there are many more people that just want to use the software than people who want to use it and are willing to change the code to make it work.

That doesn't mean that they aren't important! Users that take the time to communicate with you are users that care enough to be a part of the software development process!



MCMic @MCMic commented 10 months ago

Master



After IRC discussion we're thinking about using json instead, to be able to re-use the parser for CreatureType and stuff like that later.

Parser would be <http://open-source-parsers.github.io/jsoncpp-docs/doxygen/index.html>

Could also be used for Campaigns main file but that would mean converting the existing ones.



Neal Gomba (ニール・ゴンバ) @Conan\_Kudo commented 10 months ago

Owner



I don't think JSON is easily comprehensible by humans in most cases, and YAML is just too strict on parsing despite being human readable. INI or TOML style is preferred (and indeed, well-understood).



Rémi Verschelde @akien commented 10 months ago

Owner



INI is a bit limited, but I agree that TOML is pretty cool. It has support for nested subsections (what INI doesn't have), so it could work for CreatureType IMO. See examples on <https://github.com/toml-lang/toml>



Merlyn Morgan-Graham @kavika13 commented 9 months ago



I'd vote for JSON. If you want human friendliness, I recommend building a GUI anyway. Generic ones that rely on a JSON schema probably already exist, and would be super simple to make if you had to (I know there's dozens of them for the web).

Rémi Verschelde @akien

changed title from **Move to an INI-style config file with meaningful order** to **Move settings to a standard text-based file format with meaningful order** 9 months ago

Rémi Verschelde @akien mentioned in issue #85 9 months ago

# Downstream distributors

As a open source software developer, many times you live and breathe by people who take your software sources and provides usable builds for people to consume on their systems. These people do the job of making the software configured for the system people want to use it with. In the case of Linux distribution packagers, those from some distributions will even become regular contributors, representing their users' needs.

Not making their lives hard is generally a good idea!

Name	lugaru		
ID	23445		
Builds	1 through 16 of 16		
NVR	Built by	Finished	State
<a href="#">lugaru-1.2-4.fc27</a>	releng	2017-08-04 13:35:13	✓
<a href="#">lugaru-1.2-3.fc27</a>	releng	2017-07-28 04:18:56	✗
<a href="#">lugaru-1.2-2.fc24</a>	ngompa	2017-03-09 13:50:49	✓
<a href="#">lugaru-1.2-2.fc25</a>	ngompa	2017-03-09 13:50:07	✓
<a href="#">lugaru-1.2-2.fc26</a>	ngompa	2017-03-09 13:49:03	✓
<a href="#">lugaru-1.2-2.fc27</a>	ngompa	2017-03-09 13:45:58	✓
<a href="#">lugaru-1.2-2.el7</a>	ngompa	2017-03-09 13:43:12	✓
<a href="#">lugaru-1.2-1.fc25</a>	ngompa	2017-02-20 21:07:27	✓
<a href="#">lugaru-1.2-1.fc24</a>	ngompa	2017-02-20 21:04:27	🗑️
<a href="#">lugaru-1.2-1.el7</a>	ngompa	2017-02-20 21:01:34	🗑️
<a href="#">lugaru-1.2-1.fc26</a>	ngompa	2017-02-20 20:49:29	✓
<a href="#">lugaru-1.1-2.fc26</a>	releng	2017-02-11 14:35:11	✓
<a href="#">lugaru-1.1-1.fc24</a>	ngompa	2016-12-19 19:12:17	✓
<a href="#">lugaru-1.1-1.fc25</a>	ngompa	2016-12-19 19:11:33	✓
<a href="#">lugaru-1.1-1.el7</a>	ngompa	2016-12-19 19:11:14	✓
<a href="#">lugaru-1.1-1.fc26</a>	ngompa	2016-12-19 18:58:13	🗑️
Type	1 through 16 of 16		

Don't forget to have fun!

# The End

Any Questions?