

# Getting to Community Source

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# Take away...

## Some things to take away:

- Open Source is more than just a technological advancement
- What are the adoption and value drivers
- The basics around Community Source
- How does it help you?
- Risks

# More than just tech...

Open Source is not just a technology  
OS is a means for actually delivering the technology

OS is a means for economic transfer founded on the technology

There are a whole confluence of effects:

- Licensing Freedom

- Economic/ Financial Freedom: Nature of downloading, contributing, fixing, collaborating

- Control of Destiny

# Adoption drivers

Customers have expressed to us two primary drivers pushing them to adopt OSS:

- Control of Destiny
- Economic Factors

It's about community

It's **not** communism

# Primary value drivers

Four primary ways of creating value with OSS:

- Lower licensing and operating costs
- Collaborative Return on Investment (C- ROI)
- Service Economies
- Complementary Product Impact

# What is Community Source about?

- It is a specific **form** of Open source
- Like-minded institutions with similar goals
- Create a centrally managed, developed project for those institutions
- Software is NOT a competitive advantage
- Hit the basics, 80/20 rule is important in this model
- It's economic sweet-spot is C-ROI (although it can impact the others)

# Example: Research Management

Overview

“Community Source,” consortium  
development

Why it works

Economic and accounting value

Management software is not a university's  
competitive edge

# Advantages to Community Source

Directly speaks to C- ROI

Directly speaks to Control of Destiny

Creates community around your goals

Helps deal with some of the typical problems seen in these projects

Maturity, Longevity, Support, etc.

# Disadvantages to Community Source

Customization

Goals, values, technologies not perfectly aligned

Comittees: Herding cats

# Brass tacks

Creating the advantages and mitigating the disadvantages

Structure

Independent organization

Commitment

Accountability

Process

80/20 rule

Communications

# Structure

Create an organization that involves all

Create an organization doesn't allow one interest to override another

Solution:

- Non-profit

- Board-type oversight

- Committees that are made up of people from each institution for technical and subject matter expertise

# Independent Organization

The organization needs to be independent of any one agency

Needs to be able to make operating decisions in support of the entire consortium's goals without putting one agenda over another

Needs to be able to set goals, deliverables for members independently

# Accountability - The secret sauce

The “foundation” needs to both be accountable and able to hold members accountable

“Accountability is the true secret sauce to Community Source”

Brad Wheeler, Vice Provost For  
Community Source, Indiana University

# Process

Committees set baseline target for 1.0 release

Initial institutions contribute money and developer time to that release

Foundation is project and product manager

Once baseline met, 1.0 is released and opened

Add partners program for new institutions

Foundation and partners program ensure product maturity, longevity, and support

# 80/20 rule for features and development

Find the baseline features that are common to the members' processes

Make those your 1.0 feature set

Do **not** program to the exception for each member

Rather, make a solid architecture that is flexible

Now the question is, what are the economic values of the 80% and the 20%?

# Communication is the key!

The other secret sauce is  
communication

Keep subject-matter experts,  
technologists, managers, and  
member-leaders in the know

# Your organization

As you move into Open Source:

Identify how it's creating value

Try to quantify

Remember some costs/ values not quantifiable

Make sure the value outweighs other issues

Legal

Support

80/ 20 rule and C- ROI

Etc.

# Real costs, real value

## Costs:

Labor

Development

Managing Open Source cycles

Infrastructure for managing open source

## Value:

The 4 economic drivers

Knowledge...Innovate your own IT

Destiny

Adaptability and choice

# Risks

Herding cats

Unable to form the community or ecosystem in a meaningful way

Violation of the 80/20 rule

# Final thoughts

Destiny and Economics

Know the accounting **and** economic impact of your project

Accountability

Independent organization

Ignore the FUD- meisters, do your own analysis

Know your risks

Stay away from zealots

# Thanks!

Questions/ Comments?

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