Build an open source community?

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Patterns
Stories
Things to start with

Genesys

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Préam – bulles
What is a community? (of practice)

Who, Community members decide:
• Interacting on an...
Communities are groups of people who, for a specific topic, share one or more of the following

- Interest,
- Speciality,
- Role,
- Concern, set of problems,
- Passion.
Community members deepen their understanding by

- Interacting on an continuum basis.
- Asking and answering questions.
- Sharing knowledge.
- Reusing good ideas.
- Solving problems for others.
What is a community? (of interests)

Community members deeply
• Asking and answering
Communities interests are loosely connected groups of people who,

- want to learn about a particular topic
- no commitment in terms of delivering something together
- don't require a formal sense of community
Community members deepen their understanding by

- Asking and answering questions (threaded discussions),
- Stay current on the topic.
Open Source Community Genesys?
• Project that answers a need
• Publish to increase its development
• Positive Community Network
IzPack
Package once. Deploy everywhere.
Open Source Community secret map?
• Accept to share
• Values as roots, as your engine
• Project with a community
• Community breeding
• People, people, people
• and ...
De quoi je pars?

1.

Vers ou je vais?

2.

Contexte?

3.

On se structure?

4.

Les leviers?

5.

La remise en cause

6.

J'anime, J'entraîne

7.

Methodology?
POINT DE DÉPART
Describe your project

- What is the concept?
- Main topic? Sub topics?
- What is the code ideal situation?
- What differentiate you from the others?
Analyse the code

- Development state?
- Modular Architecture?
Existing Communication Elements?

- Publications
- Documentation?
- Videos
Analyse the licences

• Code?
• Documentation?
• Images, videos, logos
• Project name?
Analyse the core team

• Identify Leader
• Identify members
• Identify competences & interests
LE BUT?
• What do you want to share?
• What are your goals?
• What is your project orientation?
• What is the community targeted?
• What are your values?
VALUES?

- WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IN?
- WHAT DIFFERENTIATE YOU FROM OTHER CODE/COMMUNITY/PROJECTS?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO REACH?

• RESEARCH?
• DISSEMINATION/EXPLOITATION
• INCREASE A USAGE?
• GET AN IMPACT ON SOCIETY?
• PROPOSE AN ALTERNATIVE TO “CLOSED MARKET”?
• EARN MONEY?
• ACCESS NEW COMMUNITIES?
What's happening around me?
Review (1st)

- Communities already exist in your R&D Field?
- Is there an existing community/team that is focused on a related topic?
- Is your topic already covered as part of another community/team?
- Is there an old community that is inactive but could be resurrected or migrated to form the new community?
Qualify these communities

- Mission, goals, values
- Governance,
- IP management,
- Size,
- Tooling, architecture of participation,
- Is it a competitor? A complementary?
- Project(s) already in place?
Relationship

- Where are the place to go to share and learn in your domain?
- What are the communication channels in your domain?
- Identify the leaders, opinion makers, mainstream users...
Squelette
Identify your community processes

- Governance,
- Roles and responsibilities?
- Community management model?
- Development code model,
- IP management,
- Business models,
- External contribution management,
- Monitoring
Identify your community processes?

- Simple and flexible processes
- Make contribution as easy as possible
Align Core team members

- Mission, goals, values
- Shared vision among partners & individuals
- Mentor, Educate
Take and formalize the decision:

• We start from scratch?
• We join an existing community?
• We join an existing community but we keep certain elements (own website)?
Digital habitat
J'adapte mes ambitions à mes moyens

- Portail web "Vitrine"
- Code Repository, Issue Tracker
- Mailing List or Forum
- Collaboration guidelines
- Monitoring
Vitrine - Home page

- Good project name
- Clear mission statement
- State that the project is Open Source
- Development status
- License used
Vitrine - Home page

• How to install and use
• Where to download
• How to contribute
• Mailing list
End Users - What are they looking for?

- Quality
- Information
- Documentation
- Easy to find, Install, Use
- Support
Adopters - What are they looking for?

- Personalize and Extend
- Easy Programming Model
- Reliable APIs
- Low Barrier of Entry
Committers - What are they looking for?

- Ideally, be part of a cool project ;-
- Low barrier of entry
- Align project goals & values with own goals/belief
- Get Stuff done!
Build your communication channel

- Individuals & Communities that may share same topics or interests
- From your own contact network
- Participate to conferences & events
- Collaborate with other FLOSS initiatives
Advertize your existence

- Write and submit articles
- Use existing networks to inform
- Use website ohloh.net
- Send a one-time broadcast message
Send broadcast messages

- Your project & Core team
- Mailing lists
- Social Network Platforms
  - Webzines, Forums…

- Community XX
- Community YY
- External person join
- Join

- Community TT
- Community ZZ
- Community WW

- Your community ramp up
Advertize your existence

• Good and Up to Date Website
• Cross links
• Aggregate Bloggers
Momentum
J'adapte mes activités à mes moyens

• Project management principles
• Easy flow of information, transparency
• Ask and answer questions
• Hold a regular conference call
• Post regularly to your forum
• Copy interesting topics
• Hold periodic events
• Physical
• Regular
• on the web?
• Mediate Conflicts
• Balance Opposing Viewpoints
• Avoid Vaulting Attitude
• Facilitate Recognition
• Great new comers
• Invite Contribution
• Collaborate with other community project
• Update Website & documentations
• Bug Reports are love letters
• Educate new comers/committers
• Visit/Participate to conferences
• Social networking (Research Gate)
• Periodic review
Increase membership

- Why they may come?
- Create roles
- Easy Task list
- Greet new comers
- Meet person
- Ask people who ask question on related community forum(s)... to join
- Find the community!
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Healthy community?
Trust, Recognition, Listening

Driving purpose, clear activities, sense of accomplishment

Transparency, Communication

Actions & Momentum

Relationship
cross boundaries

High management expectations

Neutrality

Leadership & Participation
Results?
Results may vary
Speed up start up phase
Improve dissemination & promotion
Increased the exploitation outcome
Grow of the community
Building alliances
Human adventure
Life after the completion
BUT...
• People commitment
• Shared vision?
• Creativity & leadership
• Devote time for Community management
• Devote time for knowledge sharing
• Open & Patient (not patent)
• It may takes time
1. De quoi je pars?
2. Vers ou je vais?
3. Contexte?
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Methodology?