

Center for the Cultivation of Technology

– A Non-Profit Home for Open Source Projects

The *Center for the Cultivation of Technology* provides a supportive and nurturing environment for free and open source projects. We take care of organizational matters for the projects, including contract management, office and legal setup, fundraising, progress reporting and tax filing. Additionally, the *Center* trains and empowers project maintainers to navigate organizational matters themselves, so they can grow their own organization.

Donation Management & Donor Reporting

Our donor management platform facilitates tax-deductible donations to member projects using various means such as wire transfer, credit cards, Paypal, or Bitcoin.

The Center is able to provide tax-deductible donation receipts in Germany and within several European member states. By growing partnerships with fiscal sponsors in other regions of the world, we aim to provide tax-deductibility in more and more regions of the world.

Accounting, Employment and Contracting

Our web-based platform allows our partner projects to manage and allocate budgets as they see fit, including provisions and policies for sub-budgets such as contract work, travel, or equipment. Our platform facilitates all transactions, and helps us manage required paperwork, such as receipts and contracts. We provide employment and contracting templates, both for Europe and world-wide. We manage payroll and tax reporting, and provide necessary documents for internal and external audits. In essence, all projects will be free to allocate funds and work as they wish, and we will take care that everything goes smoothly and is properly documented.

Facilitate In-Person Developer Meetings

Most open source projects are developed in a distributed fashion. With some projects, it is quite common that developer teams have never met in person. Despite this, the importance and effectiveness of human contact is as strong as ever. Most successful projects have in common the fact they regularly meet, e.g. at project-specific developer conferences, which often see great bursts of creativity and productivity. We help organize and plan these meetings, including travel arrangements and conference support together with professional event facilitators (moderation, note-taking, etc.).

Crowdfunding Campaigns & Merchandise Logistics

... so projects can focus on what they do best – write code!

With our help, projects no longer have to re-invent the wheel in terms of organization, finance, fundraising and reporting. Instead, they can rely on the tools and experience we provide, freeing their energy for what they originally set out to do. Funders can be confident that they will receive quality reporting via one interfacing organization across multiple, independent projects.

Grants Management

We support our projects' applications for grants, for example to private foundations or for European Union grants, and will also spearhead our own funding initiatives in collaboration with partners. This includes larger grants, including the management of restricted funds and audited financial reporting.

Expert Network and Mentor Community

Our knowledge and connections, and the knowledge and connections of our projects, combine to build an expert network. All partner projects are able to call upon our mentor community (including members of our advisory board and other experts) with problems or questions they might have. We will help fill needs and vacancies, and connect developers and activists with, for example, designers, journalists and institutions.

Office and Meeting Space

While most projects are not housed in a specific location, where this is the case and appropriate, we help arrange office and meeting space – ideally shared office space with similar projects to enable collaboration. We are providing such a space to the community and our member projects in Berlin.

Billing & Sales

Our hybrid legal structure as a non-profit limited liability company allows us to bill companies and customers in the name of our projects. As a developer, you can work on customer projects, and conveniently use the Center's web interface to bill clients for commercial work.

Asset Stewardship

The Center is able to hold assets, e.g. trademarks, domain names and physical equipment for member projects whenever they would like us to do so. In many cases, this will help avoid licensing issues quite common in larger projects with fluctuating contributors.

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