

# Why host your Project at The Linux Foundation?

2023



# The LF has become a global commons for holding community assets.

## 850+ projects with community assets

- Generally, no one company trusts another company to own assets for the community
- Assets include logos, trademarks, domains, gerrit/GitHub, CLAs all seen as potential control points

## Management of assets requires scale

- Over 29,000 CLAs signed for project communities that decide to require a CLA
- Over 1,000 project domains and DNS records
- Over 700 trademark registrations and applications, hundreds of unregistered marks
- Over 15,000 source code repositories

## Neutral source for managing leveraged fundraising

- 3,000 unique member company relationships
- Our communities raised over \$177 million in 2021 via 6,500+ invoices
- Our communities spending funds generate 180,000 transactions annually

# The LF is a broad scope foundation hosting openly developed technologies across many segments.

## Security

We are securing the internet via the world's largest certificate authority providing 50M free TLS certificates.



**#1 SSL provider in the world**

## Networking

We are home to 8 of the top 10 open source networking projects in the world, backed by the majority of global network providers.



**Support from carriers handling 70% of mobile subscribers**

## Cloud

We are creating a portability layer for the cloud, driving standards and developing reference tools for cloud native development.



**Every relevant public cloud provider supports Kubernetes**

# The LF is a broad scope foundation hosting openly developed technologies across many segments.

## Automotive

Our Automotive Grade Linux platform is deployed in millions of production vehicles covering infotainment, telematics, autonomous, etc.



**Support from OEMs  
Covering 50% of global  
auto shipments**

## Blockchain

Our open global enterprise grade blockchain technologies are driving a generational upgrade to legacy systems and markets across the globe.



**50% of the Fortune top 50  
enterprise blockchain  
deployments use Hyperledger**

## Web

We are providing the application development framework for next generation web, mobile, serverless, and IoT applications.



**Node.js packages are  
downloaded over 1 billion  
times per day**

# Successful open collaboration ecosystems comes down to four core factors.

## Neutrality

No one company or organization can “take it away” from the community that forms around a project.

## IP Clarity

Removal of IP uncertainty enables anyone to get involved as a contributor or implement as a user.

## Open Governance Do-ocracy

The most successful projects that have stood the test of time have neutral, open governance models where those who do the work make the decisions in a defined governance model.

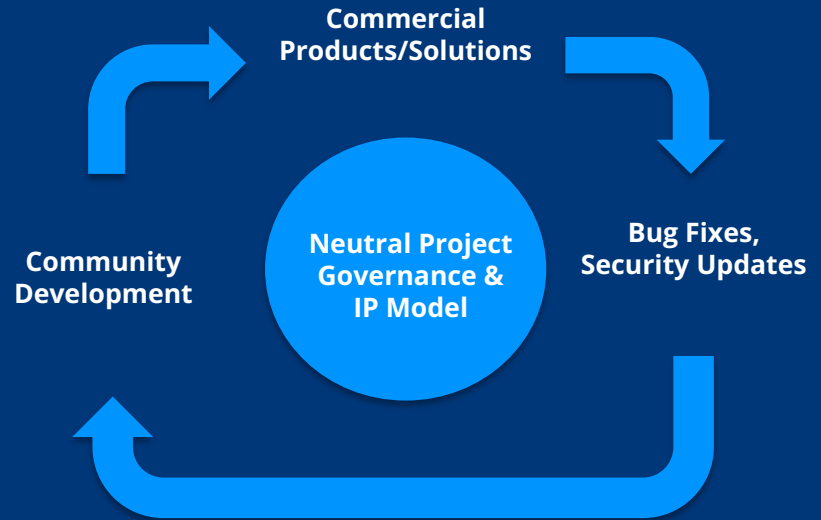
## Commercial Support Ecosystem

Encouraging commercial engagement in the project leads to jobs, faster adoption, new contributions and features that address new use cases.

# Projects support a continuous, sustainable ecosystem.

Under the LF model projects become part of a continuous, sustainable ecosystem

- Sustainable projects have a developer community
- A developer community's technology is used in commercial solutions that profit businesses
- The businesses then participate and reinvest back into the project
- The businesses then hire developers to work in the community



**Commercial dependency drives a virtuous cycle of commercial and community engagement based on accepted governance and IP models**

# What do projects generally seek from the LF?

## Neutrality

A neutral host foundation for intellectual property (IP)

## Governance

Governance and community help

## Resources

Events, community, marketing, training, CI/build infrastructure

## Growth

Build momentum within the LF community thousands of global members

## Funds

Ability to raise and manage funds (optional)

## Experience

Colleagues who share deep open source experience

Projects often start with individual companies looking for a neutral home for their open source initiative, or individual developers seeking to elevate their project so that more companies and developers will participate.

The LF's  
Support  
Programs help  
communities  
succeed.

## Developer Community

### Release & Infrastructure Support

CI/CD, release engineering, infrastructure, collaboration tools, DNS/web

### Developer Engagement

Dev Summits, meetups, events, Hackathons for maintainers and extended dev community

### Mentorship

Upskilling for better careers, expanding the pool of developers and next generation leaders

## Commercial Ecosystem

### Talent & Skills Development

Educational engagement, training courses, professional certifications

### Neutral Venue, Global presence

Nonprofit entity, leadership and managers to engage on issues/ideas, neutral governance templates, global entities

### Open Standards

Open specifications, ISO standardization path

### Resource Funding Options

Ability to infuse resources into a community

## Project Maintainers

### Security

Security audits, best practices, badges and scanning tools

### Facilitation

Neutral managers available to facilitate development and execution on priorities

### Project Advocacy

PR/AR, social media, blogs, videos, content creation highlighting their project

## OSPO & Legal Professionals

### Analytics & Insights

Project health and dependability metrics

### OSS Management

TODO Group OSPO peer engagement, OSPO best practices and guides, Legal Summit and peer engagement

### Compliance

Process guides, license scanning, export control management, tools for internal use



# Foundation as a Service Support

The LF provides a back-office infrastructure for projects and initiatives so they can focus on delivering value for their community.

## Operational Infrastructure and Support

- Access to and support on the infrastructure operated by The Linux Foundation, including Salesforce, ADP, NetSuite, Bill.com, and Expensify to manage finances as well as membership and business development information
- Domain management, trademark management

## Business Leadership and Shared Services

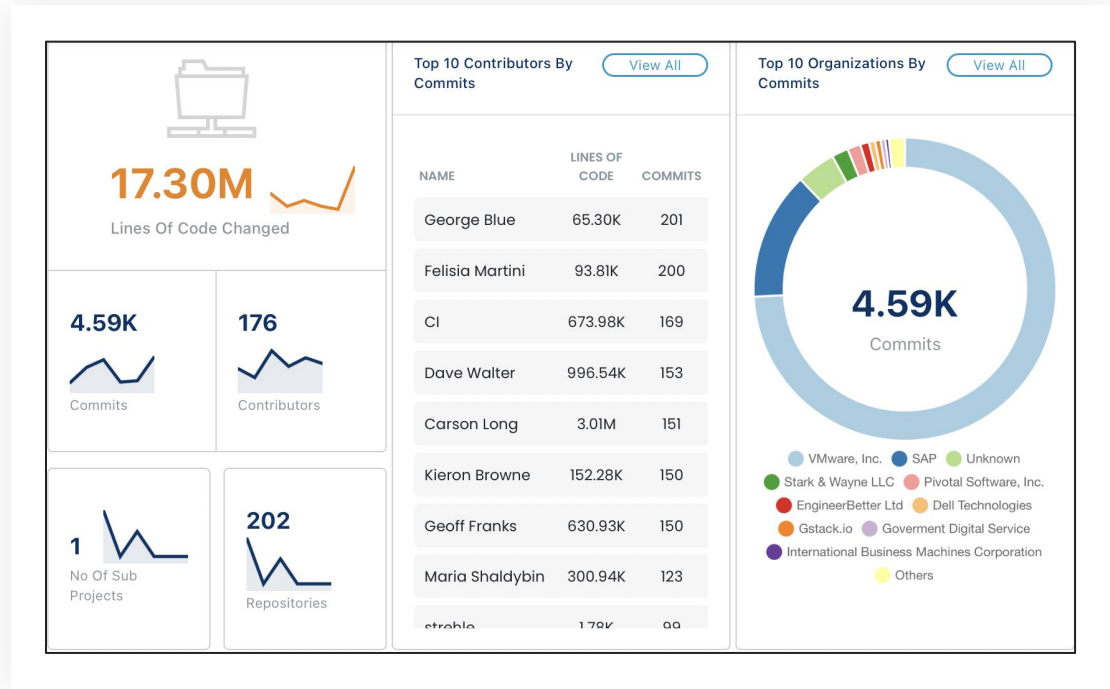
- Access to and support from The Linux Foundation management team regarding industry matters and governance issues such as the IP policy

## Finance, Accounting and Human Resources

- Profit and loss, balance sheet, and cash flow management
- Treasury
- Budgeting and quarterly forecasting
- Monthly financial reporting to the Project Budget and Finance Committee and consultation with The Linux Foundation's finance team
- Payroll and benefits access and administration for project staff members
- Legal and tax compliance
- Accounts receivable and accounts payable management, including follow up with project members as needed regarding payment and management of pass-through expenses for third parties such as international public relations partners

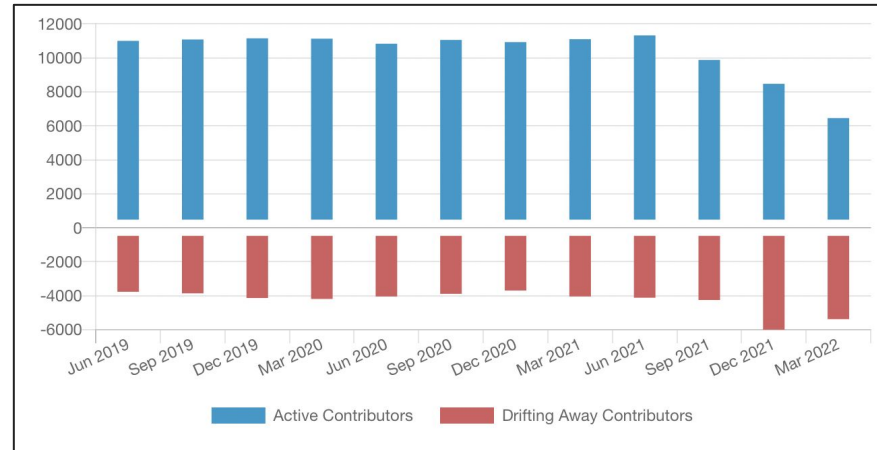
# Our LFX platform was purpose built to deliver insights and automate routine community tasks.

- Technical and ecosystem analytics about the projects you depend on
- Monitor contribution metrics across the entire project development lifecycle



# With LFX, you can track your community trends and insights to measure community building and results

- Measure open source developer activity and project health
- Understand which projects are gaining traction, losing momentum, or shifting to alternative code bases



The average count of active contributors was **9,830** during the last 3 years.

# LF Projects: All Shapes and Sizes

- There is no “required” or “right” size or shape for a project at the LF
- Some raise funding and have members, others do not
- Some have dedicated staff to work on efforts, while others benefit from the community contributing to efforts
- Some have thousands of developers, others start off with a dozen or so
- Many are focused on code, while others are building specifications, standards or best practices

## The LF can structure different types of collaboration.

- Open source software
- Open hardware
- Open standards
- Open data
- Open governance

## Linux Foundation Project Hosting Requirements

- Use an open source license for code (e.g. OSI approved)
- Be supported by an LF member
- Allow neutral ownership of project assets such as a trademark, domain or GitHub account (the community can define rules and manage them)
- Technical do-ocracy through separation of business governance from technical governance (we're flexible on the model) clearly documented in a charter
- Allow anyone to participate in the technical community, whether or not a financial member or supporter of the project (explicitly not pay-to-play)

# How we structure projects

There is no “one size fits all” approach to building a community for your open source project. The Linux Foundation exists to help you as an experienced, trusted advisor and facilitator.

## Community Project

These projects take advantage of the governance structure and back-end resources that the Linux Foundation provides to all hosted projects.

### Examples

SPDX, FOSSology, CHAOSS, Linuxboot, and OpenBMC

## Community Project + Funding

These projects benefit from community-raised funding to provide resources and infrastructure like enhanced code repositories, continuous integration systems, testing resources, conformance programs, and developer events. Membership or funding support for these projects is never required to contribute.

### Examples

Let's Encrypt, Node.js, OpenAPI Initiative, and Open Mainframe

## Umbrella Community + Funding

These projects support several technical projects under the same funding structure and are focused on a technology area. This allows the community to pursue a strategic vision across a spectrum of opportunities while balancing demands on resources.

### Examples

Automotive Grade Linux, Cloud Native Computing Foundation, Hyperledger Foundation, LF AI & Data, and LF Networking

If you would like to talk to the project formation team  
about hosting a project with The Linux Foundation,  
please reach out to us at:

[formation@linuxfoundation.org](mailto:formation@linuxfoundation.org)

