

FOSS in FP7 projects: some thoughts

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Aggregate projects on some forge

Q: Does it make sense to aggregate projects on the same forge infrastructure?

It depends.

- what is the goal?
 - ▶ highlight the amount of FP7 FOSS projects then OK(-ish)
 - ▶ improve community awareness of them then KO

the whole idea of **forge-based communities** has essentially failed

- too many forges already
- GitHub, Gitorious & co. are a more likely future

FOSS licensing guidelines

Q: Would it make sense to issue guidelines on OSS licensing? Is there any best practice or approach to be used?

Guidelines? Useful.

Help desk? Very useful. e.g. FOSSBazaar @ HP, various univ. services

- most non-geeks/non-devs/non-lawyers project actors **just don't get the gist of FOSS licenses**
 - ▶ they will choose the wrong license
 - ▶ (even worse) they will *create* a new license
- stumbling upon complex licensing scenarios is *easy*
 - ▶ e.g. competition data licensing in Mancoosi
- **pattern-based license chooser** (?)
 - ▶ needs work: identify licensing patterns/needs/...
 - ▶ choose community-friendly licenses! i.e. the usual suspects

Involving the FOSS community

Q: How can we involve the existing open source communities in our projects?

It should probably be the other way around.

- success stories: EDOS and Mancoosi
 - ▶ in common: $members(project) \cap members(community) \neq \emptyset$
 - ▶ no equivalent in-Debian success story TTBOMK

project review checklist:

- what plans for **community management**? a *job* on his own!
- does the **target community** already exist?
 - yes empty intersection → be skeptical
 - no be skeptical, triple-check comm. management plans

Q: How can we involve the existing open source communities in our projects?

for what concerns *development*

1 get the basics right, i.e. “FOSS 101”

- ▶ BTS/issue tracker, -devel mailing list, doc, ...
- ▶ portability
- ▶ communication/blog, ...

it does matter

EC point of view: *review and monitor* all the above

2 FP7-project specifics

- ▶ release early, release often wrt project time line
- ▶ what is the **development exit strategy** when founding is over?
too many “EU-founded & abandoned” FOSS projects already”

FOSS collaboration working group

Q: Which project can take the lead of a working group on Open Source collaboration, and which should be the objectives of this working group?

some objectives:

- **project review checklist** on FOSS aspects (to help reviewers?)
 - ▶ upfront for initial review + periodic advancement (?)
- **licensing guidelines**
- “how (not) to engage FOSS communities”
i.e. a corpus of best/worst practices about the (initial) contact
- ...

Comments?