

Open Source Project Management

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Open Source Project Management?!

- Classical project management: gant charts, meetings etc..
 - Erm.. :-/ ... and now **open source** – Isn't this contradictory?
 - Maybe just a different kind of management?
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- Slides based on the book by Michael 'mika' Prokop (in German):



Common features of Open Source Projects

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- Varying degrees of expertise
- Weak commitment («Scratch your own itch»)
- Shallow hierarchies
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- Speciality of science: Death by PhD

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- Project management
 - Coordinating efforts
 - Providing infrastructure
 - Marketing/Presswork

Open Source Development Models

- Benevolent dictator
- Elected government
- Meritocracy

Interlude: Choice of Licenses

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- Warning: NO CUSTOM LICENSES...

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- E-Mail / Mailinglists
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- Important feature: Async
- Avoid having too many channels
 - Twitter, Facebook, Identi.ca, Jabber, Aim, Google-Talk, Skype, SILC...

Getting things done

- Provide a (realistic) roadmap
- Don't flood the TODO list
- Popular in scientific applications: Sprints
- Don't spend too long taking decisions

Human Resources

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 - Low hanging fruit in the issue tracker
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- Acknowledge contributions
 - e. g. AUTHORS file
 - All contributions: bug-reports, feature-requests, Logos...
- When to consider someone «a (core-)developer or contributor»
- Check up on missing contributors

Release Management

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 - «Release early, release often»
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- Automate the process
 - Tag the release
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 - Update the documentation
 - Submit *.dsc file to NeuroDebian
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- Announce the release
 - Mailinglist, blogpost, frontiers social network...

- Outsource? or roll your own?
 - Depends on project size
 - Depends on your required redundancy
 - Trac, Redmine...
- Popular choices include
 - Github (No mailinglists)
 - Sourceforge (Slow)
 - ...

- Corporate Identity
 - Catchy Name (Choose it wisely)
 - Nice Logo
- Register your own domain?
- Important: Provide an SVG Logo

Dissemination

- Conferences
 - Talk or Poster
 - Run a Booth
 - Merchandise
 - Leaflet
 - Meet the developers
- Website
 - Overview of functionality
 - Contact email
 - Documentation
- Reviews and interviews in Journals and Magazines
 - e. g. Frontiers in [...]
- Provide a NeuroDebian package

Conclusion

- Open source tools used to make this presentation:
 - Wiki2beamer
 - L^AT_EXbeamer

Questions?