

The Open Source Way: Creating and nurturing communities of contributors

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Who, what, when, where, how, and why

- Talking about *The Open Source Way*:
 - A community-written wiki &
 - A branded community handbook ...
 - About **implementing the open source way beyond technology.**
 - A book you can read, rebrand, redistribute, and help write ...
 - That **helps you use the open source way in your domain** of expertise.



First – it's a handbook

- A book that:
- ... describes a **principle** (what) +
- ... explains how to **implement** it (how) +
- ... and gives real world **examples** (why).



Second – it's created by those who know

- Written and lead by actual contributors and community experts:
 - Red Hat community leadership team
 - Fedora contributors
 - **Influenced by** and speaking for **thousands of open projects we've learned from over the years**



Third – it's lightweight

- Focus is on **spreading knowing with written knowledge** - this is how communities of practice scale what they know in to something useful for the community.
- Learn, derive, and **stand on the shoulders of giants**.
 - A complement to longer books, e.g. *Producing Open Source Software* (Fogel et al) and *Communities of Practice* (Wenger et al).

Fourth – it's incomplete on purpose

- Encourages participation – seeing there is **not too much but just enough work to be done**.
- Different source for examples – to help the book stretch **beyond “just software”**.



Upstream – TheOpenSourceWay.org/wiki

- The book follows the open source way. For example, “Why use MediaWiki?”
 - Ch. 4.8: “Choose open tools that can be extended”
 - Ch. 3.2.3: “Use lightweight, open collaboration tools – wikis, mailing lists ... and give out access.”
 - Achieves the goal of **lowering the barrier to participation.**

Why care?

- This is a book you can **add to and build on** for your community needs.
- It **teaches** what you are constantly saying over and over.
- If you want to **see the open source way practiced in any domain**, this handbook tells you how.
- If it doesn't have what you need, it's **open for collaboration**.
- Work **done in an open way** so that it can be built upon.
- Content that **serves your needs first**.

What next?

- Questions?
- Read: theopensourceway.org/book
- Write: theopensourceway.org/wiki

This presentation:

<http://quaid.fedorapeople.org/presentations/TOSW/>

