

# Open Project Management

from an “open” perspective

Instructor: Dr. Bradly Alicea

<http://bradly-alicea.weebly.com>



IS 340: Spring 2023

All content



**Welcome!**

# Syllabus Review

All materials available on Canvas ([canvas.illinois.edu](https://canvas.illinois.edu)).

- course syllabus, reading list, lectures posted after class period.

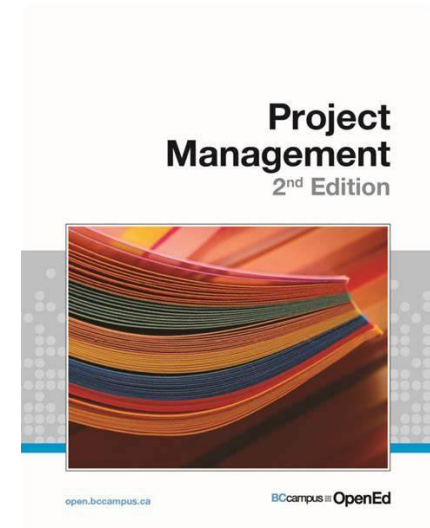
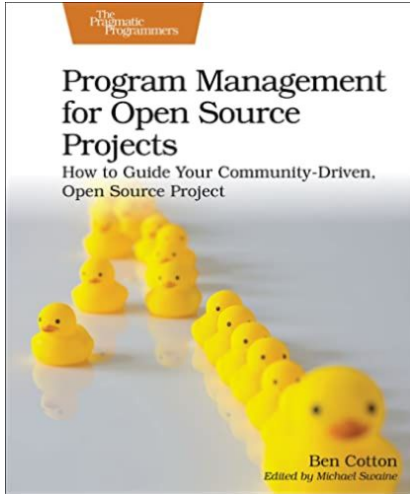
Office Hours will be virtual. Fridays 10am-12pm, <https://meet.jit.si/project-mgmt>

- come here with questions and for check-ins. And try out Jitsi!

Discord: <https://discord.gg/ZvxwgXg>, join #project-management

- discuss quizzes, paper ideas.

# Syllabus Review



# Who is this curriculum good for?

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Joining and managing open-source software initiatives: become a collaborator in an organization, gain skills and experience in new areas. Build upon prior innovations, target efforts towards niche applications.

Learning the basics of tools for collaboration: how do you work in a distributed, collaborative environment? Work across time zones, cultures, and working styles.



# About Me



PhD in Cognitive Science and Computational Biology, Michigan State University

Senior Contributor, OpenWorm Foundation <https://openworm.org/>

Head Scientist and Founder, Orthogonal Research and Education Lab <https://orthogonal-research.weebly.com/>

Mentor, Google Summer of Code, 2017-2022.

Mozilla Open Leader (2018-2019) and eLife Ambassador (2019).

Open-source Community Manager, Rokwire Initiative (2020-2022).

# Introduction to Open Source and Open Access

## Open Source

Origins in the 1950s and 1960s: software in the public domain (Academic Labs).

Worked against intellectual property rights of corporations, rise of proprietary software.

Public domain software lead to hacking culture (1980s).

Public domain works: UNIX (Bell Labs, 1970), Tex (Donald Knuth, 1978).

Copyleft licensing: GNU project (Richard Stallman, 1983).

# Introduction to Open Source and Open Access

## Open Access

*Sociology of Science*. Robert Merton (1942)

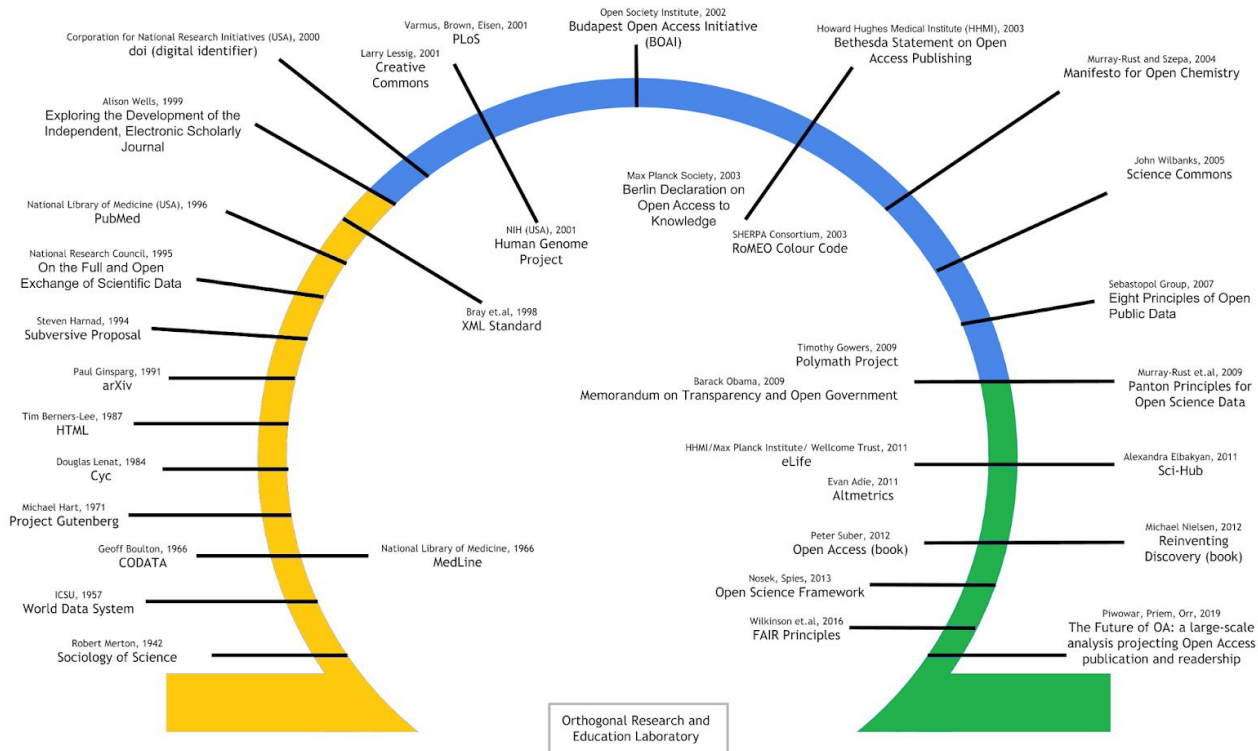
Medline (1960s), HTML (1987), arXiv (1991): digital access to databases and papers enabled by a stylistic standard.

*Creative Commons*. Lawrence Lessig (2001).

*Eight Principles of Open Public Data* (2000s), *Reinventing Discovery* (2010s).

Polymath Project, Altmetrics, FAIR Principles (post-2010): working styles and evaluatory standards for open access.

# Further Reading



**Synthetic Daisies blog, History of Open Access**

<https://syntheticdaisies.blogspot.com/2019/10/oa-week-history-of-open-science.html>

# Defining Open Source

Denoting software for which the original source code is made *freely available* and may be *redistributed and modified*.

Software is “free” or “libre” in accordance with the [Free Software Definition](#) and [Definition of Free Cultural Works](#).

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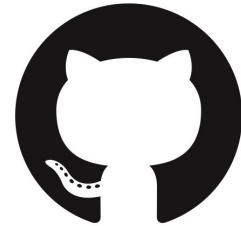
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# Five Pillars of Open Source

Five things make a software release “open source”:

- 1) Publicly-available source code.



## **Github repositories**

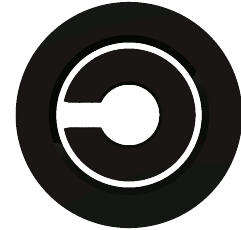
<https://github.com/rokwire>

Workspace and archive for version-controlled, open-source computer code, formatted text, and editable data.

# Five Pillars of Open Source

Five things make a software release “open source”:

- 1) Publicly-available source code.
- 2) Copyleft licensing.



## **Copyleft**

<https://www.copyleft.org/>

A set of principles governing open content that protects creator's rights.

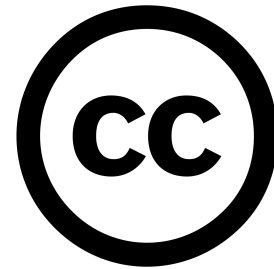
- opposite of copyright, which restricts use by the public).



# Five Pillars of Open Source

Five things make a software release “open source”:

- 1) Publicly-available source code.
- 2) Copyleft licensing.
- 3) Free distribution and remixing.



**Creative Commons**

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

Set of licenses for non-code open access materials (books, digital content) that specifies terms of use.

# Five Pillars of Open Source

Five things make a software release “open source”:

- 1) Publicly-available source code.
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- 3) Free distribution and remixing.
- 4) Technology neutral.



## Software Distribution

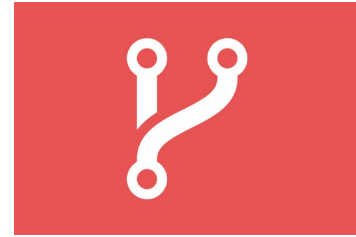
Channels of distribution: FTP, CD-ROM, Web downloads.

Open-source must not come into conflict with distribution channels.

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- 4) Technology neutral.
- 5) Versioning.



## Version-control

Track and compare different document versions. Keeps contributions clear, allows for tracing faults (why things don't work).

- diffs (line-oriented edit distance), version tracking (revisit previous versions).

**Why should we work (and manage projects) in an open manner?**

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**Why do we “Work Open”?**

**What are the benefits (payoffs) and drawbacks?**

**Does this require a shift in perspective?**

# Why do we “Work Open”?

What are the benefits (payoffs) and drawbacks?

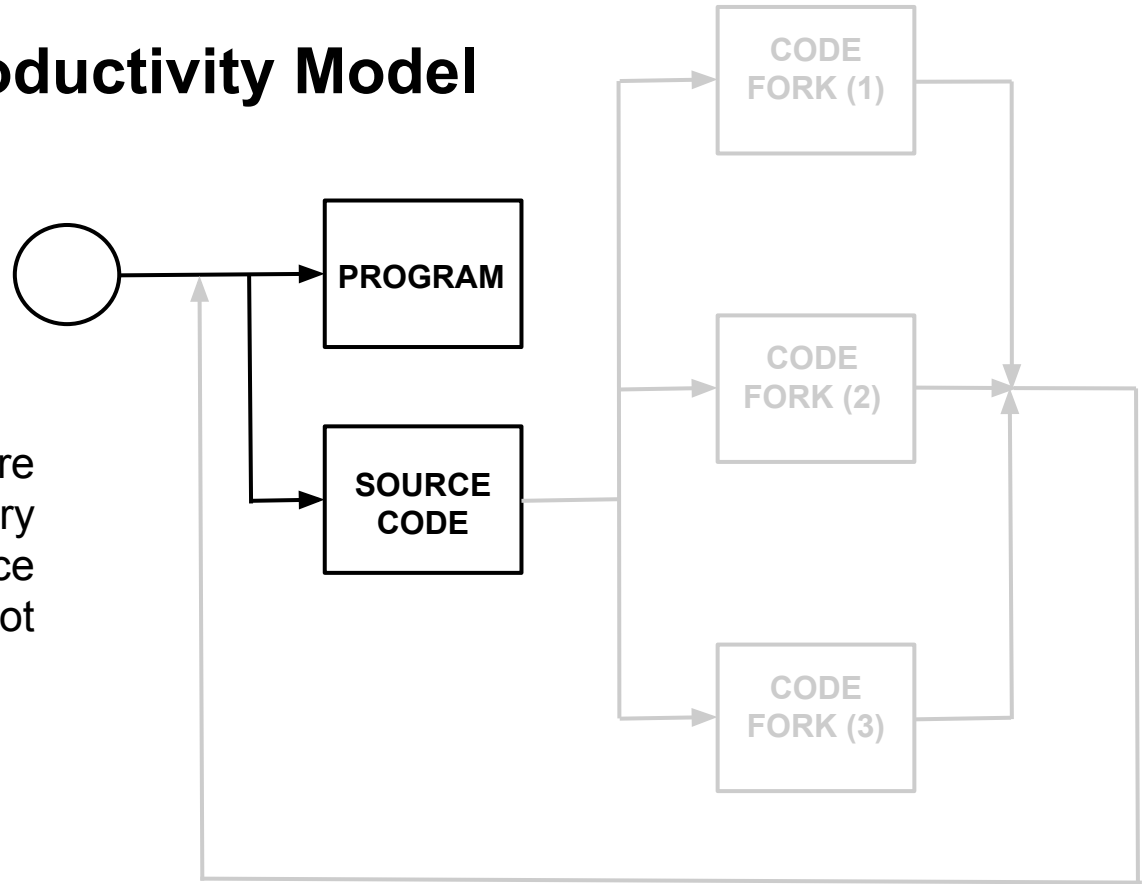
Does this require a shift in perspective?

## **Developing an “ethos” of open-source:**

Think of your efforts in terms of productivity, copying and sharing (forking), idea genealogy, and the social implications (capital and contracts).

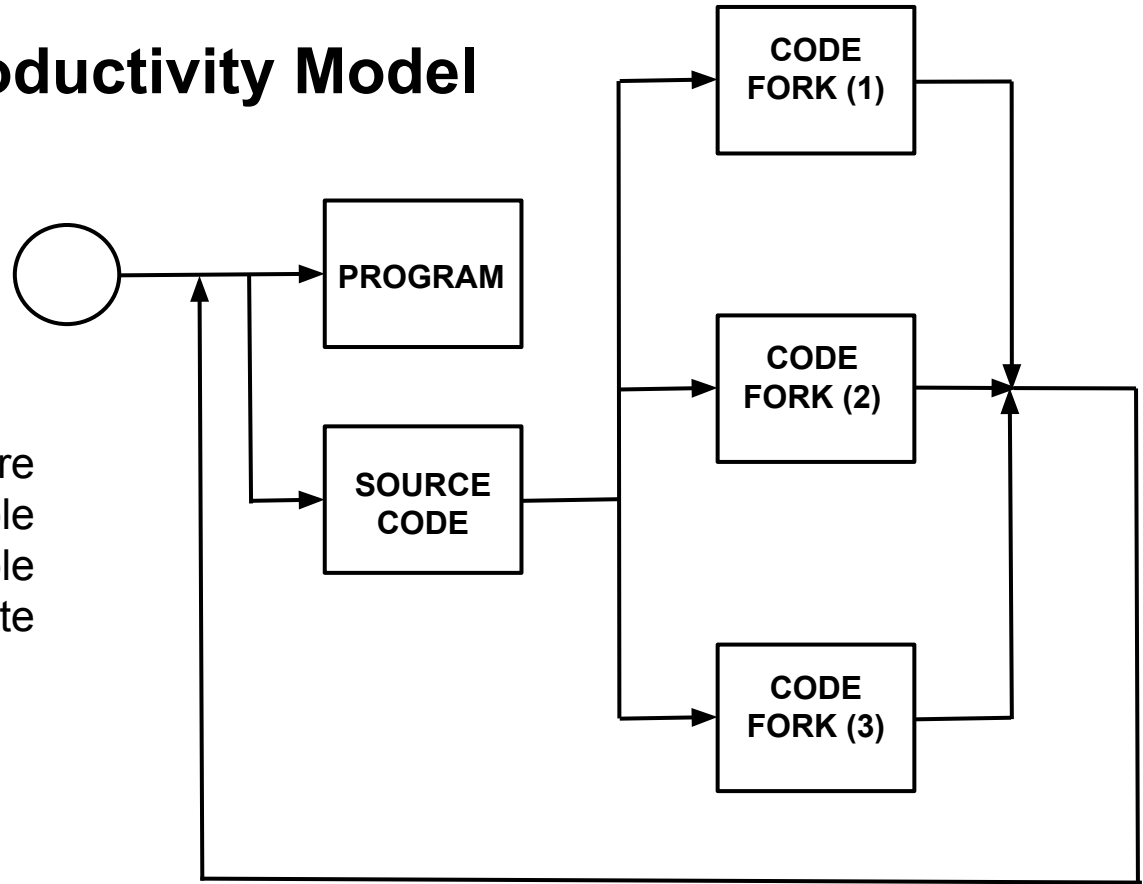
# Open-source Productivity Model

Closed-source software provides a proprietary “program” with source code that is not freely-available.



# Open-source Productivity Model

Open-source software provides freely-modifiable source code where people can make forks (alternate copies).





# Open-source Genealogies

Original Source  
Project



Forked due to  
lack of feature



Forked due to  
disagreement



LibreOffice (Document Foundation) is a fork of OpenOffice (Apache Foundation)



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IceCat (Free Software Foundation) is a fork of Firefox (Mozilla Foundation)



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Ubuntu (Canonical, Ltd) is a fork of Debian (Debian Project)

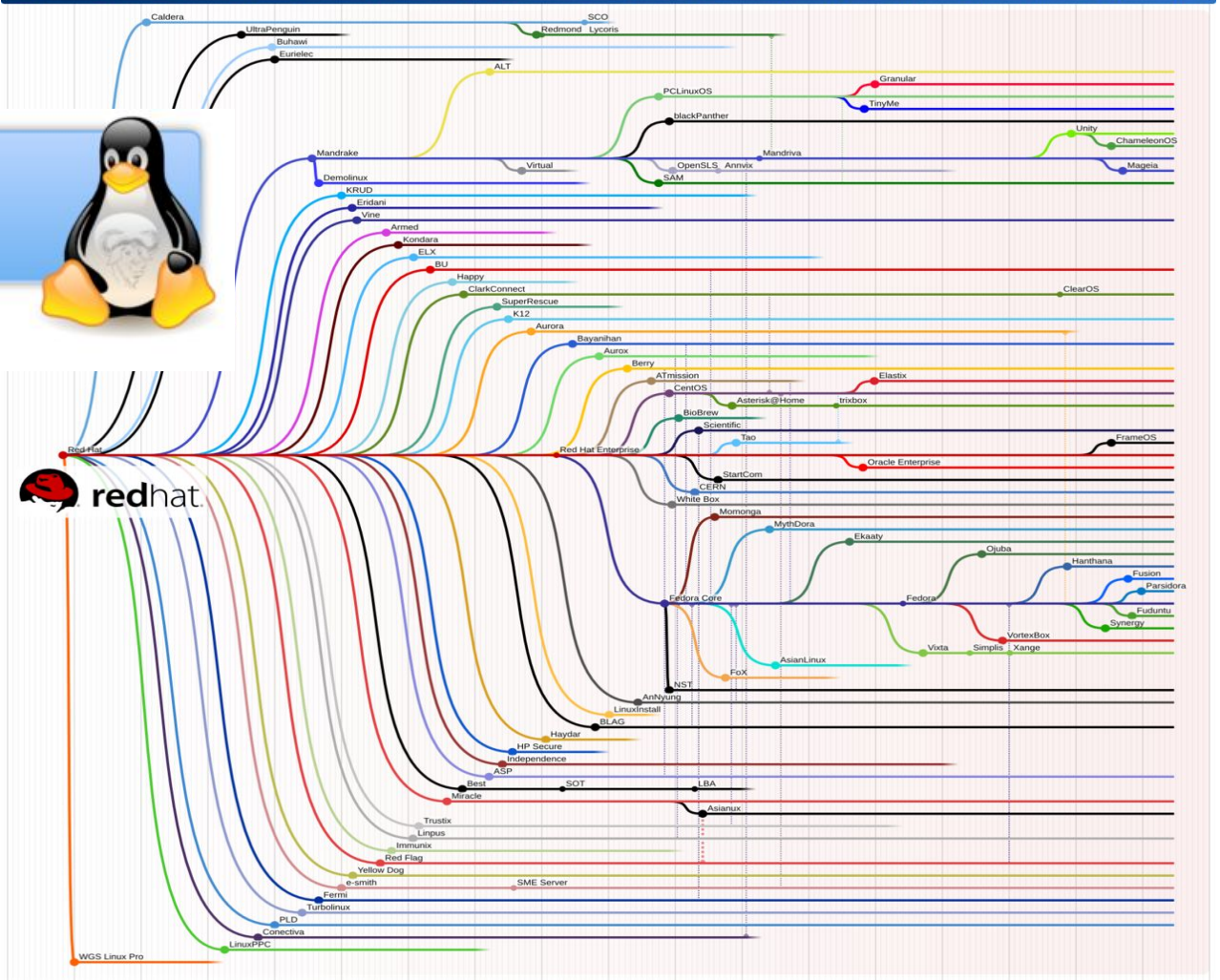
# Red Hat Family Tree

based on GLDT version 11.6

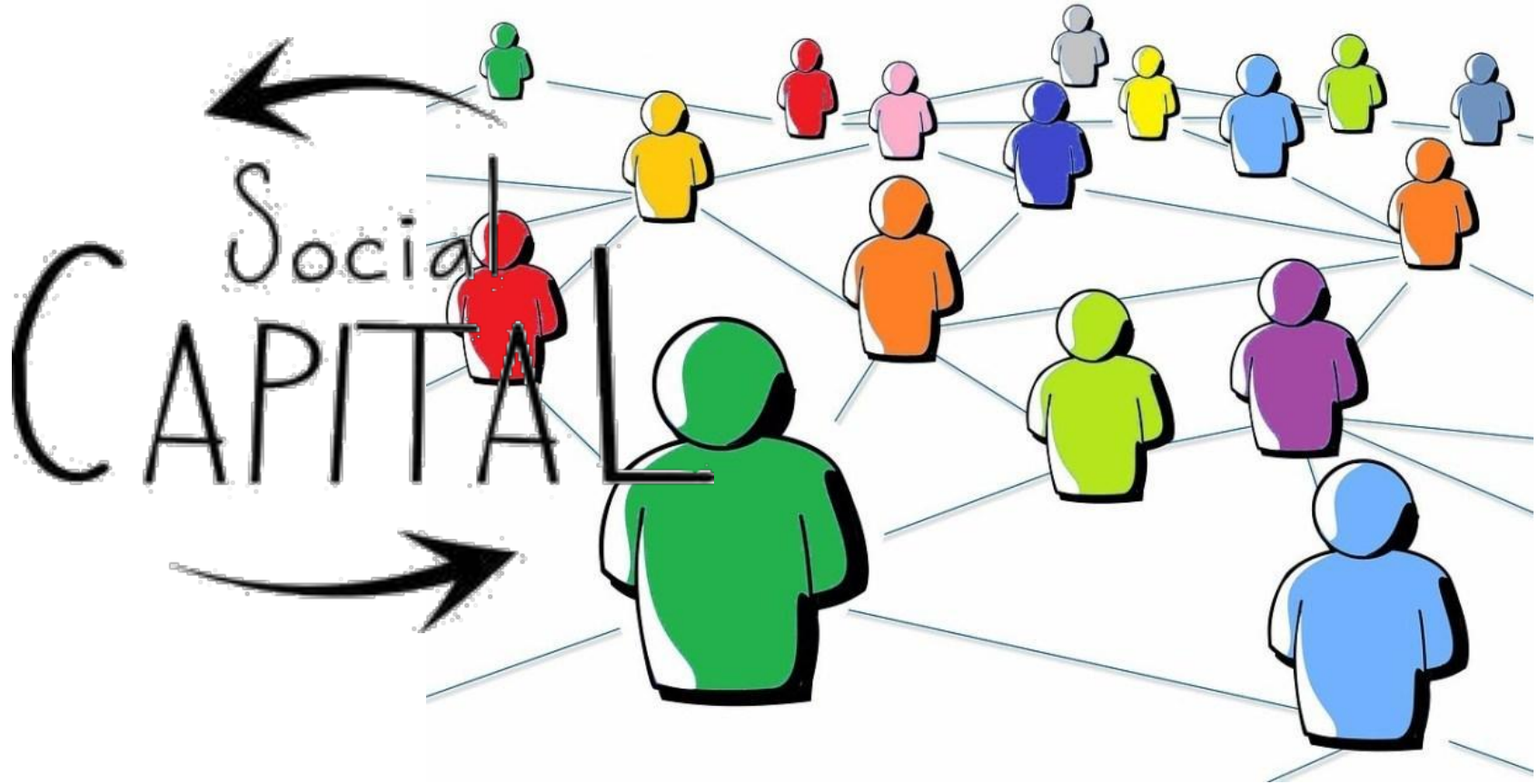
A. Lundqvist, D. Rodic - futurist.se/gldt  
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- Influence, developer switching
- ..... Rebasing, substantial code flow, project overtaking
- ..... Developer & code sharing, project merging



# Working Open Runs on Social Capital



# Social Capital

Trust + Positive Social Attention + Innovation + Reciprocity + Altruism

## **TRUST**

Each contributor will abide by the expectations of the community (social contract).

# Social Capital

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**TRUST**

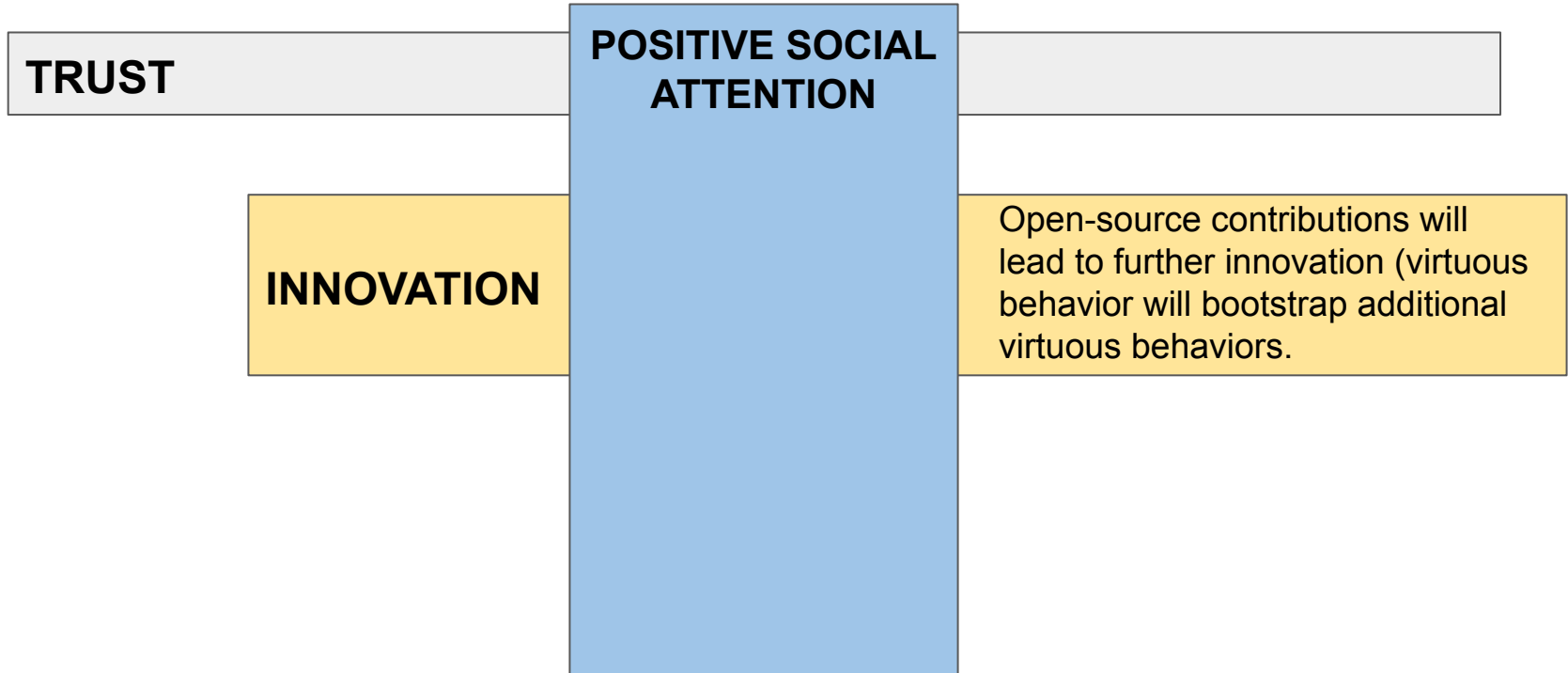
**POSITIVE SOCIAL  
ATTENTION**

A person's work will be seen by many other people, benefits of approval will be gained using a reputation mechanism (likes, shares, forks).



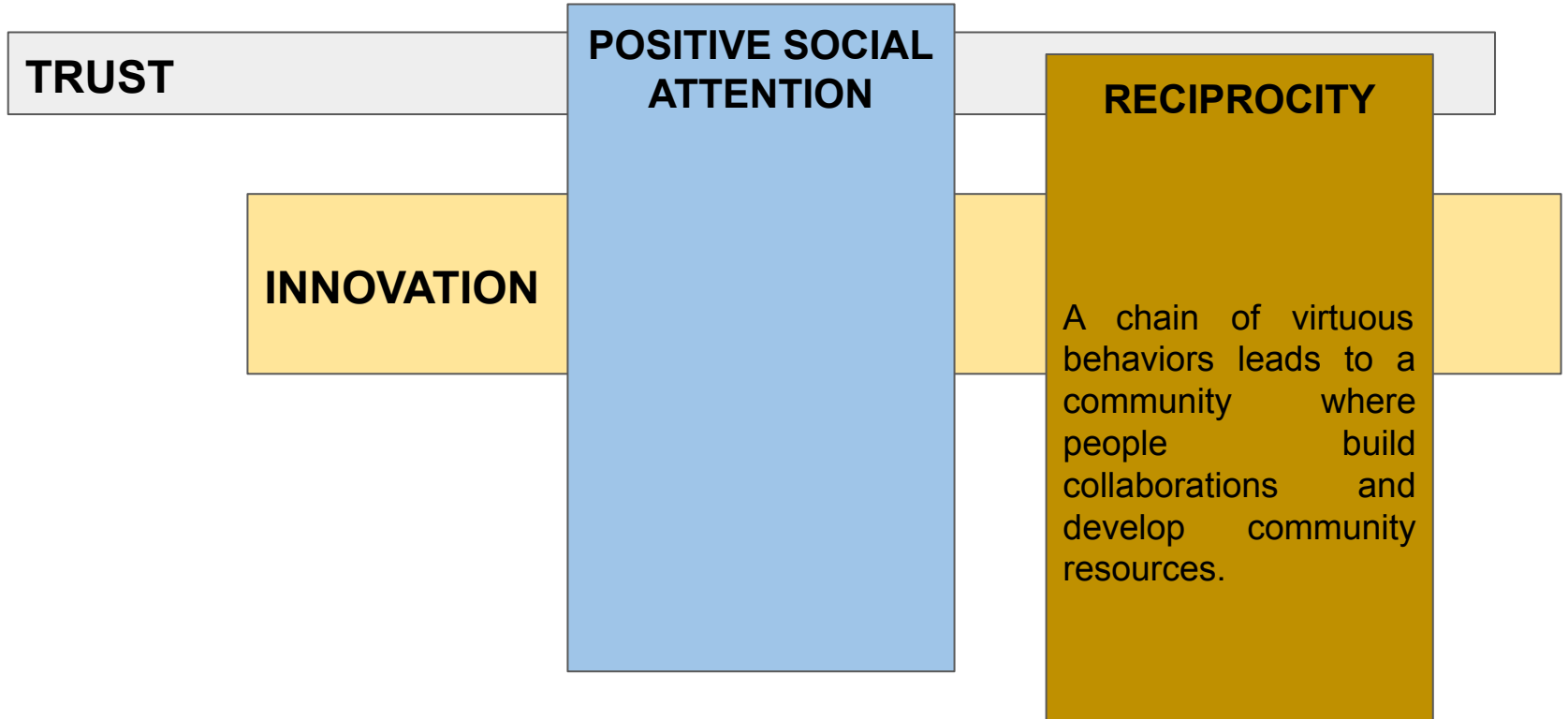
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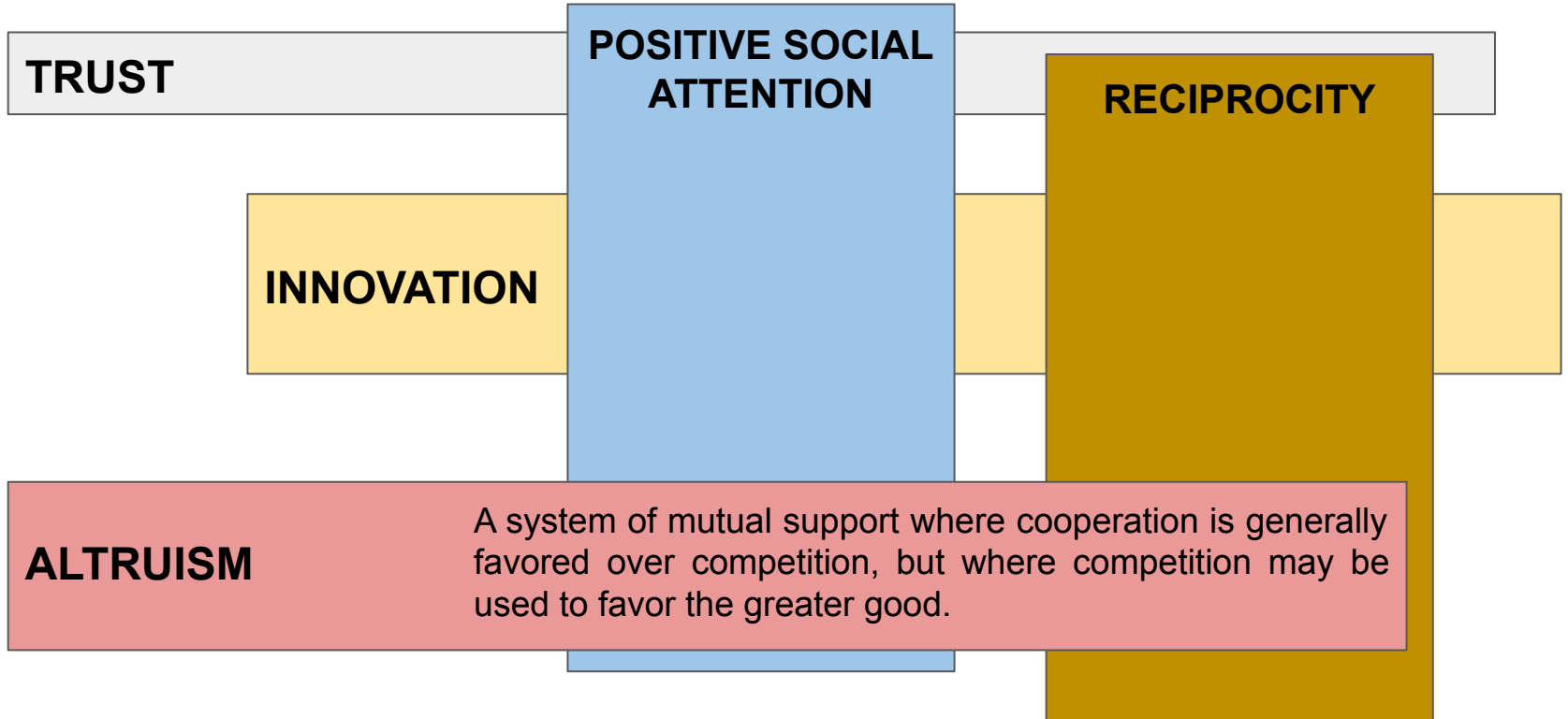
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# The Hidden Benefit of Giving Back to Open Source Software

Harvard Business Review, September 5 (2018)

Open-source projects can be thought of as a public good.

Companies can benefit from hiring workers with experience in open-source organizations.

- open-source contributions outside firm benefits individuals (skill building, access to technological systems).
- companies can benefit from hiring open-source contributors (can build upon, utilize value of open-source tools).

# Debian Social Contract (1997)

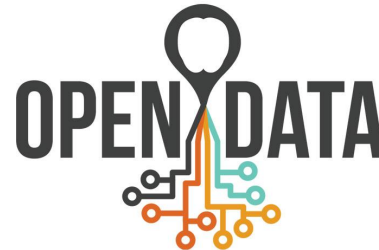
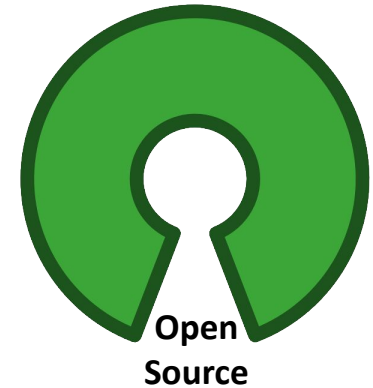
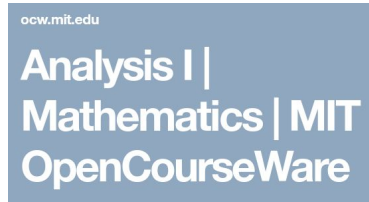
Ensure that software remains open and free as it gets forked, scales up:

- gift improvements to the community that made the operating system possible.
- transparency in methods, software, and organization.
- staying focused on the users and the software that started the phenomenon.
- enable the use of free software with non-free software.

Forms the basis for the Open Source Definition ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Open\\_Source\\_Definition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Open_Source_Definition))

# Open Source, Open Access, Open x,y,z

You can make anything into an open-source project!



# Further Reading

Senz, K. The Hidden Benefit of Giving Back to Open Source Software. *Harvard Business Review*.  
<https://d3.harvard.edu/insights/the-hidden-benefits-of-giving-back-to-open-source-software/>

Ghory, I. The Secrets of Successful Open Source Business Models. *Blossom Capital Medium*.  
<https://medium.com/blossom-capital/successful-open-source-business-models-2709e831e38a>

## For future lectures

Community-building (Mozilla)

<https://mozilla.github.io/open-leadership-training-series/articles/building-communities-of-contributors/>

Codes of Conduct (Mozilla)

<https://mozilla.github.io/open-leadership-training-series/articles/building-communities-of-contributors/write-a-code-of-conduct/>

Github glossary

<https://docs.github.com/en/get-started/quickstart/github-glossary>