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# FOSS Governance Best Practices

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**2011 FOSS Con, Korea**

November, 2011

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# Black Duck Software

*Enabling Multi-Source Development at Enterprise Scale*

## Managing FOSS Abundance

- Over **550,000** projects
- **85%** of enterprises use OSS
- **>60%** lack policy, automation



olliance | group  
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Koders.com

ohloh

eclipse  
FOUNDATION  
MEMBER

## Enterprise-Scale Solution

- Automates FOSS Management



Search/  
Select



Review/  
Approve



Analyze/  
Validate



Catalog/  
Provision



Manage/  
Audit

**Black Duck Suite**

## Vision: The Vendor that....

- **Organizations** trust for management of FOSS in product app development
- **Developers** seek out as trusted source of FOSS knowledge



## 1000 Customers in 24 Countries



# First of all...

## “Software is Eating the World”

Marc Andreessen  
Wall Street Journal



And the world is hungry for FOSS...

**Accenture:** 73% of respondents: Open source is changing the way business operates IT

**Forrester:** “When it comes to Enterprise IT adoption, Open Source Has ‘Crossed the Chasm’”; 79% of IT developers use open source in their development projects

# IT Development Benefits and Challenges with FOSS

“Open source is ubiquitous, it’s unavoidable....having a policy against open source is impractical and **places you at a competitive disadvantage**”

Gartner®

- Key Benefits
  - Flexibility
    - Modify, mix, reuse code
  - Innovation
    - Leverage OSS and community
  - Cost Optimization
    - Reduce or eliminate acquisition costs
- Challenges
  - Technical Failure
    - Operational exposure
    - Needs to be audited, managed
  - Security Risks
    - Business exposure
  - IP Risks
    - Legal exposure

**Source:** Mark Driver, Gartner Group, November 2010

# Baseline Requirements for World-Class FOSS Management & Governance



## Strategy

- Articulate the business objectives for use of FOSS



## Policy

- The rules for evaluating, approving, using and releasing FOSS code and participating in communities



## Processes & Tools

- Embed the policy in the day to day

# FOSS Process Maturity Model

	Exposed	Measured	Managing	Participating	Driving
<b>Discovery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No formal guidelines or processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some guidelines provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear policy on acceptable sources and attributes;</li> <li>• Developers educated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Tools to facilitate search and verification of attributes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Participation in key communities to drive company's requirements</li> </ul>
<b>Review and Selection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ad hoc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporated components are identified and tracked</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear policy and process;</li> <li>• Oversight and exception handling by review board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Automated process insuring compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Active involvement with key communities creates responsive FOSS supplier relationships</li> </ul>
<b>Code Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FOSS included and managed with proprietary code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FOSS is tracked separately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy establishes owner and responsibilities for each component;</li> <li>• FOSS repository;</li> <li>• Use tracking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Automated process tracks sources, attributes, use and compliance requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ FOSS repository extended to support external releases</li> </ul>
<b>Maintenance and Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ad hoc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some approach to stay abreast of bug fixes and new releases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy defines responsibilities for each component owner;</li> <li>• Consolidated support model</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Automated process tracks issues, fixes, versions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Support model extended externally;</li> <li>+ Automated process extended to handle external support</li> </ul>
<b>Compliance Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ad hoc, if any</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporated FOSS components listed for each release;</li> <li>• Compliance requirements assembled by hand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and code management processes prevent surprises;</li> <li>• Automated audit of product releases;</li> <li>• Compliance process with reporting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Automated process integrates review, code management and compliance functions;</li> <li>+ Automated reporting for management and customers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Policy and automated process for audit and review of contributions</li> </ul>
<b>Community Interaction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Download code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Download code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Download code;</li> <li>• Track updates;</li> <li>• Participate in forums <i>without</i> company identification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Participate in forums <i>with</i> company attribution;</li> <li>+ Contribute bug fixes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Contribute new projects/components;</li> <li>+ Sponsor key communities</li> </ul>
<b>Executive Oversight</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Probably none</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executives receive lists of FOSS components in use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal &amp; line-of-business management participation on review board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Policy for community participation;</li> <li>+ Process for contribution of bug fixes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Policy and process for contributing components, sponsorship for projects</li> </ul>

# Discovery Best Practices

- Provide guidelines that include use, license and other aspects
  - Avoid wasting time on choices that will not be approved
  - Leverage code that the organization has experience with
- Provide broad training that lets developers understand importance
- Automate with tools that augment training
- Participate in communities (internal and external) around key components to drive direction
- Case Study
  - Large investment firm
    - Very limited, approved stack
  - Global Defense Contractor
    - Less limited, much more training
    - More tools (like Ohloh) required
    - Equipped 10Ks developers





# Review and Approval Best Practices

- Require every new use of a FOSS component be reviewed and approved
- Establish an Open Source Review Board
- Train developers to provide complete information and sensitize approvers to urgency
- Record and make decisions visible
- Automate workflow to ensure speedy approvals and provide visibility to pipeline
- Case Study
  - Enterprise Telco Equipment Provider
    - Highly sophisticated, automated routing
      - Auto Approve, Paralegal, Lawyer
      - By division
  - Switching Equipment Provider
    - Numerical scales for “soft” attributes





# Procurement Best Practices

- Evaluate and educate suppliers on your policy and processes and evaluate their governance programs
- Require suppliers to provide a complete software bill of materials specifying:
  - FOSS components
  - Usage of components
  - Licenses and copyrights; other requirements and obligations
  - Industry standard format (SPDX)
- Scan incoming code to ensure accuracy
- M&A is a special case; ensure that open source analysis is integral to due diligence process
- Case Study
  - RIM
    - Develop little software in-house
    - Educate suppliers; required BoMs
    - Require scanning on all in-coming code
  - SAP
    - Sophisticated M&A process
    - FOSS scanning; introduced early



# Code Management Best Practices

- Provide central catalog or repository separately tracking FOSS components from proprietary code
- Track component ownership, usage, and compliance requirements
- Encourage version standardization and reuse
- Automate and integrate with component approval process to minimize overhead
- Case Study
  - Large Bank
    - Broadly rolled out process
    - Requires internal search first
    - Fully integrated catalog
    - Security vulnerability monitoring



# Maintenance and Support Best Practices

- Processes recognition that open source needs every bit as much support as commercial software
- Model incorporates commercial, community and internal support as appropriate
- Require support assessment and plan as part of component approval
- Loop fixes back and non-core enhancements back into project to avoid re-patching
- Assign component owners
- Case Study
  - Financial Services company
    - Systems build on Postgres
    - Hired small # of community members
    - Internal support, also leverage community
    - Outside firm (credativ) for backup
  - Switching Equipment Manufacturer
    - Individual owners in groups
    - Corporate team for cross-group components



# Compliance Best Practices

- Good upstream practices should make this a “rubber stamp”
- Assemble and verify FOSS BoM for every release
- For each FOSS component, understand:
  - License & Obligations
  - How it’s linked
  - How it’s used (internal, SaaS, distributed, etc)
- Incorporate compliance verification as automated part of release process
- Be prepared to handle inquiries (LF Open Compliance Directory)
- Case Study
  - Acquired division of large sw/services company
    - Completely integrated scanning
    - Auto-generate:
      - EULA, Certificate of Origin, Obligations
  - Intel, SAP,...most Black Duck customers
    - Incorporate scanning in release process



# Community Interaction Best Practices

- Regularly track each component used for
  - News
  - Level of Activity
  - Updates/New Releases
  - Security and Quality Issues
- Participate in forums, report issues and/or contribute fixes to avoid repeated patching
- Sponsor and steer project direction
- Case Study
  - IBM
    - Eclipse, Apache, Linux
  - Huawei
    - Share bug fixes with community
    - Evaluate features
  - Black Duck
    - Postgres/credativ
    - Lucine/Lucid Imagination



# Executive Oversight Best Practices

- OSS Management Board (above OSRB)
  - Policy and escalations
- All executives should be familiar
- Assign an interested executive sponsor
- Regular reporting and visibility demonstrating the value of FOSS and the health of the governance program
- Case Study
  - Telco Equipment Provider
    - OSRBs for each group
    - OSMB for exceptions
    - Regular executive reports
      - Measures of dev/gov processes



# Managing FOSS to Advantage

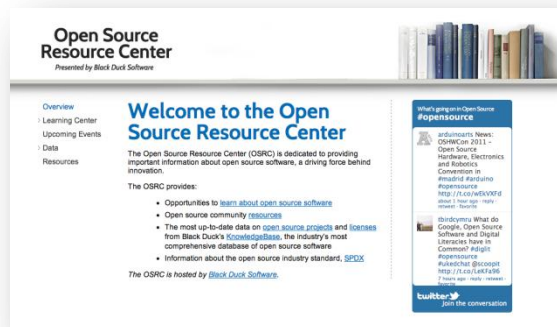
- FOSS management requires investment
- Organizations that implement best practices across all elements of maturity get the best returns





# Resources and Getting Started

- Open Source Management Assessment, Policy Workshop, Process Workshop
- [www.blackducksoftware.com](http://www.blackducksoftware.com)



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