FOSS In Business Governance And Maximizing Value

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About Me

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What Is This Talk About?

Governance and collaboration

Let's start with governance

In The Beginning...

FOSS was pretty geeky

FOSS governance was pretty bad

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Today...

FOSS is everywhere

FOSS governance is pretty good

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Why?

FOSS can be used, studied, shared and improved

Everyone can work off flexible shared platforms

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Value World-Wide

49 Billion USD market in 2011

Figures from Linux Foundation

Potential Powered By Licenses

The licenses provide common rules

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This Results In A Simple Outcome

To get the most from FOSS, people have to
understand and follow the licenses

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With Great Value...

Comes great administration

(sometimes)

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Expectations

People will follow the rules

People will collaborate

People will recognize value

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Early Governance

It was all about the licenses

There was a narrow focus on compliance

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Some Early Cases

GPL-violations.org vs Sitecom

GPL-violations.org vs D-Link

SFLC vs 14 companies

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Modern Governance

Honor obligations in procurement and deployment

Maximize value throughout the supply chain

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Growing Up

From policy to processes

From using to creating

From isolation to collaboration

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Common Problems

People don't read the licenses

People don't follow the license terms

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Simple Solutions

Read the licenses

Follow the terms

Lifecycle Management
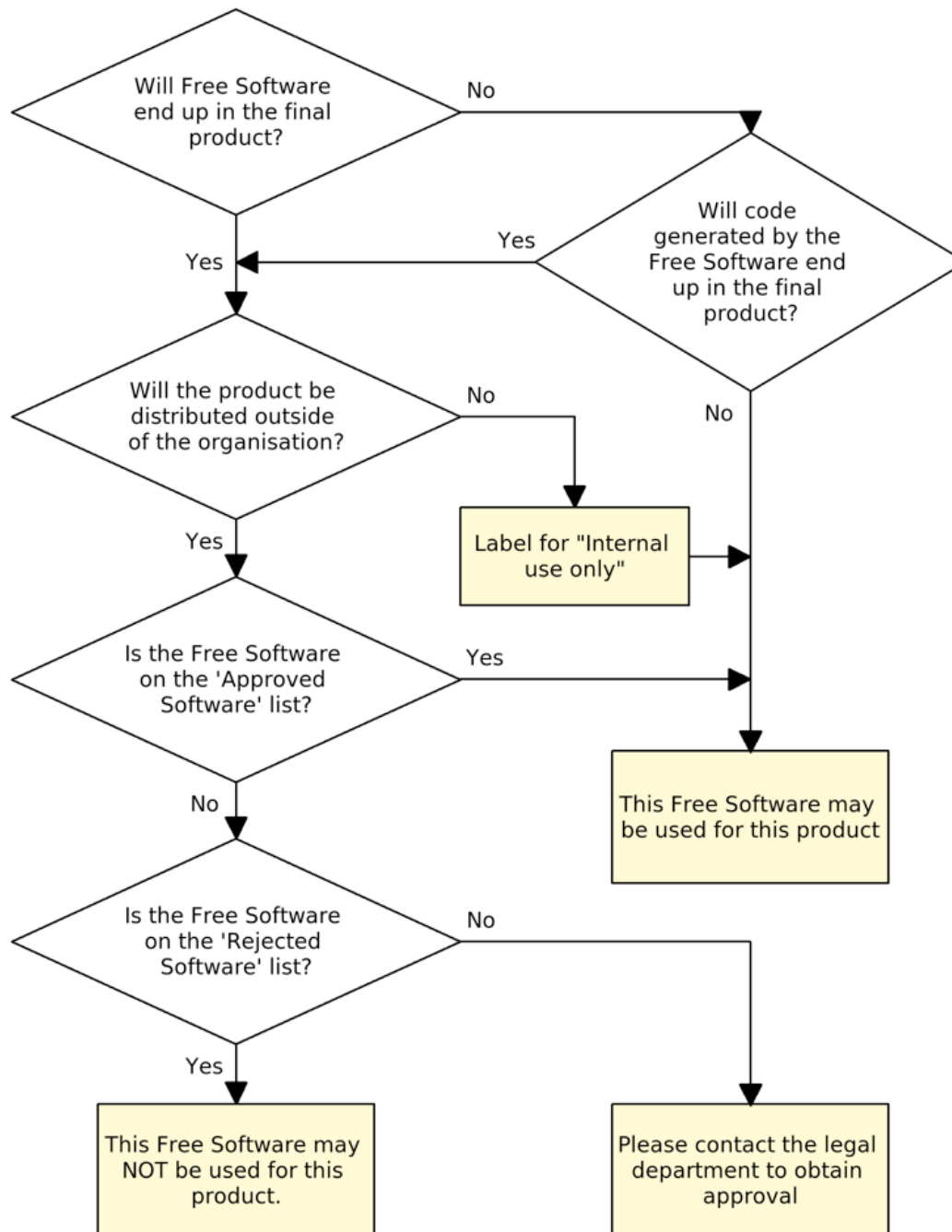
What types of code do you use and why?

How do you manage change?

How do you ensure your obligations are met?

How is this applied through the supply chain?

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Free Software Approval Flowchart

Will Free Software end up in the final product?

No

Will code generated by the Free Software end up in the final product?

Yes

Yes

No

Will the product be distributed outside of the organisation?

No

Label for "Internal use only"

Yes

Is the Free Software on the 'Approved Software' list?

Yes

No

This Free Software may be used for this product

Is the Free Software on the 'Rejected Software' list?

No

Yes

This Free Software may NOT be used for this product.

Please contact the legal department to obtain approval

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With thanks to Royal Philips Electronics

Deploying Good Governance

Buy or develop processes to manage code

Train people internally to obtain value without risk

Do the same for the supply chain

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Example Solutions

The FOSSBazaar website provides a community for sharing governance data: www.fossbazaar.org

Companies like Black Duck Software and OpenLogic provide lifecycle management tools

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Emerging Solutions

Linux Foundation has a compliance programme

FOSS projects like Open Compliance Suite are appearing

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Governance Summary

FOSS governance used to be focused on understanding licenses as obligations

Now it is about maximizing potential through shared rules to improve collaboration

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Natural Progression

Collaboration is key

We need to collaborate effectively

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This Is Not About Code

Collaboration is not limited to software

Platform Management

Managers, programmers and legal experts need to collaborate across organizations and borders

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Case Study: Management

Linux Foundation helps stakeholders collaborate around Linux in the US, Europe and Asia

It runs meetings, working groups and conferences to encourage shared understanding

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Case Study: Legal

The European Legal Network helps 280 stakeholders collaborate across 4 continents

It runs private mailing lists, special interest groups and conferences to share knowledge

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Case Study: Japan

Activities are organized by the government via the IPA and the industry via Linux Foundation Japan

Regional organizations like Ruby City Matsue are growing too and host international conferences

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Case Study: Taiwan

The Open Source Software Foundry gives support and legal advice to help companies use FOSS

A new legal network modeled on the European Legal Network is also being prepared for launch

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Case Study: Korea

NIPA is collaborating with KOSS Law Center and FSFE to develop governance activities

KOSS is building a legal network and launching an international conference to share knowledge

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Collaboration Summary

Software is a knowledge product

FOSS is a management approach for this product

It requires effective governance and collaboration
to create maximum value for everyone

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The Future...

Today there are many governance mistakes

Many companies and projects are still islands

But that is changing

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Useful Link

www.opendawn.com/resources

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Licensing

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