

OSS – what's holding you back?

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OSS – tastes great!

- Free software!
- There's so much of it!
- Inspectable code!
- Break out of vendor lock-in!
- Management knows what OSS is!

OSS – less filling 😞

- So much of it is
 - Abandonware
 - Ego-ware
 - 6 available projects, none of which quite solves the problem
- There's no vendor
 - No one to call to fix it
- No cycles available to contribute
- Management doesn't know what OSS is

Even so...

- Clearly there are useful operational tools to be built through collaborative open source
- And, it would be better if that included operator involvement
 - To ensure requirements are understood
 - To ensure it's usable in the end!
 - To prevent the wrong sort of expertise dominating the technical work

Wrong sort of expertise...



Sizing the problem

- Some of the problems outlined can be addressed by having truly collaborative development of OSS, as opposed to GitHub repos that are abandoned or tightly controlled by entities with non-transparent governance rules.
- I'm putting together a survey to scope out
 - What kind of problems you would like to have solved through OSS
 - What are requirements for/impediments to
 - Participating in development
 - Contributing to development (\$\$)
 - Using developed OSS
- Today: Looking for input on shaping the survey, and volunteers to take it
 - I am a computer scientist. A pointer to a volunteer is fine :^)

Scoping and Weighting

Problem areas	OSS reference implementation of new standards
	OSS stack to ensure decent IoT networking
	Network management and monitoring tooling
	???
Particular interest	Want it to exist
	Want to help create it
	Would solve an operations-critical problem for me
	???

Participating in OSS

Impediments	No coding resources in house
	No attention cycles available
	???
Requirements	Option for contribution to requirements, acceptance testing (no coding)
	???

Contributing

My employer...

Already supports one or more OSS platforms, what was the question?

Would love to contribute \$MM to the right OSS platform

???

Using OSS

Impediments	Can't find suitable software tools
	Don't trust OSS
	Don't have in-house resources to validate, figure out, and configure OSS tools
	???
Requirements	Need 1-800 service for set up
	Need 24x7 service for support
	???

Today's ask

- Input
 - Input on the right questions to ask to paint the picture of why OSS isn't getting as much traction as it could/should in the networking environment
 - Input on the set of options to offer for those questions
- Interest in taking the survey, or identifying others to take it.
 - Target: August 2019
- Talk to me
 - Now
 - Through tomorrow
 - Drop me a note: [Idaigle at thinkingcat dot com](mailto:Idaigle@thinkingcat.com)

Thanks!

Watch this space:
<http://possie.techark.org>

