

[Building Community Around a Software Package](#) [1]

Submitted by ethanrd on Mon, 2014-04-21 15:06 Thursday, July 10, 2014 - 09:00 to 10:30

Event: [Summer Meeting 2014](#) [2]

Session Type: [Breakout](#) [3]

Expertise Level: [Beginner](#) [4]

Collaboration Area: [Science Software](#) [5]

Abstract/Agenda:

It takes an active community of users and developers to sustain a software project for the long-term. Each community is made up of individuals (and organizations) with their own needs. What does it take to build and sustain a community around a software project?

This session is intended to share experiences and start discussion on ways that software development and use communities can be built and sustained.

Notes:

Building community --

Three use cases in developing and sustaining a community of software --

#Ethan Davis - Unidata

Unidata history- formed by atmospheric science research and education community.... help gain access to real time weather data and tools to manage, analyze and visualize data.

- build / provide tools for working with data
- support community in use of those tools
- track technology / innovation and feedback that info to community

What seems to work

- Facilitate communication
- Provide ways to give back to the community
- e.g. governing committees
- Support is provided by developers (they are seen as part of community)

Challenges

- Takes away from time to develop software
- doesn't scale well
- focus on earth science community rather than software community

Move to Github 1-2 years ago. If you look at network graph, very active participation from community

Bug reporting

2 ways

- support pages for each package (Jira)
- and mailing list for each package (lots of reporting happens on email.)

#NCAR EOL

Building community around the field catalog software.

Challenge

- redeveloping software for same campaigns with different people, and same people on different

Building Community Around a Software Package

Published on Commons (<https://commons.esipfed.org>)

campaigns

Field datalog

- web-based service
- to record project documentation

#OpenDAP

501-3-c status... but started out as distributed oceanographic data systems

Project strategies

- leverage existing tech
- establish dap as a standard
- open source
- hold workshops

Client side was side OPenDap knew least about...

(license is LGPL)

Looked at protocol as a product.

Draws a difference been sustaining

- software - a specific package
- - organization

Fulker - Sustainability is about functionality

Books mentioned by James Howison:

- The art of Community - <http://www.indiebound.org/book/9781449312060> [6]
- Buzzing Communities - <http://www.amazon.com/Buzzing-Communities-Bigger-Better-Active/dp/098835...> [7]

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Teaser: It takes an active community of users and developers to sustain a software project for the long-term.

Accepted:

Source URL: <https://commons.esipfed.org/node/2412>

Links

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