

# A Theory of Industry Best Practices of FLOSS Governance and Compliance

## Summary

Software product companies can benefit greatly by using high-quality open source software components in their products. At the same time using open source components comes with its own risks if not well governed. This thesis analyses relevant literature and expert interviews to derive key best practices of FLOSS governance and compliance focusing on basic best practices for a company starting to set up FLOSS governance and compliance framework. The resulting set of best practices is to help companies set up FLOSS governance and compliance processes and structure. The best practices are determined by a qualitative data analysis based on a variety of materials, including existing FLOSS governance and compliance literature and expert interviews.

## Work Results

- Research method
  - Case Study Research following Yin
  - Qualitative Data Analysis
- Materials gathering
  - Literature search including web search for practitioner reports following Webster and Watson
  - Expert interviews with companies with advanced FLOSS governance framework
    - Collected as part of case studies
- Iterative theory building using QDA / QDAcity (at least two iterations)
  - Iteration 1: QDA using expert interviews (from first 2 case studies)
  - Iteration 2: More expert interviews and possibly relevant literature
- Presentation of theory
  - Hierarchical definition and classification of best practice categories through literature review
  - List (ideally graph) best practices, their relationships and summarize their content
    - Possibly provide fully detailed best practices

## Supervisor

MSc. Nikolay Harutyunyan, [nikolay.harutyunyan@fau.de](mailto:nikolay.harutyunyan@fau.de)

Prof. Dr. Dirk Riehle, [dirk.riehe@fau.de](mailto:dirk.riehe@fau.de)

Open Source Research Group  
Computer Science Department  
Friedrich-Alexander University

More information: <http://osr.cs.fau.de/theses/resources/>