

A Theory of Open Source Engineering Processes

Summary

This thesis builds a theory of open source processes using three very different examples: The Linux kernel, the PostgreSQL database, and the Tiki (Wiki CMS) software. Using 3-6 interviews with practitioners from these communities, the student builds a theory of open source processes using qualitative data analysis. Finally, the theory is cast as multi-dimensional model and the three processes are described as instances of this model.

Work Results

- Literature review
 - Open source processes
- Research question
 - How to model open source engineering processes?
 - How does decision making work in open source engineering processes?
- Research approach
 - Case interviews with two people involved in the three projects each
 - Linux Kernel, PostgreSQL, and Tiki
 - Theory building using qualitative data analysis based on
 - Transcriptions of the interviews
 - Additional materials gathered
- Expected results
 - An interview guideline
 - **A theory (QDA output + prose description of theory)**
 - Simplified tabular model (template) of open source processes
 - Application of model to the three examples

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