

Teaching Open Source Competency

Summary

Open source human capital is increasingly important to firms, in particular the knowledge, influence and connections of individuals who hold key positions in economically important open source projects. Is open source competency gained largely through self-study, or do more formal teaching methods such as courses, conferences and mentoring play a role? To what extent have open source contributors gained competency through formal teaching methods?

Work Results

- Literature review
 - Existing training for open source skills and the effectiveness of training
 - Skills needed for open source: can they be trained, or are they innate?
- Research preparation
 - Use the Delphi method to create an exhaustive list of the different ways in which people could learn open source competencies
 - Design a survey to investigate how frequently different learning methods are employed
- Research execution
 - The survey subjects will be chosen to support the survey design. Options include getting addresses from project repositories or a survey of German software developers through a magazine
- Research results
 - Analysis of the data gathered
 - Identify the extent to which various teaching methods are used to acquire open source competency

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