

Bachelor Thesis Description, status: assigned (Voigt), language: EN

Keywords: “open source”, “volunteer engagement”, “one-off volunteering”, “bounce-back”, volunteer

Episodic Volunteering in OS

Summary

Episodic volunteering, where volunteers prefer short-term discrete assignments rather than extended engagements, is a notable trend affecting traditional nonprofit organisations. To what extent is episodic volunteering found in open source projects? [Capraro \(2013\)](#) found bug reports to be significantly contributed by episodic volunteers. Is this true for other forms of participation? Have community managers observed changes in volunteer engagement in recent years?

Work Results

- Literature review
 - Episodic volunteers
 - Open source volunteer management
- Research approach
 - Multiple case study based on interviews and public data sources (using sources such as ohloh, flossmole, etc)
- Research execution
 - Interview long-term open source community managers
 - Expand to case studies by examining bug trackers, mailing lists and other resources for indications of episodic volunteering or bounce-back (returning episodic volunteers)
- Research results
 - A theory on episodic volunteering in community-managed open source

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