Building a career with Ubuntu and FOSS

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Topics

- How companies make money on Open Source
- Reasons to work on Open Source
- What you can work on and how to go about it
- Finding a job
How companies make money with Open Source

- Deployment and management
- Products (including “open source core”)
- Support and Training
Why would you want to work on Open Source?
“Scratching your own itch”

• You find a valuable Open Source tool
• You discover you wish to improve or expand it
• You complete this improvement or expansion and you submit the result to the project
Passion for Open Source

• Working in the technology space brings you joy
• Sharing the work you're passionate about feels wonderful!
• Belief in freedom, openness and equal access to technology
Opportunity for International collaboration

- Work with people from different cultures
- Work with people from various companies
- Travel around the world to collaborate through summits, conferences and more
Be a part of the biggest projects

- Apache hosts 50.15% of active websites (source: netcraft.com, December 2015)
- Firefox web browser has 10-20% of the market share
- Ubuntu powers much of the cloud (EC2 statistics) & Linux runs on 97% of the 500 top supercomputers
Learn innovative software development practices

• Open Source projects have pioneered incremental, small patch-based development

• Projects today often have code review and Continuous Integration systems

• Tools used and developed by Open Source projects are regularly used inside companies
Professional development

• Gives you real world experience with software projects before you're employed
• You can build up a professional portfolio, which can be referenced when looking for a job
• On-line collaboration with various cultures improves valuable communication skills
Types of open source work

- Programming
- Software packaging
- Working with bugs
- Documentation
Types of open source work

- Support
- Testing/Quality Assurance
- Systems/Infrastructure
- Community & event coordination
Getting started

• Select a piece of software you already use
• Go to the project website: http://community.ubuntu.com/
• Sign up for mailing list(s), join their IRC channel, visit their support forums
• Submit a patch
Tips

• Respect other contributors and avoid insulting the work of your predecessors
• Follow through with commitments (even if you're a volunteer!)
Tips

• Focus on only *constructive* criticism and discussion
• Follow procedures in place for contributions
• Collaborate, don't fork
Be visible

• Maintain a blog and/or be active on social media where you write about your Open Source work
• Always say “yes” to interviews
Be visible

• Go to events and conferences *(hello!)*
• Speak at events *(even if you're shy)*
• Engage with other users of the software
Be someone people want to work with

- Do your work openly, with a public plan
- Work in a way which showcases your ability to collaborate with others
- Take time to mentor other project members
Job seeking: Reaching out

• List your open source work on your resume, link to a portfolio of work (Launchpad? Github?)

• Reach out to your contacts in the open source community to let them know you're looking

• Attend conferences where companies are hiring (the SCALE expo hall is great!)
Job seeking: Companies to look for

- Open Source or Open Source core companies
- Companies using Open Source software and work with them to allow you to contribute back in some way
- A larger company or non-profit that has a division focusing on Open Source work
Questions?

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