

TIL...: 10+ Findings from 2022 Global FLOSS Research

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<https://www.kayleachampion.com>

<https://communitydata.science>

University of Washington

SeaGL—November 4-5, 2022



```
#!/usr/global/bin/research  
import FLOSS
```

So Much FLOSS in Research!

Caveats:

1. Most of this is not my work!

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2. But it is still awesome!

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2. But it is still awesome!
3. Read these papers for full details!



[orca by alex. Putneypics via flickr, CC BY 2.0]

1 - Global Scale and Decentralization

- Who: Xin Tan and Minghui Zhou, China



X. Tan and M. Zhou, "Scaling Open Source Software Communities: Challenges and Practices of Decentralization," in *IEEE Software*, vol. 39, no. 1, pp. 70-75, Jan.-Feb. 2022, doi: [10.1109/MS.2020.3025959](https://doi.org/10.1109/MS.2020.3025959).

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- Why: FLOSS projects are vital and sometimes get huge



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- How: Series of projects: the kernel, node.js, fastlane



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1 - Global Scale and Decentralization

- Who: Xin Tan and Minghui Zhou, China
- Why: FLOSS projects are vital and sometimes get huge
- How: Series of projects: the kernel, node.js, fastlane
- Key Finding: $1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 2$; automating and getting organized helps



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[umbrellas. Gideon (malias) via flickr, CC BY-NC 2.0]

2 - Why Join the Apache Foundation?

- Who: Nan Yang, Isabella Ferreira, Alexander Serebrenik, Bram Adams - Netherlands, Canada



Yang, N., Ferreira, I., Serebrenik, A., Adams, B. (2022). Why do projects join the Apache software foundation? Proceedings of the 2022 ACM/IEEE 44th International Conference on Software Engineering: Software Engineering in Society, 161–171.
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2 - Why Join the Apache Foundation?

- Who: Nan Yang, Isabella Ferreira, Alexander Serebrenik, Bram Adams - Netherlands, Canada
- Why: Foundations have been a key part of FLOSS growth



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- How: Analyze proposals to join the Apache Incubator program
- Key Finding: Projects want community! Also, there's an increase in interest from corporations, Asia



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WELCOME

Key is under
this mat

[Welcome. alborzshawn via flickr, CC BY 2.0]

3 - Attracting and Retaining Contributors

- Who: Mariam Guizani, Thomas Zimmermann, Anita Sarma, Denae Ford – US



Mariam Guizani, Thomas Zimmermann, Anita Sarma, and Denae Ford. 2022. Attracting and Retaining OSS Contributors with a Maintainer Dashboard. In Software Engineering in Society (ICSE-SEIS'22), May 21–29, 2022, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 5 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3510458.3513020>

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- Why: New features are being added to source code hosting platforms – do they work?
- How: Design a dashboard to implement features, then interview project leaders about them
- Result: Dashboard is useful! Tagging good first issues, adding “social good” tags, using badges for rising contributors



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- How: Treat newcomer-resolved issues as ground truth data to train machine learning classifier
- Key Finding: Machine learning can help with this problem!



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[Cash. Chuckcars (carstensenphoto) via flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0]

5 - Sponsorship

- Who: Xunhui Zhang, Tao Wang, Yue Yu, Qiubing Zeng, Zhixing Li, and Huaimin Wang - China.



Xunhui Zhang, Tao Wang, Yue Yu, Qiubing Zeng, Zhixing Li, and Huaimin Wang. 2022. Who, What, Why and How? Towards the Monetary Incentive in Crowd Collaboration: A Case Study of Github's Sponsor Mechanism. In CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '22), April 29-May 5, 2022, New Orleans, LA, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 18 pages.
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- Why: Sponsorship mechanism added to Github



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- How: Survey sponsors, recipients, and would-be recipients



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- Why: Sponsorship mechanism added to Github
- How: Survey sponsors, recipients, and would-be recipients
- Key Finding: Short-term impact, low dollar value. Too focused on the individual?



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[Stellar's Jay. Crusty da Klown via flickr, CC0 1.0]

6 - Social Media for FLOSS Attention

- Who: Hongbo Fang, Hemank Lamba, James Herbsleb, Bogdan Vasilescu – Carnegie Mellon, USA



“This Is Damn Slick!” Estimating the Impact of Tweets on Open Source Project Popularity and New Contributors. Fang, H., Lamba, H., Herbsleb, J., and Vasilescu, B. International Conference on Software Engineering, ICSE, ACM (2022).

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- How: Studying Twitter and GitHub



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- Why: What's the impact of social media on FLOSS?
- How: Studying Twitter and GitHub
- Key Finding: Tweeting works — especially if you want folks who are newcomers to FLOSS.



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[Fliegenpilz. Kurt Stocker (kustopaint) via flickr, CC BY 2.0]

7 - Toxicity and Unnecessary Pushback

- Who: Huilian Sophie Qiu, Bogdan Vasilescu, Christian Kastner, Carolyn Egelman, Ciera Jaspan, Emerson Murphy-Hill – US



Huilian Sophie Qiu, Bogdan Vasilescu, Christian Kastner, Carolyn Egelman, Ciera Jaspan, Emerson Murphy-Hill. 2022. A Detecting Interpersonal Conflict in Issues and Code Review: Cross Pollinating Open- and Closed-Source Approaches. In Software Engineering in Society (ICSE-SEIS'22), May 21–29, 2022, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 15 pages.

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- Why: Toxicity and unnecessary pushback are stressful and wasteful
- How: analyzing text and log data
- Key Finding: Usage of “you” is a signal a review might be toxic. Toxicity signals unnecessary pushback.



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[Wolfpack. Cloudtail the Snow Leopard (blacktigersdream) via flickr, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0]

8 - Global Communities: Culture and Geography

- Who: Stefano Lambiase, Gemma Catolino, Damian A. Tamburri, Alexander Serebrenik, Fabio Palomba, and Filomena Ferrucci (Italy, the Netherlands)



Stefano Lambiase, Gemma Catolino, Damian A. Tamburri, Alexander Serebrenik, Fabio Palomba, and Filomena Ferrucci. 2022. Good Fences Make Good Neighbours? On the Impact of Cultural and Geographical Dispersion on Community Smells. In Software Engineering in Society (ICSE-SEIS'22), May 21–29, 2022, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 12 pages.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3510458.3513015>

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- Why: FLOSS Communities are geographically and culturally diverse – does it matter?



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- How: Mining Github: contributor network analysis, location analysis



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- Why: FLOSS Communities are geographically and culturally diverse – does it matter?
- How: Mining Github: contributor network analysis, location analysis
- Key Finding: Geographical dispersion introduces organizational trade-offs; high concentration of participants from individualistic cultures may increase risk of “lone wolves”



Stefano Lambiase, Gemma Catolino, Damian A. Tamburri, Alexander Serebrenik, Fabio Palomba, and Filomena Ferrucci. 2022. Good Fences Make Good Neighbours? On the Impact of Cultural and Geographical Dispersion on Community Smells. In Software Engineering in Society (ICSE-SEIS'22), May 21–29, 2022, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 12 pages.
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CORRESPONDENCE

ADDRESS ONLY

† KODAK †
A U S T R A L †
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† KODAK †

9 - Commit Messages

- Who: Yingchen Tian, Yuxia Zhang, Klaas-Jan Stol, Lin Jiang, Hui Liu – China, Ireland



Yingchen Tian, Yuxia Zhang, Klaas-Jan Stol, Lin Jiang, and Hui Liu. 2022. What Makes a Good Commit Message?. In 44th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE '22), May 21–29, 2022, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 13 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3510003.3510205>

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- Why: Commits are important but under-examined



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- How: 1600 commit messages, 5 projects



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- Why: Commits are important but under-examined
- How: 1600 commit messages, 5 projects
- Key Finding: 44% of commits don't explain “what” they do or “why” the work was done (...or are missing both elements!).



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[3rd Avenue curbs filled with buses at rush hour. SounderBruce via flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0]

10 - The Bus Factor

- Who: Elgun Jabrayilzade, Mikhail Evtikyhiev, Eray Tuzun, Vladimir Kovalenko—Turkey, Russia, The Netherlands



Elgun Jabrayilzade, Mikhail Evtikhiev, Eray Tüzün, Vladimir Kovalenko. 2022. Bus Factor in Practice. In 44th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE '22), May 21–29, 2022, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 10 pages.
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.01523>

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- Why: Projects are at risk when key people leave



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- Why: Projects are at risk when key people leave
- How: Comparing measures of activity with survey results



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- Why: Projects are at risk when key people leave
- How: Comparing measures of activity with survey results
- Key Finding: Key people do more than just write code—and losing them can indeed stall projects.



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[Ferry on Puget Sound. Tiffany Von Arnim (tiffany98101) via flickr, CC BY 2.0]

In Other News....:

- Funding + Community? <https://www.codeforsociety.org/incubator/>



In Other News....:

- Funding + Community? <https://www.codeforsociety.org/incubator/>
- Huge influx of \$\$\$ for Software Supply Chain Security



In Other News....:

- Funding + Community? <https://www.codeforsociety.org/incubator/>
- Huge influx of \$\$\$ for Software Supply Chain Security
- Machine learning everywhere





SeaGL



2022 FLOSS Research In Summary....



Scale? Automate, review, document!



Foundations for community! (???)



Tag it and badge it!



Good first issues are detectable!



Money isn't everything!



Tweeting helps!



Toxicity is a sign of unnecessary pushback!



Cultural diversity: hard, helpful!



Good commits state what and why!



Bus factor: real & more than code!



Incubator Opportunity - \$\$\$supply chain - Machine Learning!

Thank You!

kaylea@uw.edu—@kayleachampion—social.coop/@kaylea—<https://kayleachampion.com>
@comdatasci—<https://communitydata.science>