

Introduction

2024 Open Source Software Funding Survey

This survey is a collaboration between GitHub, Inc., the Linux Foundation, and researchers from Harvard University.

What is the purpose of this survey?

- Our objective is to better understand how organizations fund, contribute to, and support open source software projects.
- The primary audience for this survey are OSPOs, Heads of Engineering and Product, C-Level Executives, and other individuals with a solid understanding of their organization's open source engagement.

What can I expect if I take part?

- To participate, you must be 18 years old or older.
- We expect the survey to take about 15 to 20 minutes.
- The survey contains multiple choice and text-entry questions.
- The survey may contain some questions for which you simply do not have enough information to answer. It is OK to choose 'Don't know' as a response to these questions.
- If you decide you do not want to provide an answer to a question, you may leave

the question blank.

- If you decide you do not want to continue, you may leave the survey at any point and your data will not be saved.

How will my privacy be protected?

- The survey will never ask for or record your name or email address.
- Survey data will be analyzed by exclusively researchers from the Laboratory for Innovation Science at Harvard (LISH). Results of this analysis will only ever be disseminated as statistical aggregates and at no point will any effort be made to link survey respondents to personal identities or their affiliated organization.

Who can I talk to?

Please feel free to contact the research team at lish@harvard.edu.

Filtering

Are you at least 18 years of age?

- Yes
- No

Code Contribution

Code contribution

In this section, we seek to understand how your organization allocates software development labor and expertise directly to open source codebases (e.g. general maintenance, feature development, documentation or testing improvements, cybersecurity audits, etc.)

Where does your organization make open source **code contributions**? Check all that apply.

- To projects directly managed by your organization
- To projects outside of your organization (upstream dependencies)
- To projects outside of your organization (**not** upstream dependencies)
- My organization does not make code contributions to open source projects
- Other
- Don't know

What kind of open source **code contributions** does your organization make? Check all that apply.

- General project maintenance
- Feature development
- Bug reports
- Documentation improvements
- Feedback and consultation
- Cybersecurity audits
- Legal advice
- Governance
- Other
- Don't know

Are there any code contribution activities that are **explicitly not allowed** within your organization? Check all that apply.

- Maintaining a set of organization-sponsored open source projects.
- Making contributions to projects outside of your organization (projects that are upstream dependencies)
- Making contributions to projects outside of your organization (projects that are **not** upstream dependencies)
- Making contributions to projects maintained by competitors
- Making contributions to projects with certain licensing requirements
- None of the above
- Other
- Don't know

To what extent does your organization **make code contributions** to open source software that is **critical to operations**?

	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	Not at all	Don't know
Extremely critical to operations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Somewhat critical to operations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not critical to operations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How does your organization **incentivize employees** to contribute to open source software projects?

- Working on open source is the job
- Working on open source is part of the job
- Working on open source is not part of the job
- Other
- Don't know

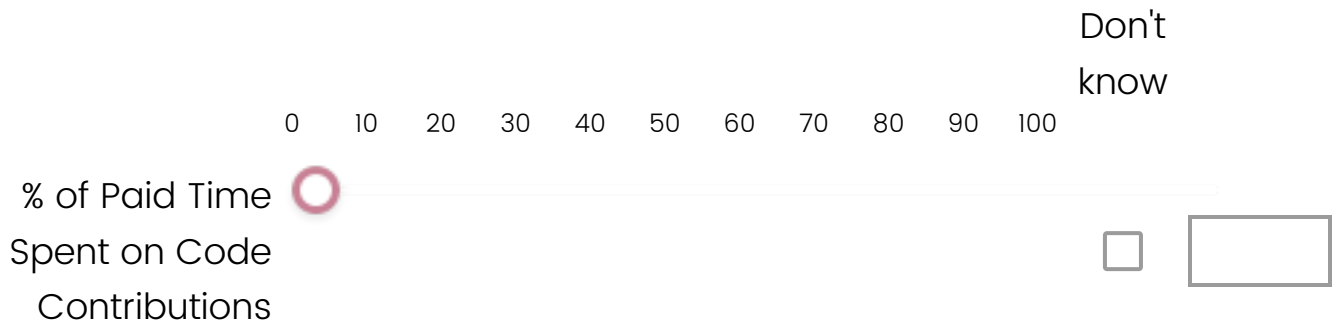
What is your organization's **approval process** for employees working on open source projects?

- Employees can only contribute to a set of pre-approved projects
- Employees need to receive approval from a superior to work on an upstream project
- Employees can contribute to any project without explicit approval if the project does not require a contributor level agreement or other restrictions
- Employees can contribute to any project without explicit approval
- Other
- Don't know

Does your organization evaluate any particular **business risks** before allowing employees to contribute to open source projects? Check all that apply.

- Technical debt
- Security risk
- Patent risk
- Giving away technology to competitors
- Becoming too dependent on technology developed by other firms
- Increase likelihood of job market competition / employee turnover
- None of the above
- Other
- Don't know

For employees who contribute to open source projects, what **percentage of their paid time** on average is spent making code contributions?



What role(s) best categorizes employees at your organization who contribute to open source projects? Check all that apply.

- Developer / Software Engineer
- Other IT (e.g., Sys Admin, Tech Support)
- Community Manager / Developer Advocate
- IT Management (e.g. CIO, CISO, CTO)
- Senior / Executive Management (non-IT)
- Marketing / PR
- Other

Does the amount of time an employee spends working on open source software projects (as part of their job) influence how much they are paid within your organization?

- Yes - we pay significantly more for open source work
- Yes - we pay somewhat more for open source work
- No
- Yes - we pay somewhat less for open source work
- Yes - we pay significantly less for open source work
- Other
- Don't know

Does your organization require **employees to author commits with an organizational email address** when contributing to open source projects at work?

Yes, it's a
requirement

No, but it's actively
encouraged

No

Don't know

How frequently, on average, does your organization make code contributions to open source software projects?

Daily Weekly Monthly Quarterly Annually Less than One-time annually Don't Know

Non-code Contribution

Non-code contribution

In this section, we seek to understand how your organization allocates financial resources (e.g. donations, sponsorships) or other forms of support (e.g. event hosting, courseware and training, research, discounted services, mentorship, etc.) to support open source software projects.

Which **non-code contribution activities** is your organization involved in? Check all that apply.

- Donations directly to maintainers or software projects
- Donations to foundations, non-profits, or general funds
- Membership in groups or foundations related to support of open source software
- Cascading funding
- Event sponsorships
- Ecosystem development
- Providing courseware and training
- Research
- Mentorship
- Offering free services, product discounts, or other perks
- None of the above
- Other
- Don't know

Are there any **non-code contribution activities** that are ***explicitly not allowed*** within your organization?
Check all that apply.

- Donations directly to maintainers or software projects
- Donations to foundations, non-profits, or general funds
- Membership in groups or foundations related to support of open source software
- Donations to dependency projects (e.g. cascading funding)
- Event sponsorships
- Ecosystem development
- Providing courseware and training
- Research
- Mentorship
- Offering free services, product discounts, or other perks
- None of the above
- Other
- Don't know

If you had to guess, approximately how much **direct financial support** (in US dollars) does your organization allocate to each of these targets? Check all that apply.

- To projects
- To maintainers
- To contractors
- To bounty platforms
- To communities
- To foundations
- Other
- Don't know

To what extent does your organization **make non-code contributions** to open source software that is **critical to business operations**?

	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	Not at all	Don't know
Extremely critical to operations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Somewhat critical to operations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not critical to operations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If your organization supports an **open source foundation** (for example, the Linux Foundation, Apache Software Foundation, Mozilla Foundation, etc.), **what characteristics** of the chosen foundation were influential in the decision? Check all that apply.

- Directly supports open source projects useful to the organization
- Is widely supported by other organizations
- Has a mission statement that aligns with company values
- Is influential within the open source community
- Other
- Don't know

To what extent does your organization's willingness to contribute funding rely on the tax-exempt status of funding recipients?

- A great deal A lot A moderate amount A little Not at all Don't know
-

If your organization contributes by hosting, sponsoring, or providing support for events, how would you specifically characterize these contributions? Check all that apply.

- Speaking
- Marketing / Attendee support
- Content curation
- Logistics support
- General financial sponsorship of event
- Other
- Don't know

If your organization contributes by offering free services, product discounts, or other perks to open source projects or developers, how would you specifically characterize these contributions? Check all that apply.

- Credits
- Free or discounted products or services
- Free or discounted training programs
- Free or discounted access to research, data, or other information
- Free or discounted access to events or conferences
- Other
- Don't know

How frequently, on average, does your organization make non-code contributions to open source software projects?

- One-time Daily Weekly Monthly Quarterly Annually Less than annually Don't Know
-

Motivations and Incentives

Motivations and Incentives

In this section, we are interested in the reasons why your organization supports open source software in general.

How critical is actively supporting open source to your organization?

Extremely critical Very critical Somewhat critical Not so critical Not at all critical Don't know

What are some of the **key motivations** for your organization to contribute to open source in general? Check all that apply.

- Risk Mitigation
- Concern for project health and sustainability
- Skill development
- Talent recruitment
- Giving back to the community
- Feature Advancement and Roadmapping
- Innovation
- Brand - Building relationships and improving reputation with community
- Building competitive advantage
- Crowdsourcing ideas and soliciting community feedback
- Promoting standardization and interoperability
- Open source efforts are complementary to goods and services sold by organization
- Our competitors contribute, so we feel we should as well
- All the above
- Other
- Don't know

What are some ways your organization is **limited in contributing** to open source software? Check all that apply.

- Lack of time or labor bandwidth
- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of expertise
- Uncertainty over how to best contribute
- Uncertainty over benefits of involvement
- Policy does not allow code contribution
- Licensing requirements
- Security concerns
- Competitive concerns
- Other
- Don't know

Does your organization **reward and recognize employee participation** in open source?

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes - it's directly tied to rewards | Sometimes | Rarely | Never | Don't know |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

How important is your organization's support of open source to **prospective hires**?

Extremely important Very important Somewhat important Not very important Not at all important Don't know

Investment Prioritization and Decision Making

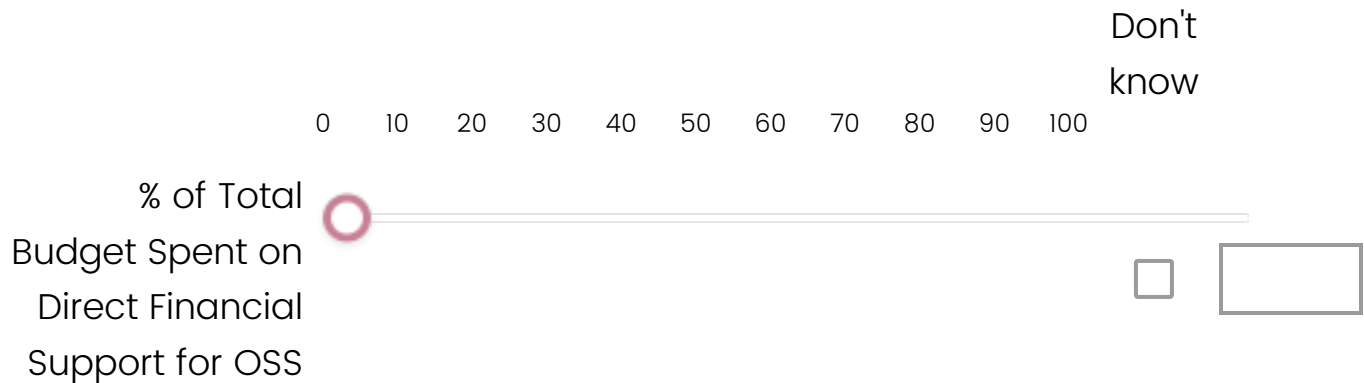
Investment Prioritization and Decision Making

In this section, we are interested in understanding how your organization allocates resources to open source and how these decisions are made.

In a typical year, approximately how much total direct **financial support** does your organization allocate towards open source? (**in US dollars. \$1k = \$1000, \$1M = \$1,000,000**) You can provide a more precise numerical response by selecting "Other" and filling in the text box.

- \$0
- \$1 to \$100k
- \$100k to \$250k
- \$250k to \$1M
- \$1M to \$3M
- More than \$3M
- Other
- Don't know

In a typical year, approximately how much direct **financial support** does your organization allocate towards open source? (**as percentage of the total budget**)



In a typical year, approximately **how many employees** within your organization **directly contribute to open source software projects**?

	0	1 to 5	6 to 10	11 to 50	51 to 250	251 to 1000	1001 to 5000	More than 5000	Don't Know
Full Time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Part Time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contractors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In a typical year, approximately how many **total labor hours** (full or part time employee and contractor) does your organization allocate towards open source?

- 0
- 1 to 49
- 50 to 249
- 250 to 999
- 1000 to 4999
- 5000 to 9,999
- More than 10,000
- Don't know

Who within your organization has **decision-making authority over investments** in open source? Check all that apply.

	Financial investments	Non-financial investments
OSPO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CEO / President / Top-level executive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VP of Software Development / Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anyone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How much does **uncertainty** over how best to support open source limit your organization's commitment to doing so?

- A great deal
 A lot
 A moderate amount
 A little
 None at all
 Don't know

How much value do **decision-makers** at your organization place on each **level of engagement** with open source software?

	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	None at all	Don't know
Using open source	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contributing to open source	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating open source	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Within your organization, to what extent are there **formal approval channels** that must be followed to do the following?

	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	None at all	Don't know
Using open source	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contributing to open source	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating open source	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Does your organization include **expectations** for open source engagement **in job role descriptions**?

- Yes - expectations of open source responsibilities explicitly mentioned
- Yes - expectations of time allocated to open source explicitly mentioned
- Somewhat - open source expectations vaguely mentioned
- No
- Other
- Don't know

Descriptive

Characterizing your organization

In this section, we seek to understand the nature of your organization.

If you feel comfortable giving an answer, what is the **name of your organization**?

How would you best describe the **nature of your organization**? Check all that apply.

- "End user" organization that primarily uses IT products/services to support its business activities
- Hardware and/or software vendor
- Hardware and/or software supplier
- Embedded systems vendor
- System integrator or IT consulting firm
- Cloud service provider or managed service provider
- Software reseller or distributor
- Non-profit association or foundation
- Academic or research institution
- Government entity or agency
- Other entity (please specify)

How many **total employees** are in your organization?

- Less than 10
- 11 to 49
- 49 to 249
- 250 to 999
- 1,000 to 9,999
- 10,000 to 19,999
- 20,000 or more
- Don't know

What **industry** does your organization primarily operate in? Check all that apply.

- Agriculture
- Automotive
- Business services (accounting, management consulting, legal, etc.)
- Consumer packaged goods
- Construction / engineering
- Education (K-12, primary, secondary)
- Education (college, university)
- Financial services (banking, insurance, securities, etc.)
- Government (federal, national)
- Government (state, local)
- Health care
- Hospitality & travel
- Life sciences (biotech, pharmaceuticals, etc.)
- Manufacturing (discrete or process)
- Media (broadcast communications, entertainment, publishing, website, social networking, etc.)
- Mining, oil, and gas
- Real estate, rental, and leasing
- Retail, wholesale, & eCommerce
- Telecommunications / Internet service provider (ISP) / web hosting
- Transportation & logistics (other than automotive)
- Utilities / energy
- Cross-industry information technology (IT vendor, service provider, or manufacturer)

- Other
- Don't know

Where is your organization headquartered?

- Africa
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- United States or Canada
- Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America
- Don't know

What is **your role** within your organization?

- Developer / Software Engineer
- Other IT (e.g., Sys Admin, Tech Support)
- Community Manager / Developer Advocate
- IT Management (e.g. CIO, CISO, CTO)
- Senior / Executive Management (non-IT)
- Marketing / PR
- Other

Does your organization have an **open source program office** (OSPO)?

Yes

No, but we'd like to
create one

No

Don't know

Is **your role** at your organization associated with an **OSPO**?

Yes

No

Don't know

What best describes your **organization's experience with open source**? Check all that apply.

- Consuming open source code in products or services
- Contributing to upstream open source projects
- Influencing open source projects via leadership or maintainer roles
- Initiating or releasing open source projects
- Collaborating with peers across open source projects and/or foundations
- Not involved in open source
- Other
- Don't know or not applicable

What would you estimate the total monetary value to be that **your organization** derives from using open source software? (In US dollars)

What would you estimate the total monetary value to be that **all organizations** derive from using open source software? (In US dollars)

Do you have any final comments or feedback?

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