Why Do We Need The Commons Conservancy?

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The Commons Conservancy

TNC 19

www.geant.org
The Problem Space

You write some code for a thing

Other people like your thing

Stick code on github – SUCCESS!
The Developer Suddenly Needs To Do:

- Funding and Finances
- Legal Agreements
- User Support
- Technical Requirements
- Analytics and Monitoring
- Security Audits
I JUST WANT TO CODE
TERENA Study, 2013

Do we need a Conservancy, what should it do, what should it be?

You said:

• Trusted intermediary.
• Known jurisdiction.
• Light-touch.
• Community appropriate.
• Social.
Basic Principles

• Open to anyone acting in the public interest
• Constructive, positive and inclusive approach
• (Open) License agnostic
  • Limited to Free Software/Open source efforts without commercial provisions
• No lock in
  • A Programme is free to go at all times to upgrade and run its own 'bare metal' organisation
• No sketchy stuff (review process)
From project to programme

• A software project might:
  • Have a limited timespan
  • Defined team
  • Be innovative / capable of failing
  • Designed for short-term needs

• A Commons Conservancy programme:
  • Open timeline
  • Open community
  • Proven technology
  • Addresses long-term needs (software hardening, security audits etc.)
Programme Structure

• Commons Conservancy is an 'organisation hypervisor' that can spawn and support virtual open source foundations

• Each Programme runs independently from all the others, in perfect isolation

• Each Programme determines its own operating environment (such as bylaws) with templates provided, and has own infrastructure (website etc.)
What about money?

• Donations go to NLnet Foundation tagged for use within certain projects
• Invoices can be sent via a different entity “Commons Caretaker”
• Benefits of professionally audited environment with charitable status, but independent
• Programmes then free to maintain their own independence
What about legal stuff?

• Templates for governance structure
• Templates for contributor agreements
• Advice on licensing
• Templates for IPR contributions etc.

• More can be added here if identified

• IPR held for the programme
Does it Work?

FILESENDER

eduVPN
Thank you

Any questions?

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