



Documenting for Open Source

Presenters

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Objectives

- Open Source
- The Open Source Model
- Engaging Enterprise with Community
 - How documentation differs in Open Source
- Contributing to Community
- Community Involvement





Part I: Introduction to Open Source



What is Open Source

- Open Source is a development model that provides;
 - Universal access through free license to a product's design or blueprint
 - Universal redistribution of that design or blueprint, including subsequent improvements to it by anyone.



Open Source Definition

- Free Distribution
- Source Code
- Integrity of Author's work
- No Discrimination
- Distribution of License
- Not specific to a product
- Not restrict other software
- Technology Neutral

Source: Open Source Initiative (<http://opensource.org>)





Free & Open Source Software



"Because open source software features open code, more programmers are able to view the code, create new functionality, and fix bugs. This follows the same natural way that science has developed over time."

- Taoism of Open Source; Chen Nan Yang; September 29, 2007.



Advantages of Open Source

- No cost
- Lower maintenance cost
 - Software is most secured & robust.
- Transparency
 - Open Standards
 - Easy integration with other existing softwares.
- Free to customize
- Larger support base



Challenges

- Unfamiliarity
- Open source software is not straightforward to use.
 - Not having the right expertise
- Getting the right software
- Fear of the unknown



It's a BIG world out there!



It's a BIG world out there!

<p>Data Analysis & Platforms</p>	<p>Databases / Data warehousing</p>	<p>Operational</p>	<p>Multivalued database</p>	
<p>Business Intelligence</p>	<p>Data Mining</p>	<p>Social</p>	<p>Big Data search</p>	<p>Data aggregation</p>
<p>Key Value</p>	<p>Document Store</p>	<p>Graphs</p>	<p>Multidimensional</p>	
<p>Object databases</p>	<p>Multimodel</p>	<p>XML Databases</p>		

Created by: www.bigdata-startups.com



Open Source Mobile Platforms



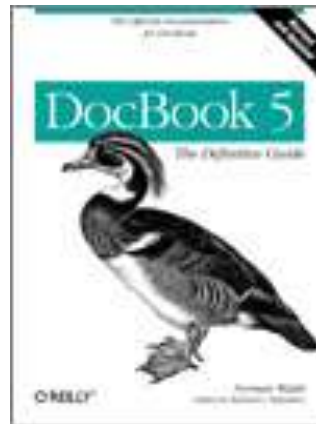
*maemo*TM



openmoko



Documentation



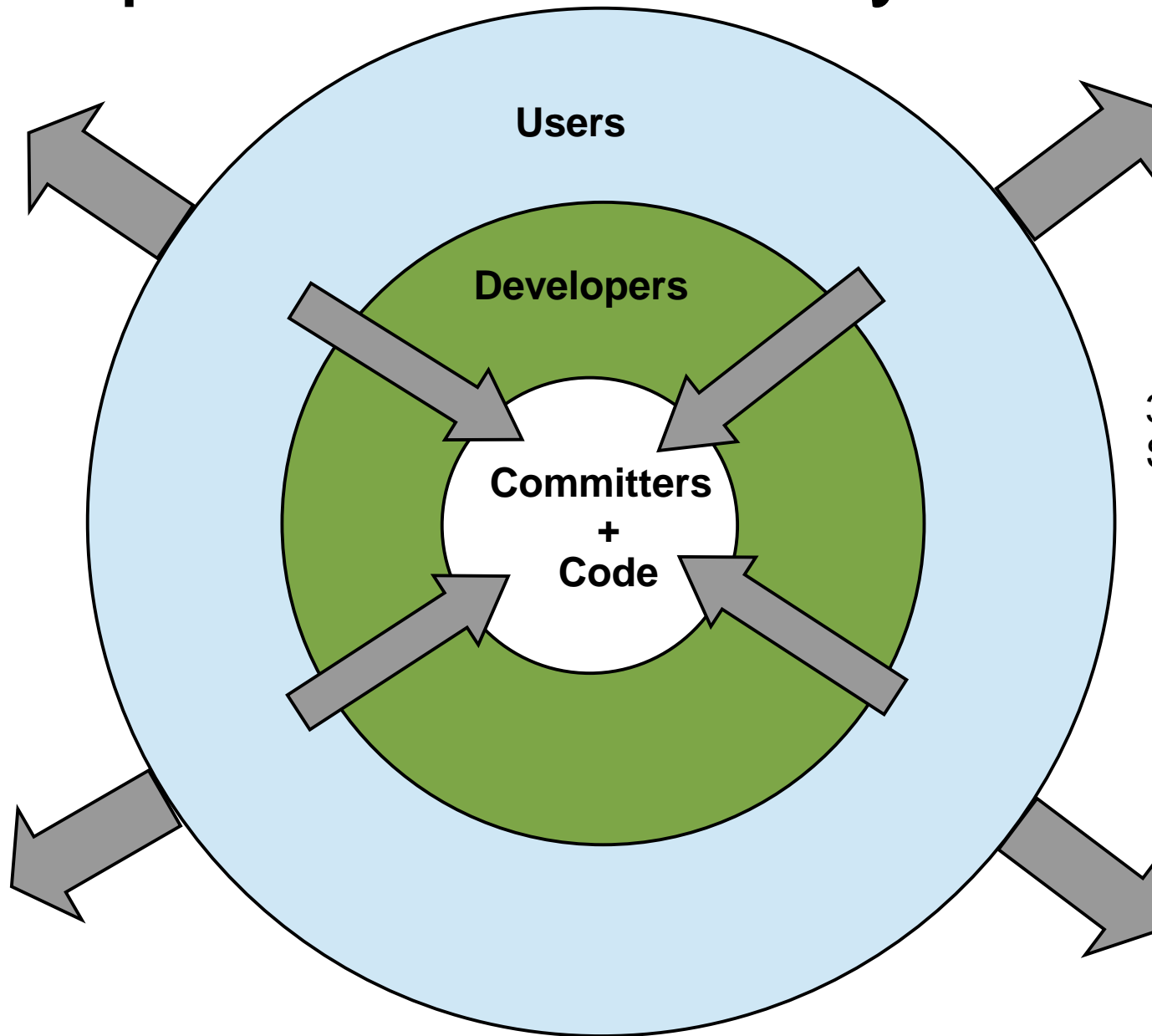
Checkout
[100 open source tools for writers](#)





Part II: Dive Right In!

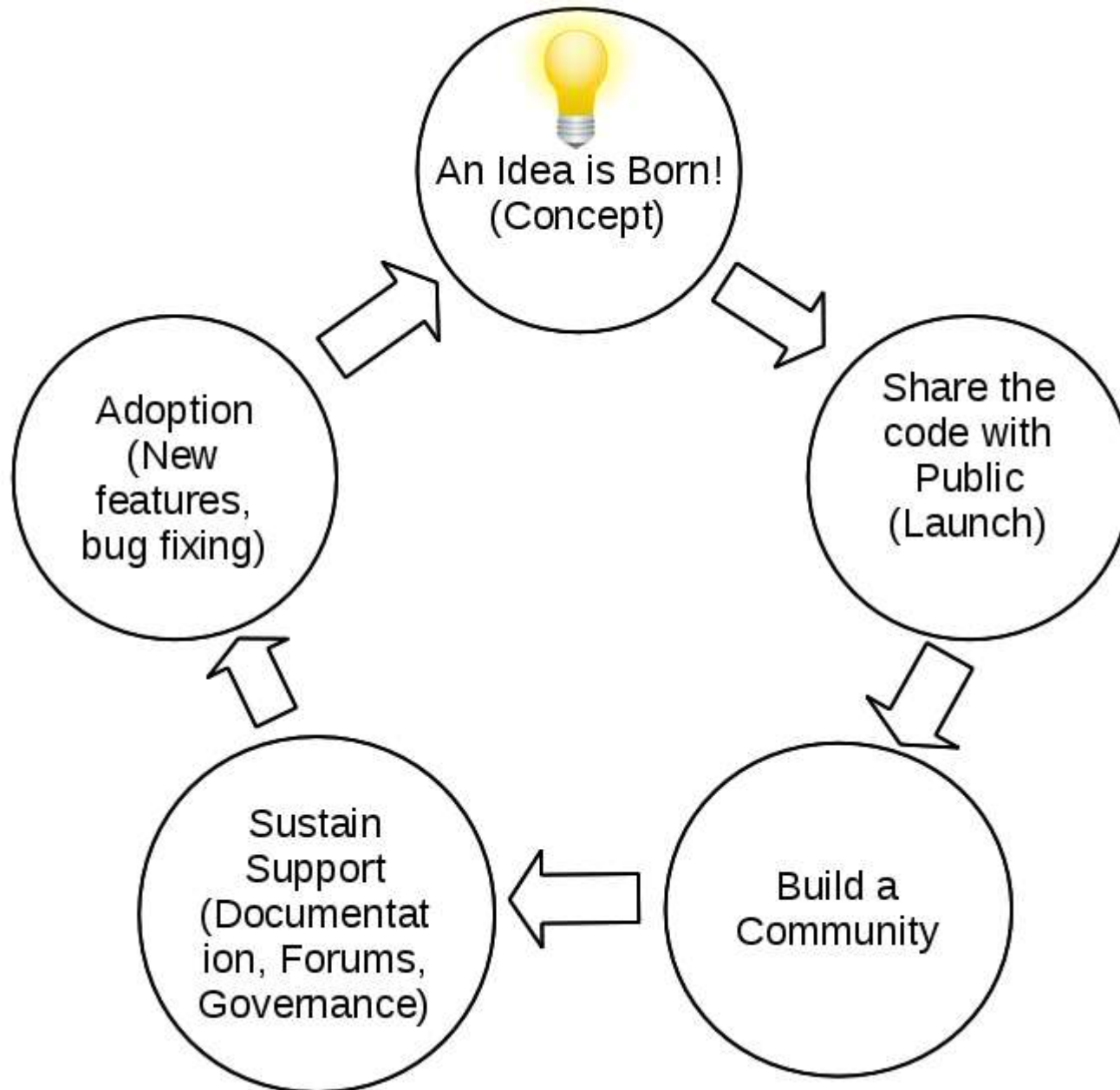
Open Source Ecosystem



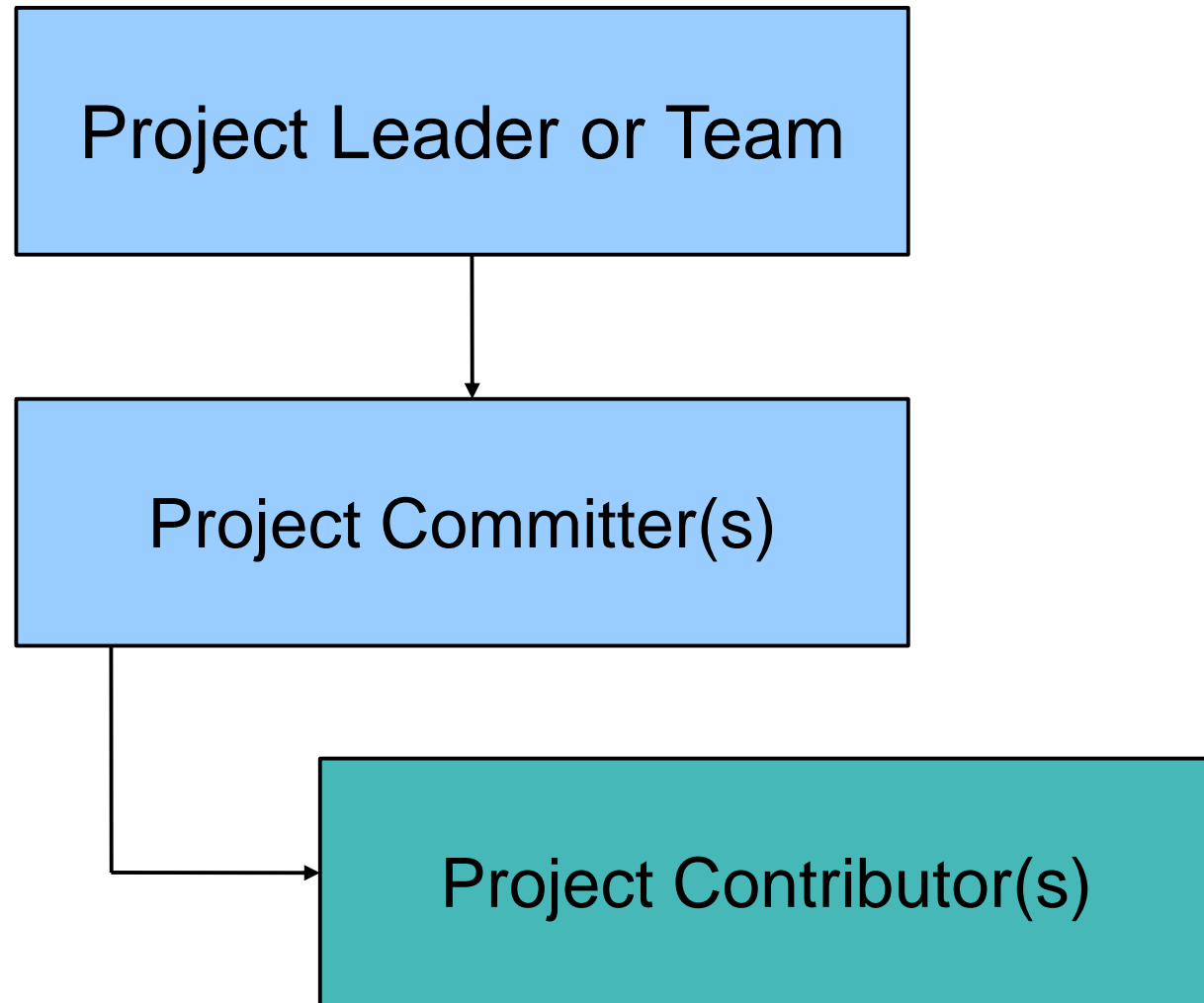
3 C's of open Source

- Code
- Collaboration
- Community

Birth of a community



Typical Open Source Software Project



Community operating mechanism (PRIM)

- Portal
 - Wiki
 - Forums
- Repository
 - GitHub, svn
- Issue Tracker
 - Jira
- Mailing Lists
 - IRC channels



Examples of Communities

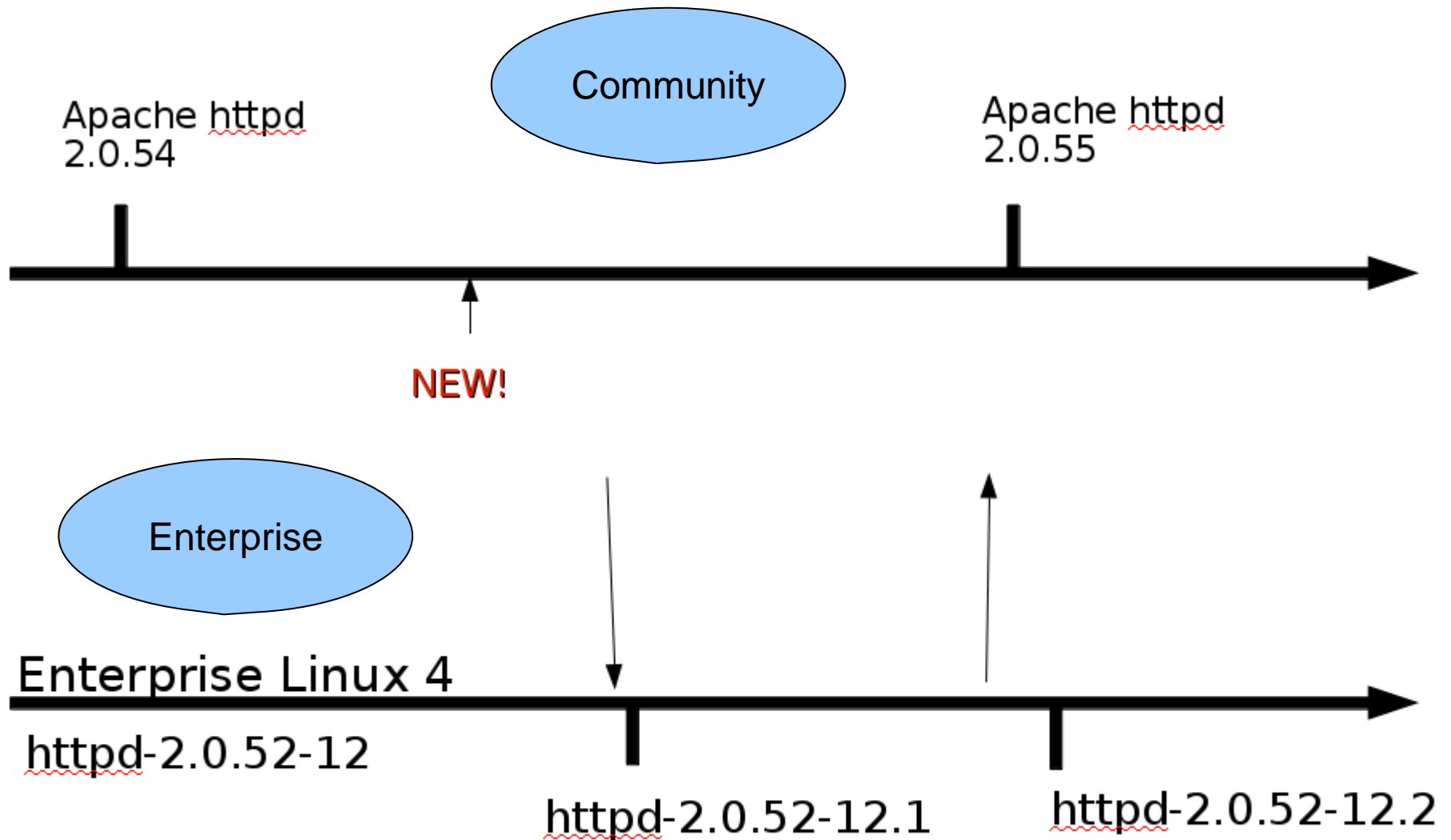
- JBoss <http://www.jboss.org/>
 - <http://www.jboss.org/projects>
- Fedora <http://fedoraproject.org/>
 - <http://docs.fedoraproject.org/en-US/index.html>
- Python <http://www.python.org/>
 - <http://docs.python.org/3/>



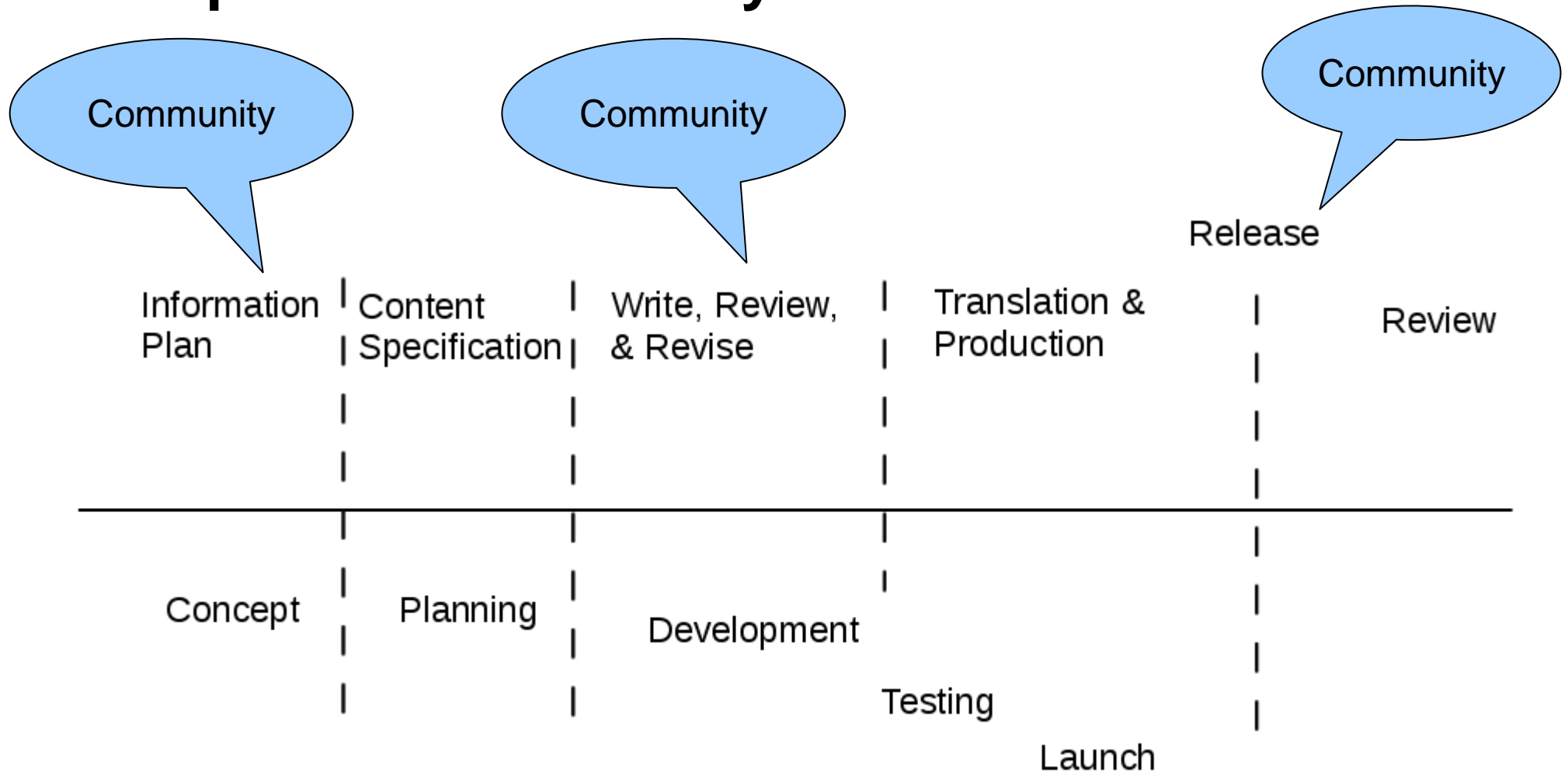


Part III: Enterprise & Community

Enterprise & Community



Enterprise & Community contd



Tools used by Red Hat for documentation

- Content Management System
 - Pressgang (<http://pressgang-ccms.github.io/>)
- Publishing and Authoring
 - Publican (<https://fedorahosted.org/publican/>)
 - DocBook XML (<http://www.docbook.org/>)
 - XML Editors (BYE (Bring your Own))



Tools used to Document

- Community
 - Each community is a ecosystem in itself.
 - Variety of tools
 - Varied process and work styles.
 - Examples
 - JBoss – Wiki based Authoring – Confluence
 - Repository – GitHub
 - Python
 - RST (Restructured Text) – a markup language
 - Sphinx for authoring and publishing.





Part IV: Giving Back to the Community

Contributing to the Community

- Developers/Engineers
 - They are the leading committers to most of the communities
- End Users
 - Sharing workarounds found.
 - Contribute by reporting bugs. (Example – Fedora Users)
- Enterprise
 - System critical issues discovered by Red Hat engineers
 - Bug Fixes, security patches
 - Critical information regarding critical bugs shared with community.





Part V: How do I Get Involved with Open Source Community?

Find Your Passion!

- Find your passion.
- Find the right open source project.
- Find the open source project that are friendly towards new contributors.
- If possible find a mentor that can guide you to open source world.



Contribute

- Start contributing to the selected project.
- Many open source projects are meritocracies.
- In order to get involved you have to contribute and build your reputation.
- Remember there are number of ways to contribute outside of code.



Content Writer



Designer



People Person



OS Developer



Translator



Web Developer
or Administrator



Few Things to remember!

- In open source world, things are done in open. So be mindful about it.
- Avoid negativity. Instead kill people with kindness.
- Brand yourself. Get on IRC, GitHub, LinkedIn, Twitter.
- Share your passions with the world.





Resources

Red Hat resources

- Red Hat
 - <http://in.redhat.com/about/>
- Red Hat Channel
 - <http://www.youtube.com/user/RedHatVideos>
- Customer Portal
 - <https://access.redhat.com/site/documentation/>



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Blogs

[World of a Technical Writer](#)

[Personal](#)



Thank You!

