THE LINUX FOUNDATION

LF Research
2027 Prospectus



What is LF Research?

LF Research applies empirical methodologies to systematically investigate open source collaboration, communities, and industry dynamics, establishing independent facts and reaching new conclusions about the use and impact of open source in solving challenges around the world.

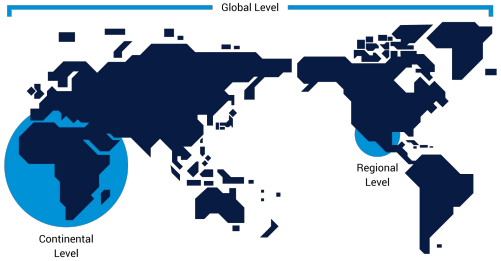
- Explore areas of new systemic risks or opportunities
- Identify best practices and how to leverage open source
- Demystify the myths and misconceptions of open source value
- Provide expertise and data-driven paths forward

Frameworks for Analysis

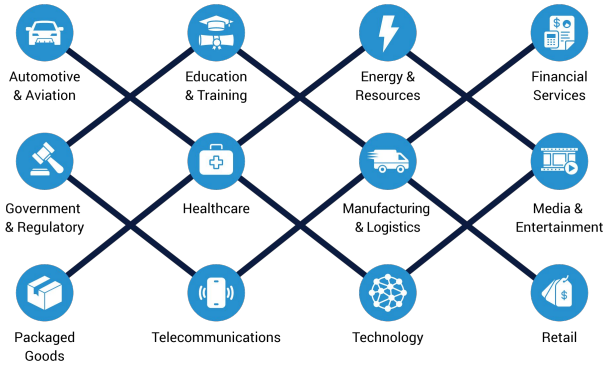
Technology Domain

- AI, ML, Data & Analytics
- Blockchain
- CI/CD & Site Reliability
- Cloud
- Containers & Virtualization
- Cross-Technology
- DevOps
- IoT & Embedded
- Linux Kernel
- Networking & Edge
- Open Hardware
- Open Source Best Practices
- Safety-Critical Systems
- Security
- Storage
- System Administration
- System Engineering
- Web & Application Development

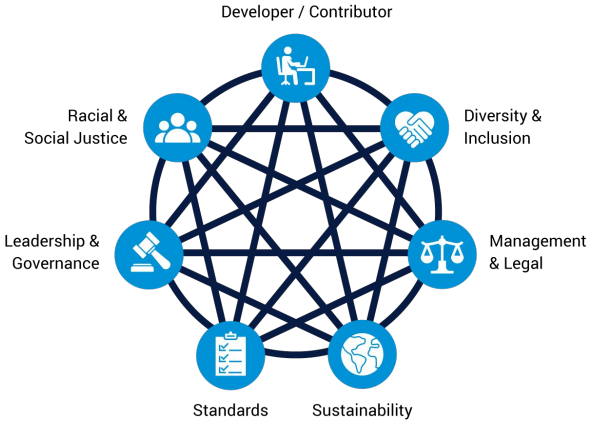
Geography



Industry Vertical



Ecosystem



What Makes LF Research Unique? “Open source first.”

The Linux Foundation is at **the center of 100,000+ open source leaders, engineers and end users,** working at some of the world’s most important companies.

Engaging our network of open source practitioners allows us to deliver primary research that creates:



A **richer, more complete understanding** of the uniqueness of open source development vs. product development

In-depth insight from our community’s expertise that hones in on the critical topics.

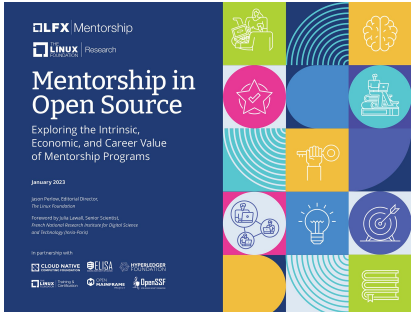
Actionable conclusions to inform decision makers.

Open data available for other analysts to incorporate into their work, and publications released under Creative Commons license.

Over 100 unique reports published since inception in April, 2021.

100s of deliverables.

1000s of open data points.



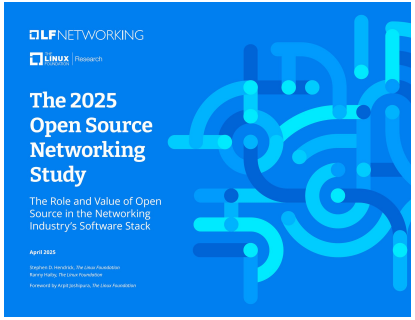


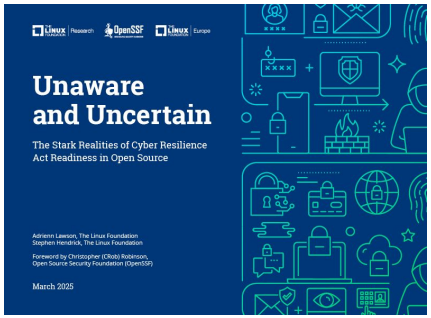












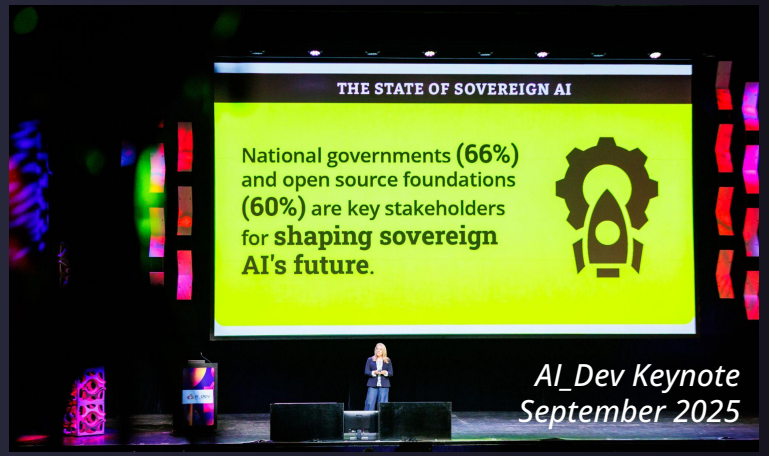


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Our content shapes key messaging during events



Open Source Summit Europe
October 2026



AI_Dev Keynote
September 2025



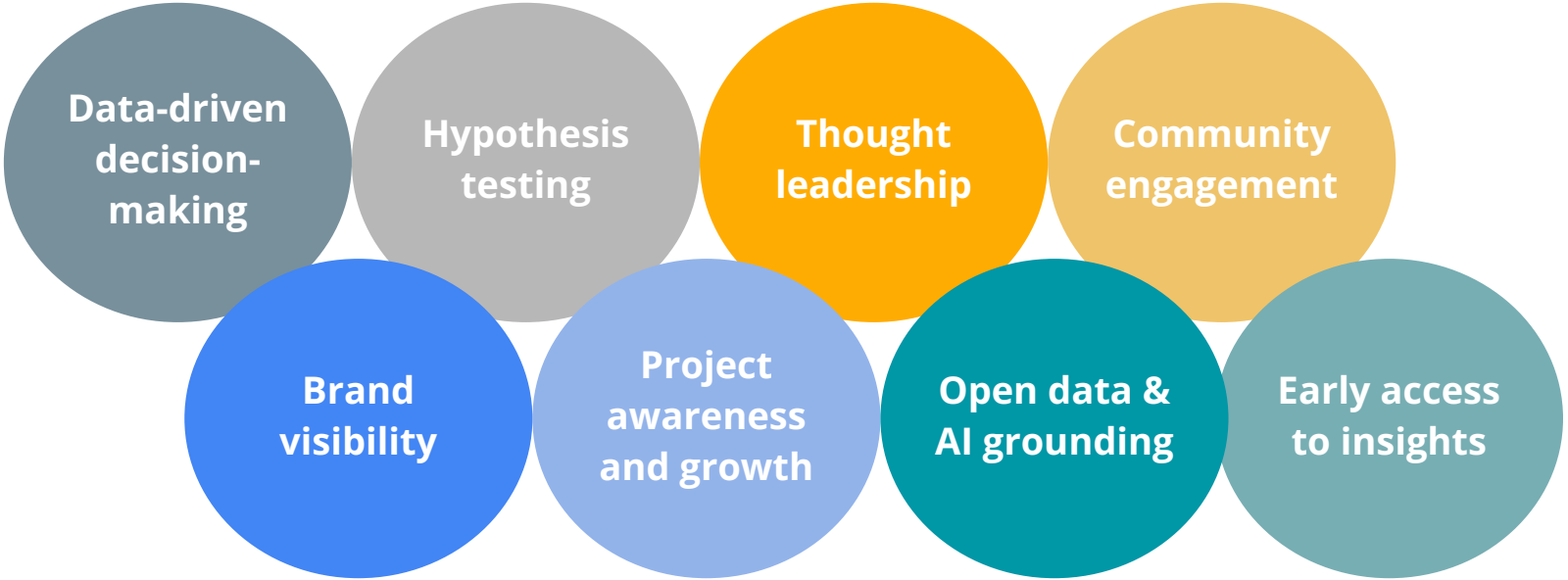
Open Source in Finance Forum
September 2024



AI_Dev Keynote
December 2023

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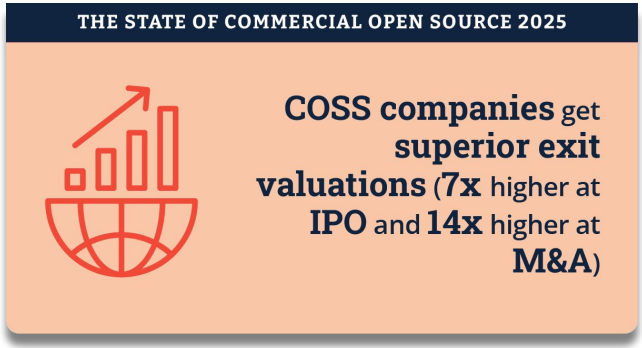
Benefits of Commissioned Research



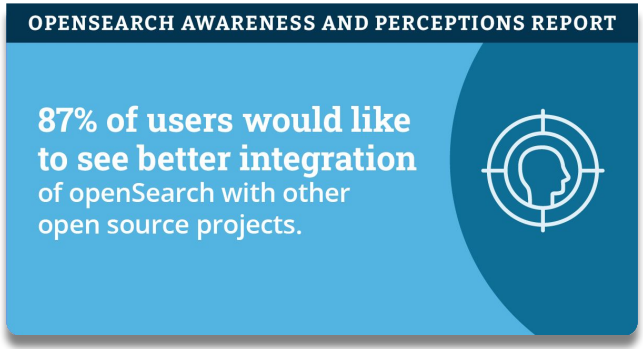
How Research Benefits Different Stakeholders

Government: Inform policymakers on the value of open source.



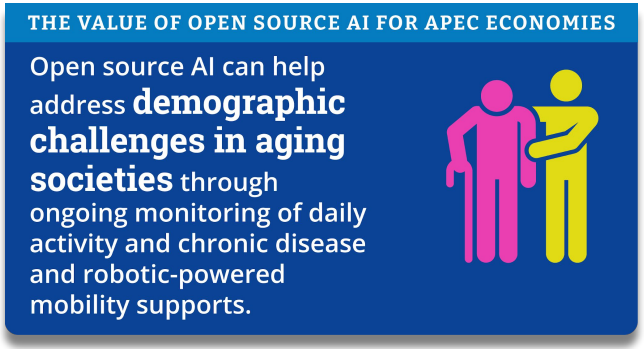


Enterprise: Insight to inform investment, funding, & ROI



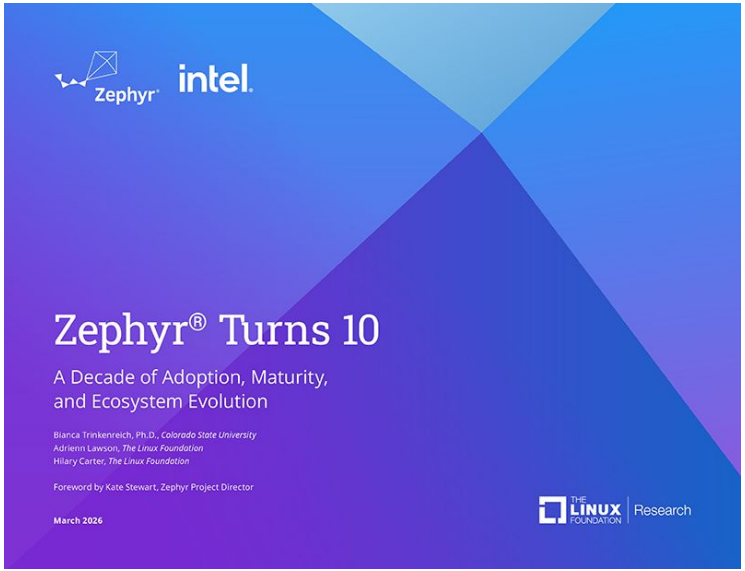
Projects: Data to drive strategy & operating budgets.

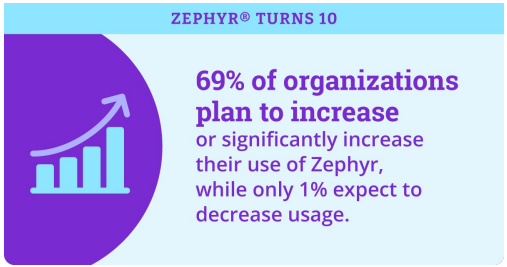
Society: Evidence into open source for social good.

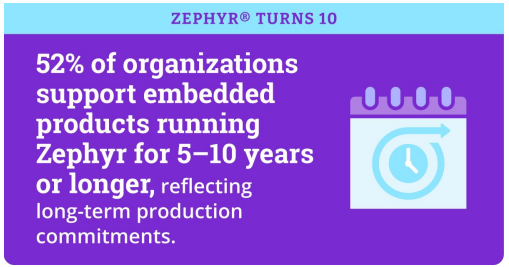


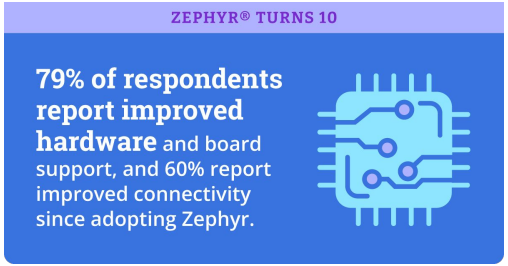
Examples of research funded by LF Projects, Companies, & Governments

Zephyr Turns 10









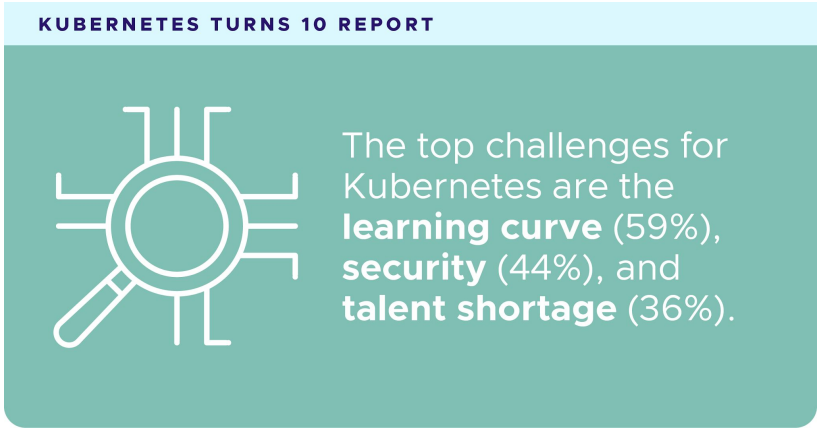


Forewords by Kate Stewart, Linux Foundation, and Anas Nashif, Intel
Download at https://www.linuxfoundation.org/research/zephyr-turns-10

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CNCF: Kubernetes Turns 10

We studied different aspects of the awareness and impact of Kubernetes in celebration of the project's 10th anniversary, revealing positive perceptions & creating opportunities for constructive feedback.





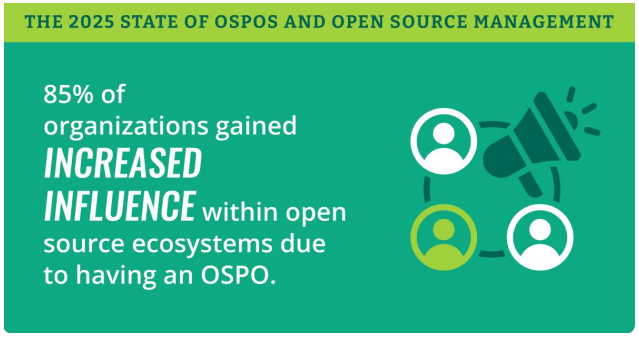
Foreword by Joe Beda
Download at linuxfoundation.org/research/kubernetes-turns-10

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TODO Group: Impact of OSPOs on Management & Strategy

Our latest study from the TODO Group & LF Research shows the **significance of OSPOs** once again, in terms of their impact on developer experience, ecosystem influence, and code quality.



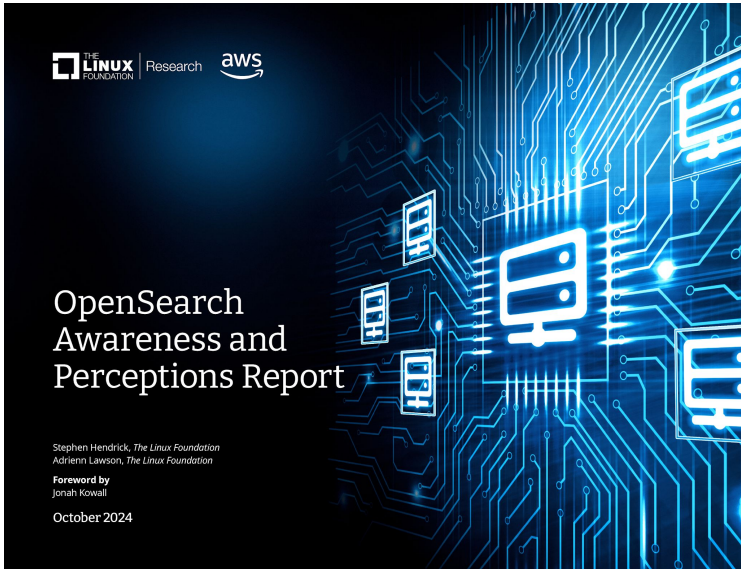


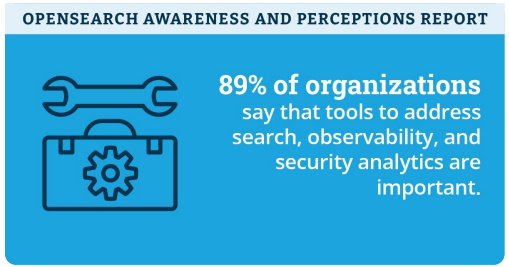


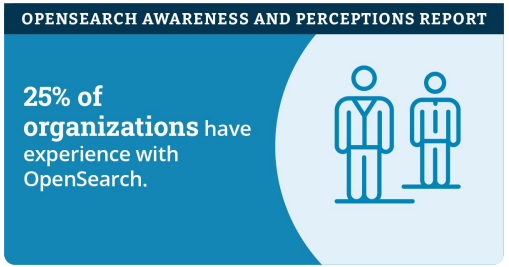
OSPOs are **increasingly managing generative AI risks** (70% in 2025 compared to 65% in 2024). There is still **room for growth**. Our study shows that only half of OSPOs (49%) are using **internal compliance procedures**. The report advocates for greater adoption of OSPOs to improve **governance, sustainability, and education** on open source best practices.

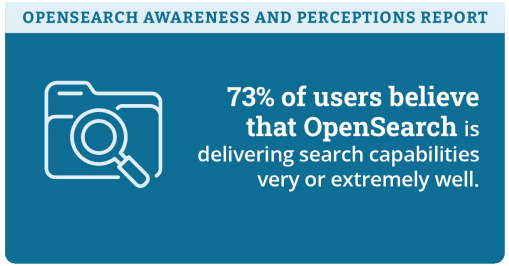
Download at linuxfoundation.org/research/ospo-2025

AWS: OpenSearch Awareness & Perceptions









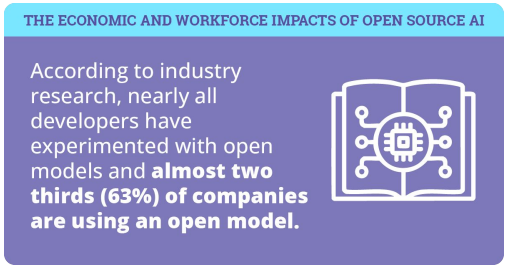


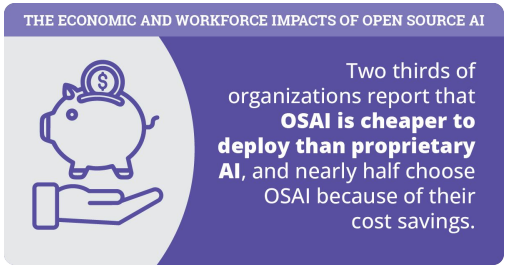
Foreword by Jonah Kowall
Download at linuxfoundation.org/research/opensearch-awareness-study-2024

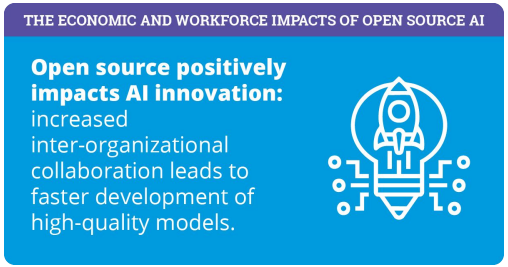
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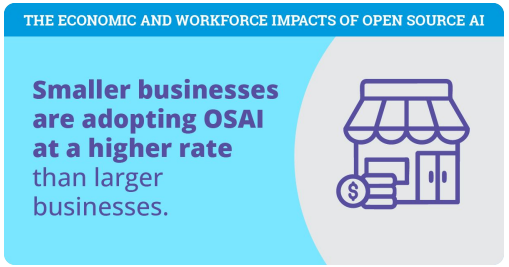
Meta: Workforce & Economic Impacts of Open Source AI







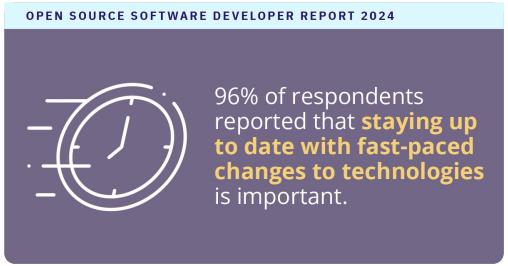




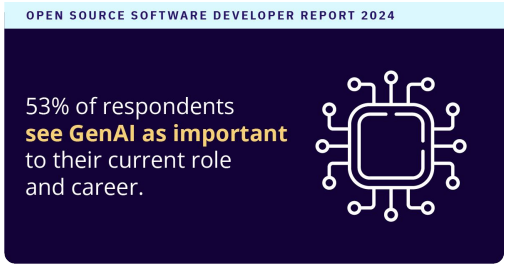
Download at linuxfoundation.org/research/economic-impacts-of-open-source-ai

Intel: Open Source Software Developer Dynamics







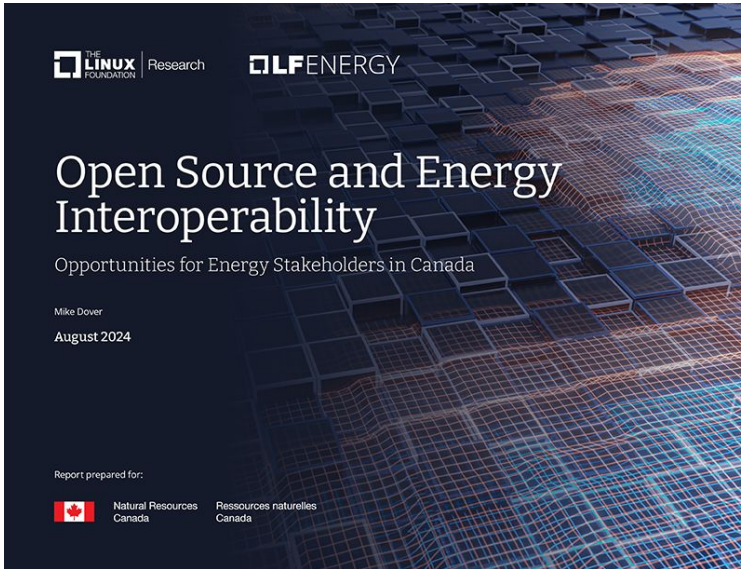


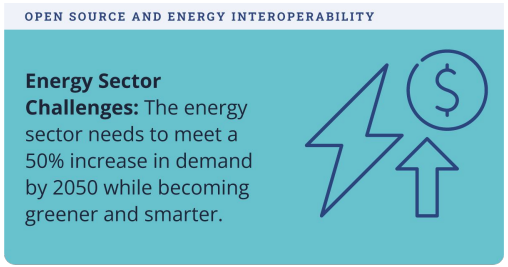


Foreword by Arun Gupta, Intel

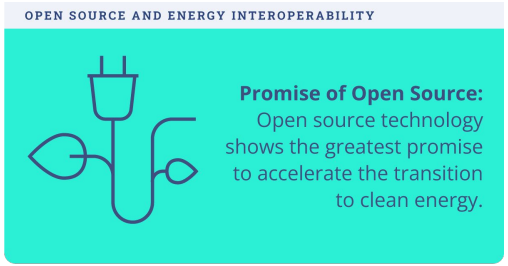
Download at linuxfoundation.org/research/open-source-developer-survey-2024

Natural Resources Canada: Energy Interoperability







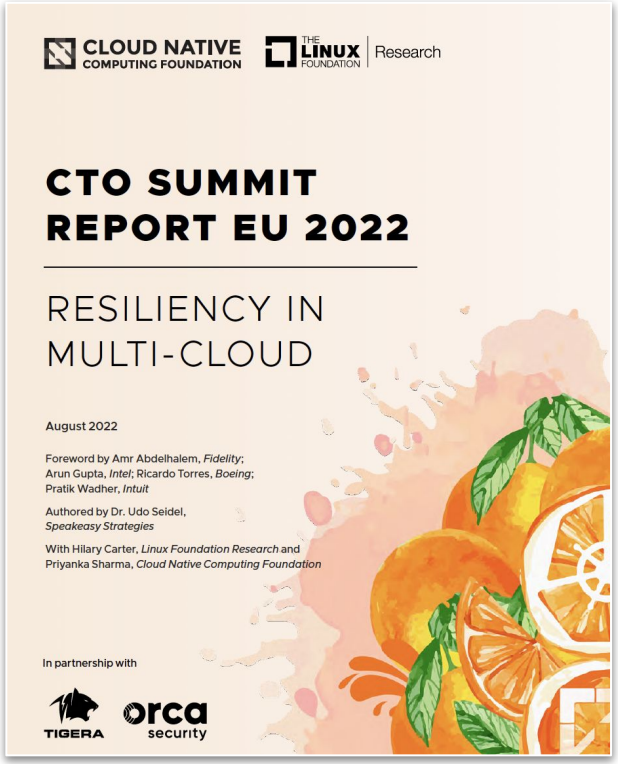




Download at linuxfoundation.org/research/canadian-energy-interoperability

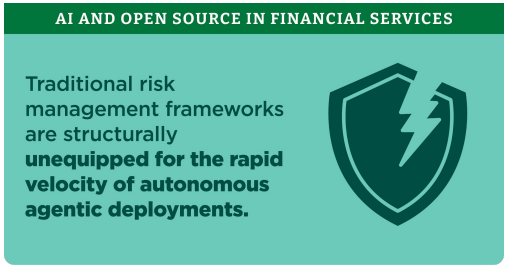
Engage Stakeholders & Test Hypotheses: Workshops & Executive Roundtables

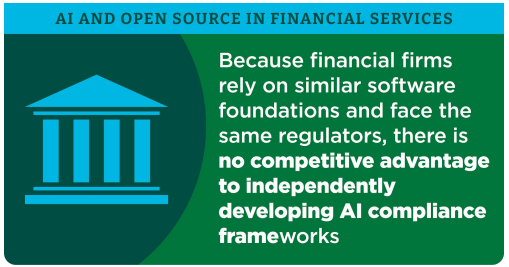




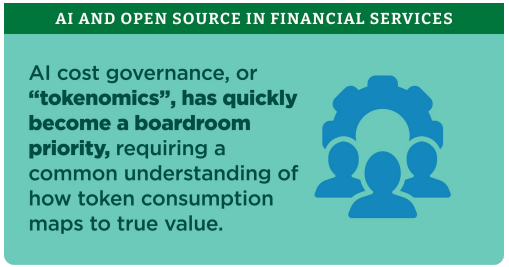
Roundtable Report: AI & OSS in Financial Services







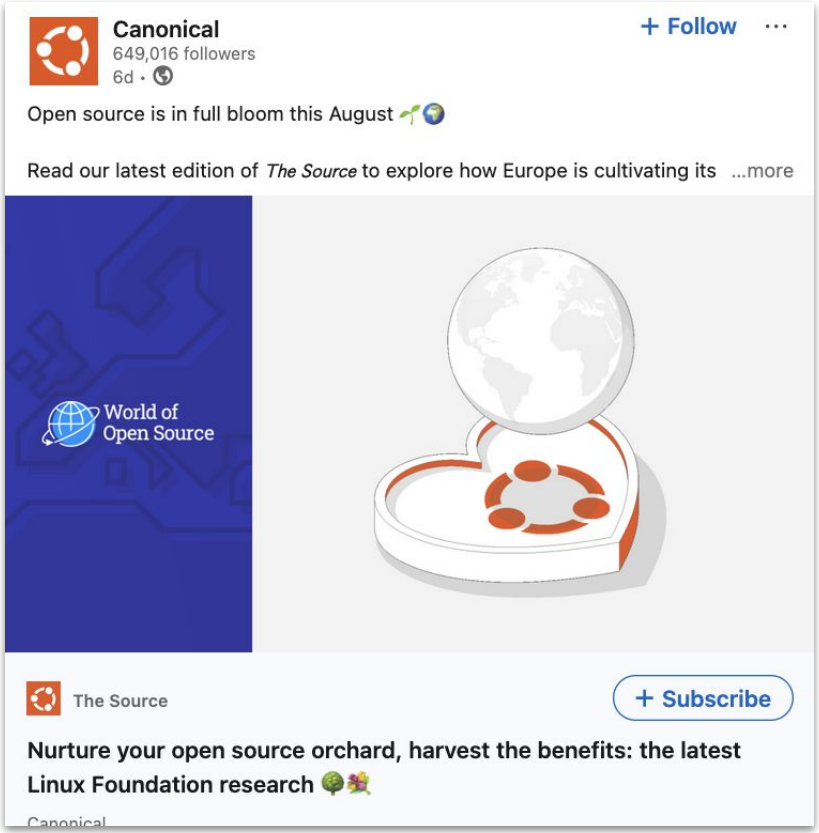




Download here:
https://www.linuxfoundation.org/research/ai-open-source-financial-services?hsLang=en

Research Findings in Sponsor Marketing Posts





Research Findings in Project Marketing Posts

Confidential Computing Consortium
1,838 followers
2w • Edited •
+ Follow

🚀 Just Released: The Case for Confidential Computing! 🚀
Real Stories, Real Success: Explore the Confidential Computing Use Case Report and discover how Confidential Computing enables organizations to securely leverage enterprise data.

Grow your business, improve service, tackle data challenges, and meet regulatory compliance.

Thanks also to Vini Jaiswal, Sal Kimmich, CSM Anna Hermansen, Riaan Kleinhans, Suzanne Ambiel, Hilary Carter, @Kate George and many others for their support.

Read the full report: https://hubs.la/Q02F_sp40

#ConfidentialComputing #DataSecurity #AI #MachineLearning #BusinessGrowth #Compliance



LF Energy
6,180 followers
2w •

A new report, "Open Source and Energy Interoperability" from LF Research and LF Energy thanks to sponsorship from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), explores how open source solves the issue of ...more



LF Research in the News

CFOtech AUSTRALIA

virtualisation # devops # digital transformation

Linux report shows open source giving fivefold returns

Thu, 26th Feb 2026

Forbes

The banking sector has expanded its approach to open source, from implementing new rules on how to use data with open banking to contributing to full open-source banking platforms. According to the most recent Fintech Open Source Foundation (FINOS) report, the number of contributions by fintech and banking contributors to open-source projects has from 429,258 contributions in 2021 to 595,860 contributions in 2023.

TechCrunch Latest Startups Venture Apple Security AI Apps Events Podcasts

Paul Sawers

Linux Foundation report highlights the true state of open source libraries in production apps

There are many metrics to track the prevalence of open source components, such as GitHub stars and downloads, but they don't paint the full picture of how they're being used in production codebases.

Census III of Free and Open Source Software: Application Libraries leans on more than 12 million data points from software composition analysis (SCA) and application security tools such as Black Duck, FOSSA, Snyk, and Sonatype, which have been deployed at more than 10,000 companies.

ZDNET tomorrow belongs to those who embrace it today

trending tech innovation business security advice buying guides

/ innovation

Home / Innovation / Artificial Intelligence

Nearly half of Gen AI adopters want it open source - here's why

A new report explores the frequently awkward relationship between open source and artificial intelligence.



Written by Steven Vaughan-Nichols, Senior Contributing Editor

Nov. 21, 2024 at 3:00 a.m. PT

diginomica

human intelligence • enterprise insights

Open source is global by design - Europe's challenge is to keep it that way

THENEWSTACK

AI / AI STRATEGY / SECURITY

AI security readiness is now the No. 1 obstacle to adoption, Linux Foundation finds

The Linux Foundation's 2026 State of Tech Talent report finds AI security readiness is now the biggest barrier to enterprise AI adoption.

May 18th, 2026 2:55pm by Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols

ComputerWeekly.com IT Management Industry Sectors Technology Topics

The Linux Foundation's *Open source maturity in Europe report* paints a robust picture, stating that between 2022 and 2024, "more than half of the respondents each year reported seeing an increased business value from using OSS compared to the previous year".

LF Research Publication Reach

- **LF email distribution**: +1,000,000
- **LinkedIn followers**: 423,000 (as at Oct ‘26)
- **X followers**: 593,000 (as at Oct ‘26)
- **LF Research email subscribers:** +5,000
- **Average number of report downloads**: 500

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Recognizing Research Engagement: Credly Badges





Contributor badges are issued to individuals in the open source community who have supported the research development process, as:

- Author / co-author / ghostwriter
- Foreword author
- Survey author
- Peer reviewer / in-kind contributor
- Data analyst

Localization Partner badges are issued to individuals who have assisted in the localization of surveys and reports.

Badges appear on LFX dashboards to illustrate engagement.

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How to collaborate: Research options & rates

Community study $5K, $15K, or $50K*	**Bespoke study** $25K to $100K**	**Annual study** $50K to $100K**	**Roundtable** $100K to $200K**	**Large-scale study** $100K to $200K**
Sponsor an open, one-time or recurring community study and gain access to key insights. ✓ Logo in study materials ✓ Preview of study design ✓ Early access to findings ✓ Comms acknowledgment ✓ Thought leadership opportunities ($15K & $50K tiers)* ***Ideal for: brand awareness, stewardship, & community support***	Exclusive, focused research designed around your specific questions and audience. ✓ Custom survey or questionnaire design ✓ Targeted analysis & data ✓ Thought leadership & community engagement ✓ Branded report PDF or briefing deck ✓ Optional: virtual briefing ***Ideal for: targeted planning & industry focus***	Support an annual study to track trends over time and benchmark progress. ✓ Full report & dataset access ✓ Year over year analysis ✓ Branded report PDF or alternative format ✓ Optional: virtual briefing ***Ideal for: benchmarking & continuous insights***	Convene industry leaders and experts for a Chatham House-governed, qualitative session. ✓ Content curation ✓ Expert facilitation ✓ Branded report PDF or alternative format ✓ Optional: virtual briefing ***Ideal for: priority topics & expert consensus***	Multi-phase initiative with global reach, advanced analysis of multiple datasets, and tailored deliverables. ✓ Global mixed-method research ✓ Advanced data modeling ✓ Branded report PDF or alternative format ✓ Webinar or executive presentation ***Ideal for: enterprise strategy & global impact***

*see the next slide for a breakdown of benefits by tier.

**Pricing varies by size and scope of the research: data availability and collection criteria, number of survey questions / completes / datasets, qualitative interviews, cross-tabulations, and localization requirements.

Community Study Sponsorship Benefits **(For community studies, circulated in the Annual Agenda)**	**Title** **(1 available)**	**Leadership** **(4 available)**	**Innovation** **(8 available)**
Front cover branding: Company/project logo on the report cover & promo graphics	✅ Tier 1 size	✅ Tier 2 size	✅ Tier 2 size
Acknowledgment: Company/project logo included in "thank you to sponsors" page	✅	✅	✅
Community insight: Receive a unique survey collector link & dataset (sample permitting)	✅	✅	✅
Influence: Survey instrument / questionnaire review prior to fielding	✅	✅	✅
Early access: Preview of the research findings	✅	✅	✅
Testimonial: Featured box in the report from the PoV of a company/project SME	✅	✅	❌
Blog / PR: Supporting quote in a report-specific blog or press release	✅	✅	❌
Back cover branding: Company/project boilerplate on the report's back page	✅	❌	❌
Web page branding: Company/project logo on research report landing page	✅	❌	❌
Thought leadership: Authorship of the report foreword, inclusion in event CFPs / related promotional activities.	✅	❌	❌
Cost (in USD)	**$50,000**	**$15,000**	**$5,000**

Community Sponsor Branding (Title tier)

Logo prominently placed on front cover; logo and boilerplate on back cover





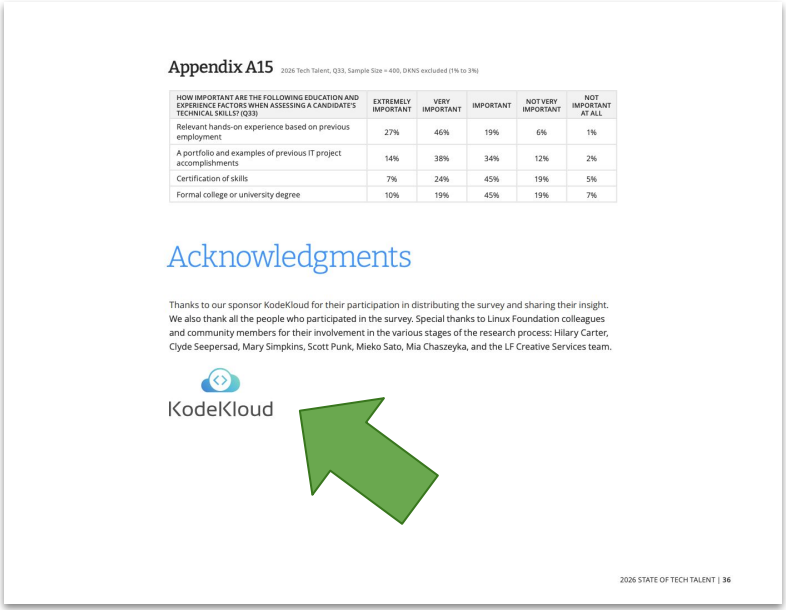
Example: Red Hat's title sponsorship of the 2026 report [Navigating Open Source Software Development in the Generative AI Era]

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Community Sponsor Branding (Leadership & Innovation tiers)

Tier 2 logo placement on front cover; logo placement in acknowledgments section





Appendix A15 2026 Tech Talent, Q33, Sample Size = 400, DKNS excluded (1% to 3%)

HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE FOLLOWING EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE FACTORS WHEN ASSESSING A CANDIDATE'S TECHNICAL SKILLS? (Q33)	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL
Relevant hands-on experience based on previous employment	27%	46%	19%	6%	1%
A portfolio and examples of previous IT project accomplishments	14%	38%	34%	12%	2%
Certification of skills	7%	24%	45%	19%	5%
Formal college or university degree	10%	19%	45%	19%	7%

Acknowledgments

Thanks to our sponsor KodeKloud for their participation in distributing the survey and sharing their insight. We also thank all the people who participated in the survey. Special thanks to Linux Foundation colleagues and community members for their involvement in the various stages of the research process: Hilary Carter, Clyde Seepersad, Mary Simpkins, Scott Punk, Mieko Sato, Mia Chaszeyka, and the LF Creative Services team.

KodeKloud

Example: KodeKloud's sponsorship of the 2026 State of Tech Talent Report

Tiered Sponsor Content Benefits: Foreword authorship & Testimonial feature



Foreword

Put simply, the regulated utility or grid operator exists to benefit the ratepayer and the general public. That's the deal that was struck: a legal monopoly, granted in exchange for affordable, reliable, safe, and clean energy.

The question is how best to deliver on it. Building poles and wires is expensive and slow, so utilities increasingly look to digital solutions to increase infrastructure utilization, drive down costs, accelerate electrification, and reduce emissions. That shift is only accelerating now that utilities need AI-scale computing to power AI itself. Yet the utility approach to digitalization hasn't kept pace: rigid procurement, closed, isolated solutions, slow timelines, and high price tags.

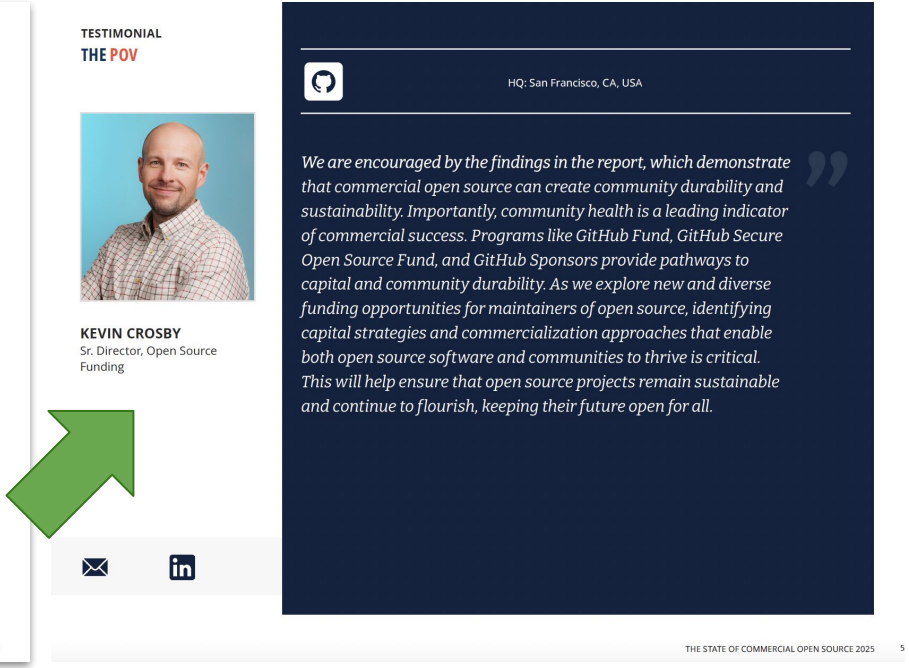
Most of the tech world settled on open source as the default way to collaborate years ago. Utilities have been late to the party. In a free market, open source spreads as competition forces companies to collaborate on shared infrastructure and compete on what sits above it. Utilities don't face that competitive pressure. However, the same opportunity is there — shared development that reduces cost and speeds delivery, all of which can be passed to the ratepayer as lower prices and better service.

Over nearly a decade, LF Energy and its community have started to change the status quo. More utilities are strategically embracing open source, standing up open source program offices and releasing their own internal projects. As those investments grow, the entities making them need to uphold the original deal: show regulators and the public that this choice is prudent, that the benefits outweigh the costs.

The LF Energy Benefit-Cost Framework exists to make that case easier to build. For utilities new to open source, it's a way to borrow directly from the experience of those who've gone before them. For utilities further along, it's a tool for measuring progress and evolving strategy. By having a structured way to exchange experience and engage with regulatory partners, we'll be better able to deliver on that original mandate: affordable, reliable, safe, clean energy.

Alex Thornton,
LF Energy

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TESTIMONIAL
THE POV

KEVIN CROSBY
Sr. Director, Open Source Funding

HQ: San Francisco, CA, USA

We are encouraged by the findings in the report, which demonstrate that commercial open source can create community durability and sustainability. Importantly, community health is a leading indicator of commercial success. Programs like GitHub Fund, GitHub Secure Open Source Fund, and GitHub Sponsors provide pathways to capital and community durability. As we explore new and diverse funding opportunities for maintainers of open source, identifying capital strategies and commercialization approaches that enable both open source software and communities to thrive is critical. This will help ensure that open source projects remain sustainable and continue to flourish, keeping their future open for all.

THE STATE OF COMMERCIAL OPEN SOURCE 2025 5

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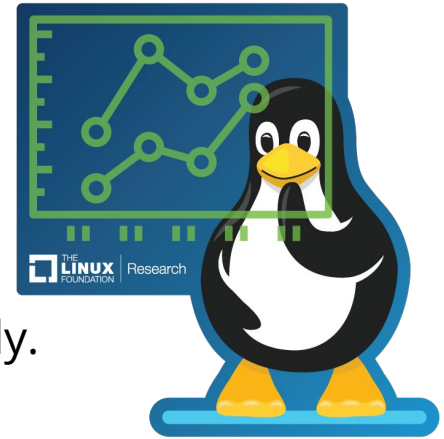
Commissioning a Study: Questions to consider

Objective setting:

- What is the goal of the research?
- Who is the target audience for the research?
- What is the hypothesis to be tested, or headlines desired from research?
- When is the research to be launched and published?

Methodology & logistical considerations:

- Survey, qualitative, dataset analysis, or a combination?
- Access to stakeholders & subject matter experts?
- Budget & timelines?



Get started! Complete the LF Research Brief to scope your study.

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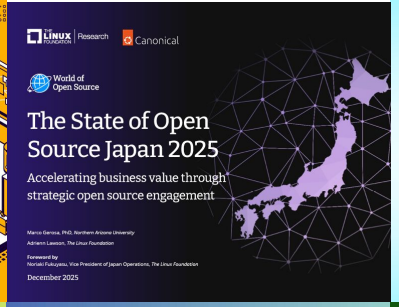
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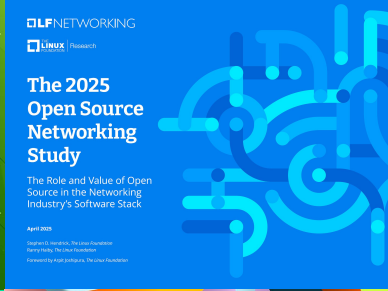




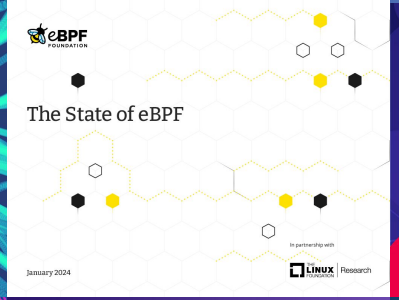




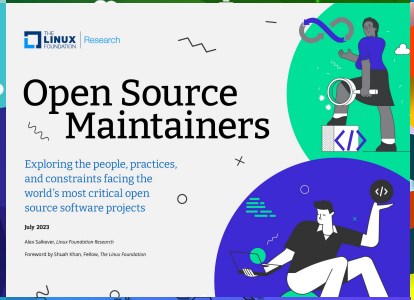


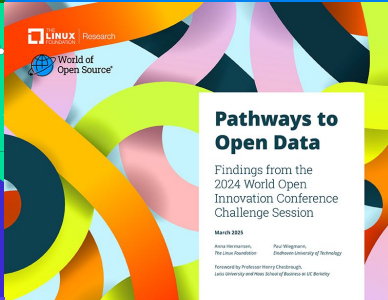


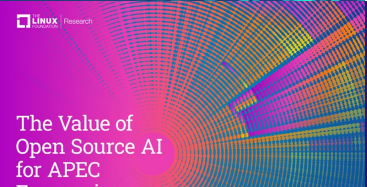





















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