Open Source & Open Governance

James M Snell
IBM Technical Lead for Node.js
Node.js Core Contributor and TSC Member
Twitter: @jasnell
GitHub: @jasnell
Email: jasnell@gmail.com / jasnell@us.ibm.com

"IBM firmly believes that open source is the foundation of innovative application development in the cloud."

– Angel Diaz, IBM Vice President, Cloud Technology & Architecture

62k

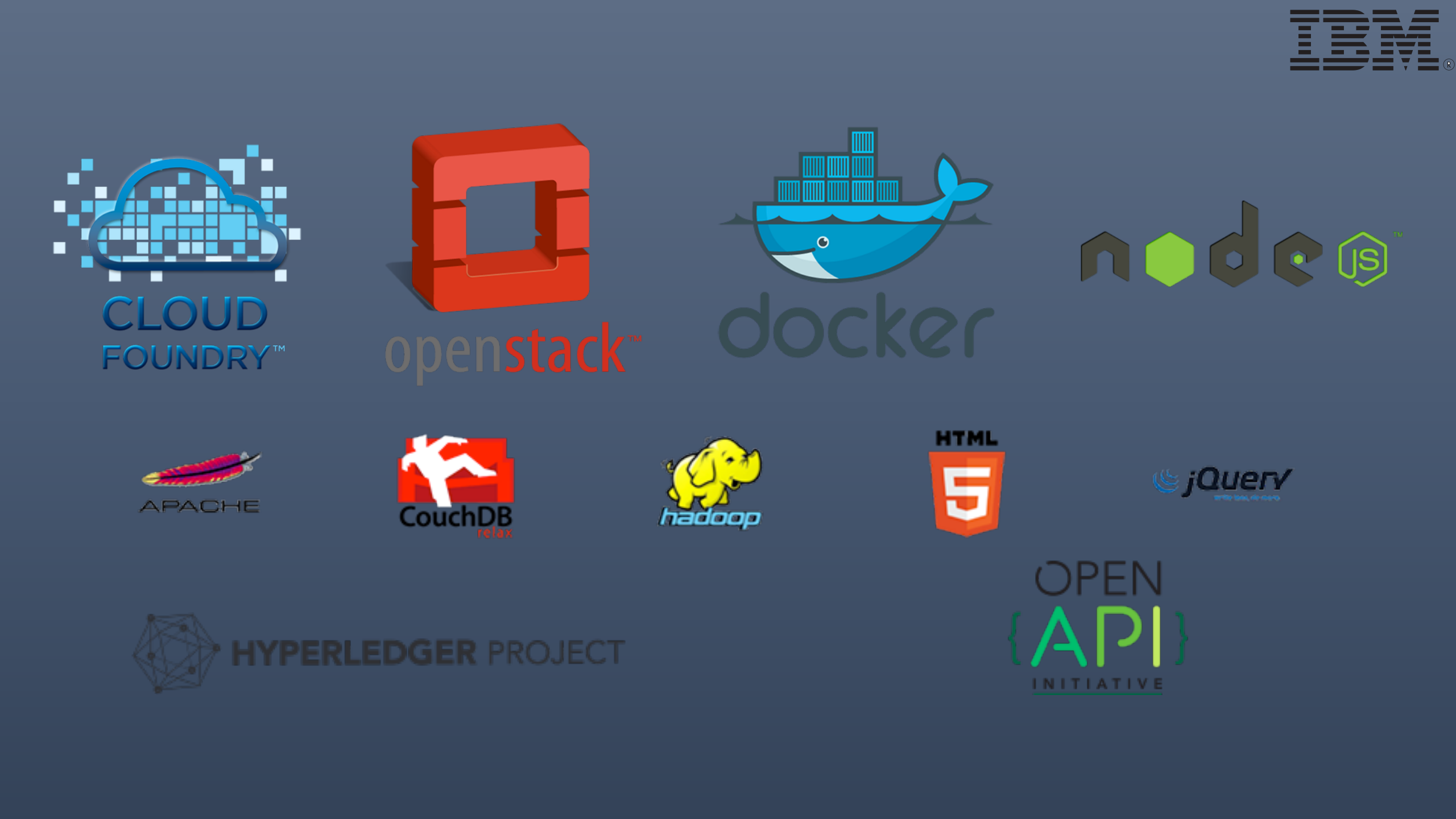
(roughly)

developers at IBM *trained* to participate in open source

2k

(roughly)

are *actively* contributing to open source as part of their full time job


IBM
CLOUD FOUNDRY™
openstack™
docker
node JS
APACHE
CouchDB relax
hadoop
HTML 5
jQuery
HYPERLEDGER PROJECT
OPEN {API} INITIATIVE

Why are we so passionate about Open Source and Open Governance?

How do Foundations facilitate successful Open Source projects?

As of around 4pm on February 10th, http://npmjs.org was reporting

147,308,788

downloads of open source JavaScript modules in the last day.

As of 6:30pm the same day, the number had grown to

149,508,965

That's roughly

24,446

downloads per minute

Over the course of one month, there were

3,469,452,563

downloads

Developers use a lot of Open Source code.

Open Source dominates every aspect of modern DevOps workflows and tooling

- ✔ Operating Systems
- ✔ Compilers
- ✔ Programming Languages
- ✔ Source Code Repositories
- ✔ Documentation
- ✔ Issue Tracking
- ✔ Monitoring
- ✔ Analytics
- ✔ Alerting
- ✔ Security
- ✔ Infrastructure
- ✔ Hosting
- ✔ Data Storage
- ✔ Design
- ✔ Process Management
- ✔ Benchmarking
- ✔ Configuration
- ✔ Virtualization
- ✔ Containerization
- ✔ Building
- ✔ Testing
- ✔ Logging
- ✔ Reporting
- ✔ Auditing
- ✔ Discovery
- ✔ Provenance
- ✔ Licensing
- ✔ Team Management

Open Source is how modern software engineering happens.

Open Source is also how modern software engineers:

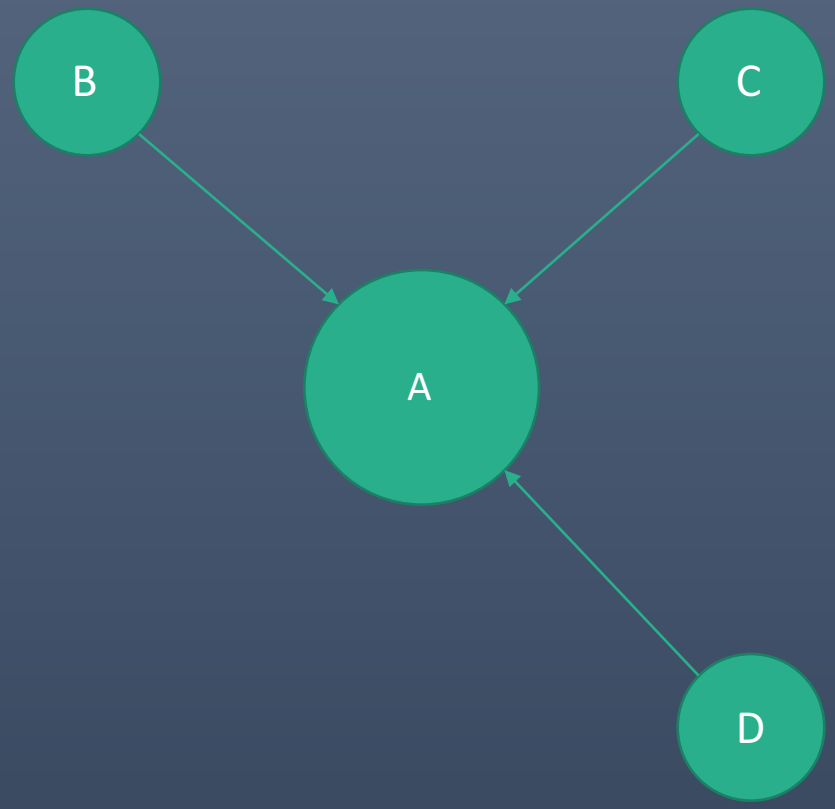
- build and maintain their skills
- build their personal networks and reputations
- explore new opportunities and possibilities
- drive new innovations *into* their organizations

How can companies safely encourage their developers to participate in Open Source communities?

This is where the Foundations come into play.

Open Source Foundations provide a neutral safe home that protects the community investment in an Open Source project.

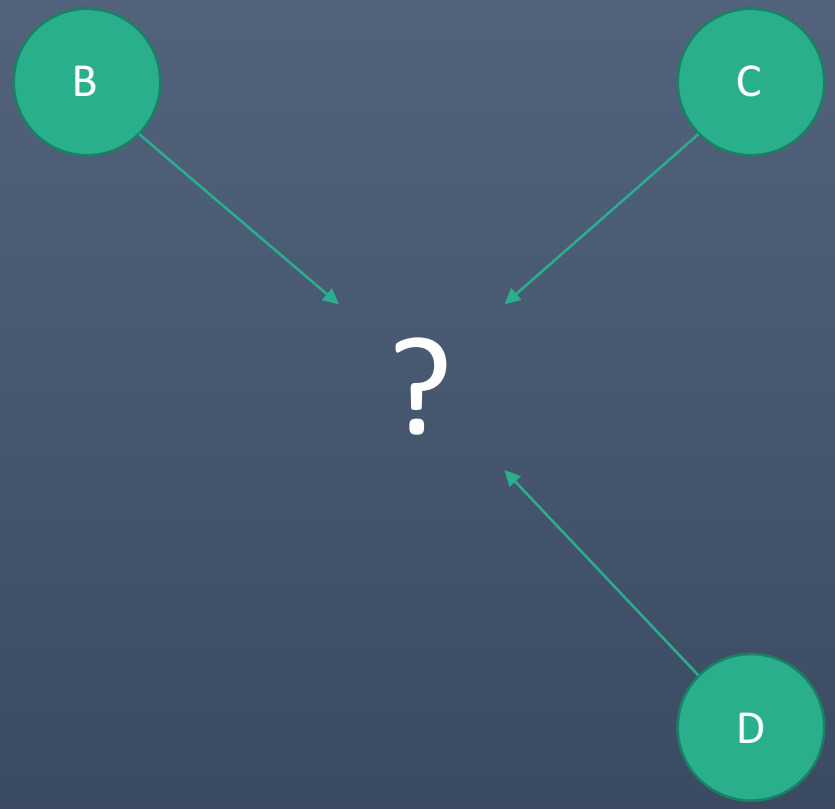
Foundations provide a level playing field that allows and empowers anyone who wants to contribute to do so.



Many Open Source projects are started by single companies.

While they may publish the code out on GitHub, the project is still viewed and managed like a product of that company.

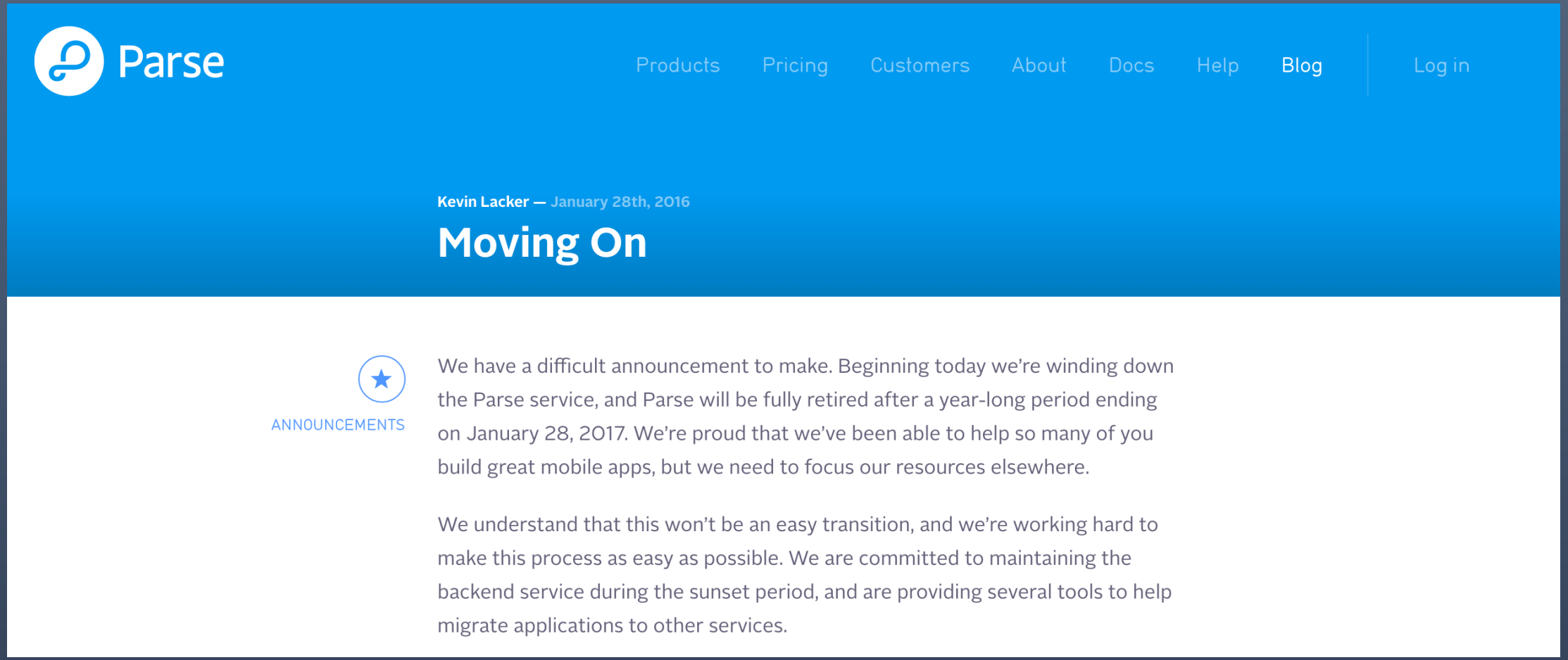
Users learn to rely on the support provided by that one company and are rarely empowered to make contributions of their own.

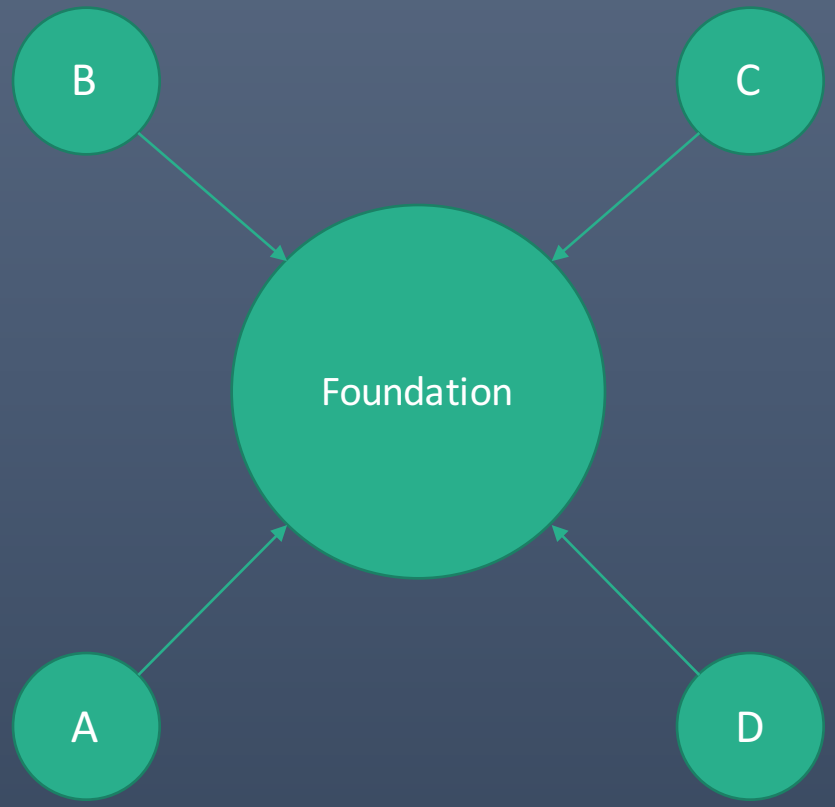


But what happens if that company goes away?

Or changes it's priority and shifts resources away from the project?

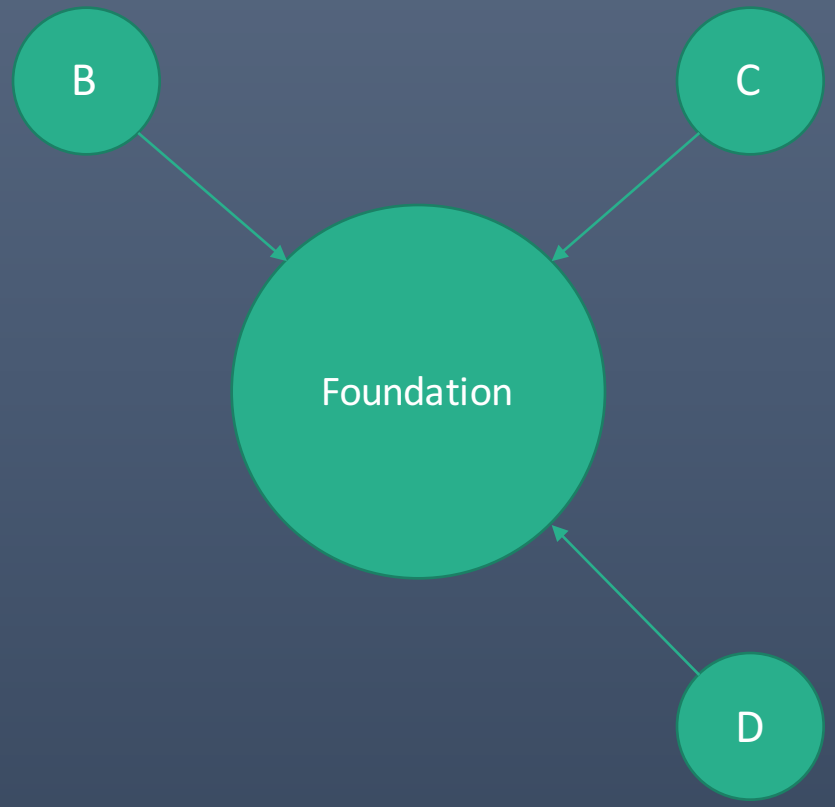
What happens when that single company moves on?





Working within a Foundation under an Open Governance model ensures that community and user investment in a core ecosystem is protected.

Companies collaborate around a common, commoditized core to establish a stable and healthy competitive ecosystem.



If any single participant drops out, or shifts focus, the ecosystem continues to thrive.

Under an Open Governance model:

Anyone who wants to contribute to the project can do so.

Anyone who wants to benefit from the project can do so.

There is no single point of control or failure.

Thank you.

Resources:

http://nodejs.org/foundation
http://openstack.org/foundation
http://cloudfoundry.org/foundation
https://www.opencontainers.org/governance
http://apache.org
https://www.hyperledger.org/community