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Freedom First—Unleashing Developer Potential with Open Source



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About me

- Started at WSO2 in 2005, contributing to key open source projects like Axis2, Synapse, and Axiom at the Apache Software Foundation.
- Spearheaded several strategic technology initiatives including the Carbon framework and the adoption of Kubernetes and other cloud-native technologies.
- Elected Member of the Apache Software Foundation since 2010
- Co-authored the book “Apache Axis2 Web Services.
- Regular presenter at technology conferences such as KubeCon, Oscon, and WSO2Con, sharing insights and promoting open source advancements.

The original WSO2 Tungsten team!





What makes a great developer?

Problem solving skills

Ability to create “good” design and “good” code

Programs must be written for people to read, and only incidentally for machines to execute *– Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs*

Premature optimization is the root of all evil *– Donald Knuth*

Continuous Learning

Technical Proficiency

Collaboration and Communication

Passion and Motivation

Empathy and User Focus



Problem solving

Technical proficiency

Good design & code

Continuous learning

Collaboration & communication

Passion & motivation

Empathy & user focus



The Apache Way
A Model of Open Source Values

Community Over Code

- Health and sustainability of the community are more important than the code itself
- Inclusivity and Diversity: Ensuring a wide range of perspectives and skills by encouraging contributions from all over the world.
- Consensus-based Decision Making: Decisions are made through discussions, where every community member can voice their opinion, and consensus is sought for major decisions.
- Mentorship and Guidance: Experienced members mentor newcomers, helping to integrate them into the project and foster the next generation of leaders.



Meritocracy

- Influence in a project is earned through contributions.
- encourages active participation and rewards contributors with recognition, decision-making authority, and leadership roles based on their:
  - Quality of Contributions: Contributions are not just measured by quantity but also by their impact and quality.
  - Engagement in the Community: Active involvement in discussions, decision-making processes, and community events.
  - Leadership and Initiative: Taking initiative in solving problems, proposing new ideas, and leading projects or components.



Openness

Openness is a cornerstone of the ASF's operation, encompassing everything from transparent decision-making to public availability of documentation and code. This value ensures:

- Public Communication: All discussions about project development are conducted on public mailing lists, ensuring transparency and that decisions are made openly.
- Accessible Code and Documentation: Code repositories and documentation are openly accessible, encouraging external review, adoption, and contribution.
- Open Participation: Anyone can participate in an ASF project, and there are no barriers to entry for new contributors.

Personal brand building

- Visibility
- Establishing Expertise
- Networking Opportunities
- Leadership Skills
- Public Speaking and Writing
- Global Impact




Open source turns good devs into great devs, and delivers better value to everyone
– yours truly, 2024