SAPs Open Source Program Office

Overview

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Open Source Program Office (OSPO)
What is an Open Source Program Office

“An open source program office (OSPO) is designed to be the center of competency for an organization's open source operations and structure.”*

Companies: Facebook, IKEA, Microsoft, Red Hat, SAP**

Academia, governments, etc.: European Commission, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Trinity College Dublin, ...

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*) Source: https://github.com/todogroup/ospodefinition.org
**) See also: TODO Group OSPO Adopters
Typical Responsibilities of an OSPO

Open Source Strategy
How open source supports the company strategy

Open Source Policy & Processes
Defining and implementing rules and processes for dealing with and managing open source

Tooling
Introducing, administering tools for open source management

Open Source Training
Developing, providing and maintaining an open source training program

Communication
Company-internal and -external communication about open source activities

Open Source Memberships
Aligning memberships and engagements in open source organizations with strategic goals
How an OSPO could fit into your Organization

One central OSPO vs. Multiple decentralized OSPOs

Dedicated department vs. Virtual team vs. Combination of both

Reporting into Development / CTO vs. Legal / CFO vs. Marketing / CMO
SAPs OSPO
SAP's Open Source Journey – Milestone Examples

1998
- R/3 port to Linux
- Definition of inbound open source process

2001
- Founding member of Eclipse Foundation

2004
- Formal definition of outbound open source process

2008
- OSS scanning tools

2010
- SAP joins Open JDK

2011
- SAP open sources Open UI5

2013
- Simplified inbound open source process

2015
- SAP joins CNCF
- Founding member of Cloud Foundry Foundation

2016
- SAP OSPO established

2017
- SAP open sources Gardener & Kyma

2018
- German Corona-Warn-App together with Telekom

2019
- SAP open sources Gardener & Kyma

2020
- Simplified outbound open source process with Github tooling
Situation Before the SAP OSPO was Founded

- **Grown structures** (teams and processes) to cover the different aspects of open source management such as licenses, IP, security, communication/developer relations, tooling
- Involved teams are **spread across different board areas** and **do not work exclusively on open source topics**
- Potential for **improvement of collaboration** among teams was identified
- Complaints from development about **inefficient processes**
- **Single point of contact** for questions around open source **did not exist** within the company
SAP OSPO is a virtual team of representatives from different open source-related functions to jointly work on common tasks and towards common goals.
SAP OSPO – Areas of Responsibility

Strategy & Policy
We define, evolve & drive the open source strategy & policy.

Enablement & Support
We train, enable & support our teams to benefit from open source by consuming & contributing to it.

Compliance & Risk Management
We mitigate & manage the risks, obligations & challenges of open source consumption & contribution.

Processes & Tools
We continuously improve our open source management processes & tools.

InnerSource
We promote & facilitate InnerSource at SAP.
How we Founded the SAP OSPO

Overall plans (i.e. the foundation of an SAP OSPO) were aligned with all relevant teams. Support of these teams was given

Support of CTO was given

SAP OSPO was founded with a 2-days kick-off workshop with representatives from all relevant teams

- Definition and alignment on **common goals and mission of the OSPO**
- Definition and alignment on **initial scope / focus topics of the OSPO**
- Alignment on **organizational setup** and **OSPO working mode**

After that, topics were clustered and OSPO workstreams were set up
OSPO Working Mode – Scrum

- Five different workstreams (aka epics)
- One joint OSPO product backlog in Jira
- Each epic handled by a cross-functional scrum team
- 4-week sprints with monthly planning & review meetings
Open Source Champions @ SAP: 15 champions in 10 locations

- Palo Alto
- Denver
- Montreal
- Vancouver
- São Leopoldo
- SAP Labs, France
- Czech
- Bulgaria
- SAP Labs, Israel
- Bangalore
- Shanghai
- Germany, (*) Munich, Eschborn, Potsdam, Walldorf

Looking for new champion
Open Source Champions Network @ SAP

Our Open Source Champions are ambassadors of the Open Source Program Office and SAP open source related topics, supporting our ecosystem grow. They come from teams across SAP and are able to help advise on open source and help share knowledge.

- Advise colleagues and share knowledge
- Review support and feedback
- Dissemination of information
- Raise awareness in labs location
- Enablement and knowledge transfer
- Open discussions

Feedback and dissemination of survey
Input and review of policy strategy, trainings, new twitter channel, etc.
Meet-ups in different lab locations/d-kom presentations, Webinar speakers, etc.
I appreciate being part of the OSPO Champions’ network, because…

“… it enables me to stay connected with the central ideas and ideologies of my passion OpenSource and spread the knowledge especially in my ‘satellite’ location”, Open Source Champion in Germany.

“… I'm able to provide direct feedback and suggest solutions to topics addressed by OSPO and I feel I can influence changes needed to make SAP more active in open source community”, Open Source Champion in Poland.
Further Reading
Some Material about OSPOs and the SAP OSPO

How to create an Open Source Program (guide of the TODO Group)

OSPO 101 (training modules of the TODO Group)

Open Source Good Governance Initiative (guide from OW2)

SAP: One of Open Source’s Best Kept Secret (interview with the Linux Foundation, 2019)

How to Manage Open Source at Scale in a Global Enterprise (presentation at the Open Source Leadership Summit, 2019)

How SAP Manages Open Source Software with an Open Source Program Office (SAP Blog Post, 2021)
Thank you.

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