

# You don't need to be Linus Torvalds

Open Source Contributions without Code

**But wait...**

**Who is Linus Torvalds?**

**In short**

**Linus Torvalds is  
the “creator” of  
Linux and Git**

**He’s actively promoting  
Open Source and is  
currently sponsored by  
the Linux Foundation  
to work on Linux**

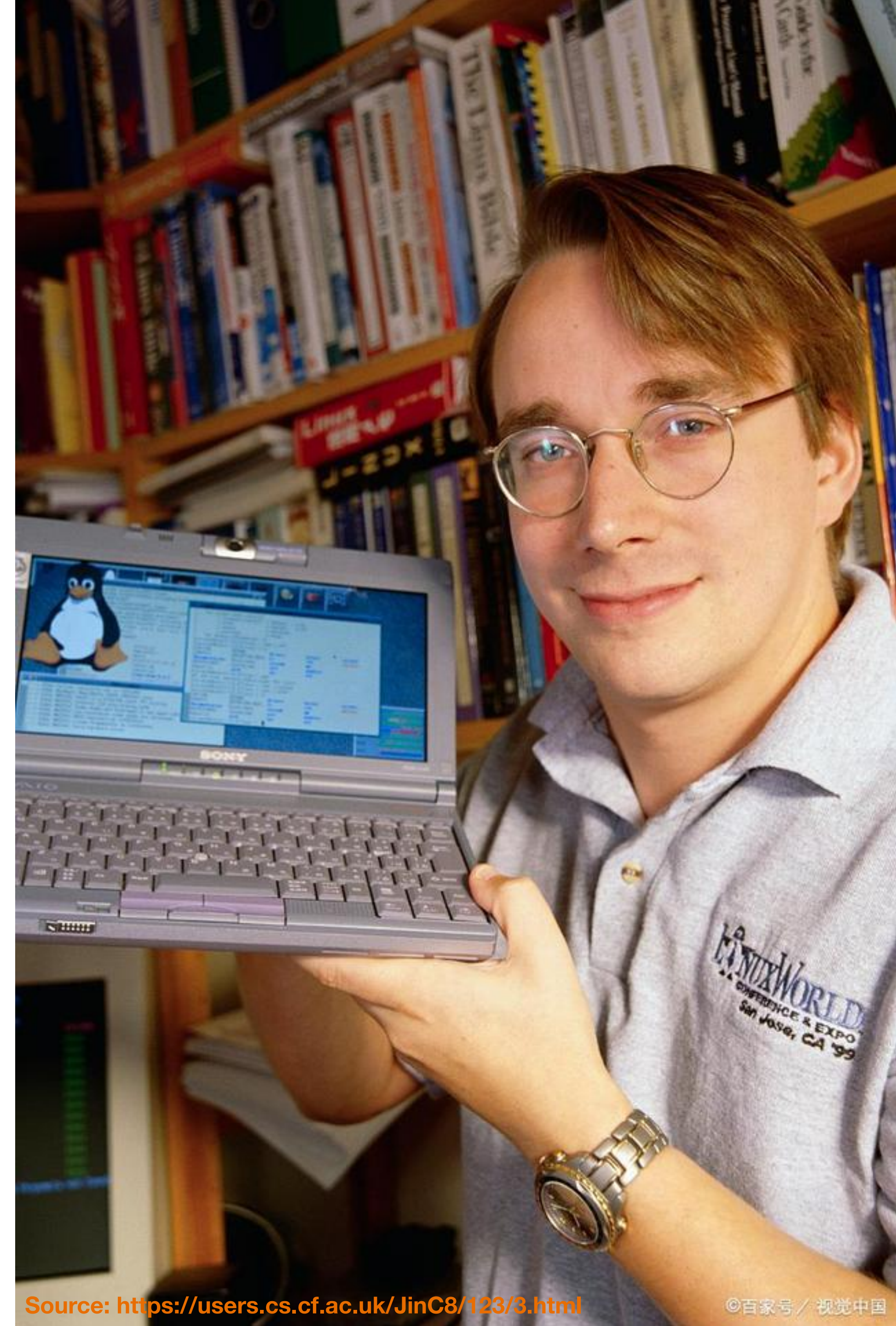


Source: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linus\\_Torvalds](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linus_Torvalds)



So...

Do we have to  
be like Linus  
to contribute  
to Open Source?





**In short:**  
**No.**

In short:

No. 🎉





# Dominik Schmidle

**Product Manager @ Giant Swarm**

**Responsible for our  
Observability Platform**

**But also member of  
Cloud Native  
Platform Engineering Group**

**Passionate for  
Product (Ops) | Cloud | People**



# Giant Swarm

## Smarter Platform Engineering

**Platform Teams**  
of all sizes partner with  
**Giant Swarm** to increase  
developer productivity.





**Coming back...**

**How can one contribute without code?**

How about

Just do some  
Documentation?





But...

In order to write the  
Documentation  
you should  
**understand or use**  
the tool you document



So...

You still need to be technical?





In short:

No.



**The best tip I can give:**  
**Join the conversation!**

There is always

# Overarching Open Source Foundations



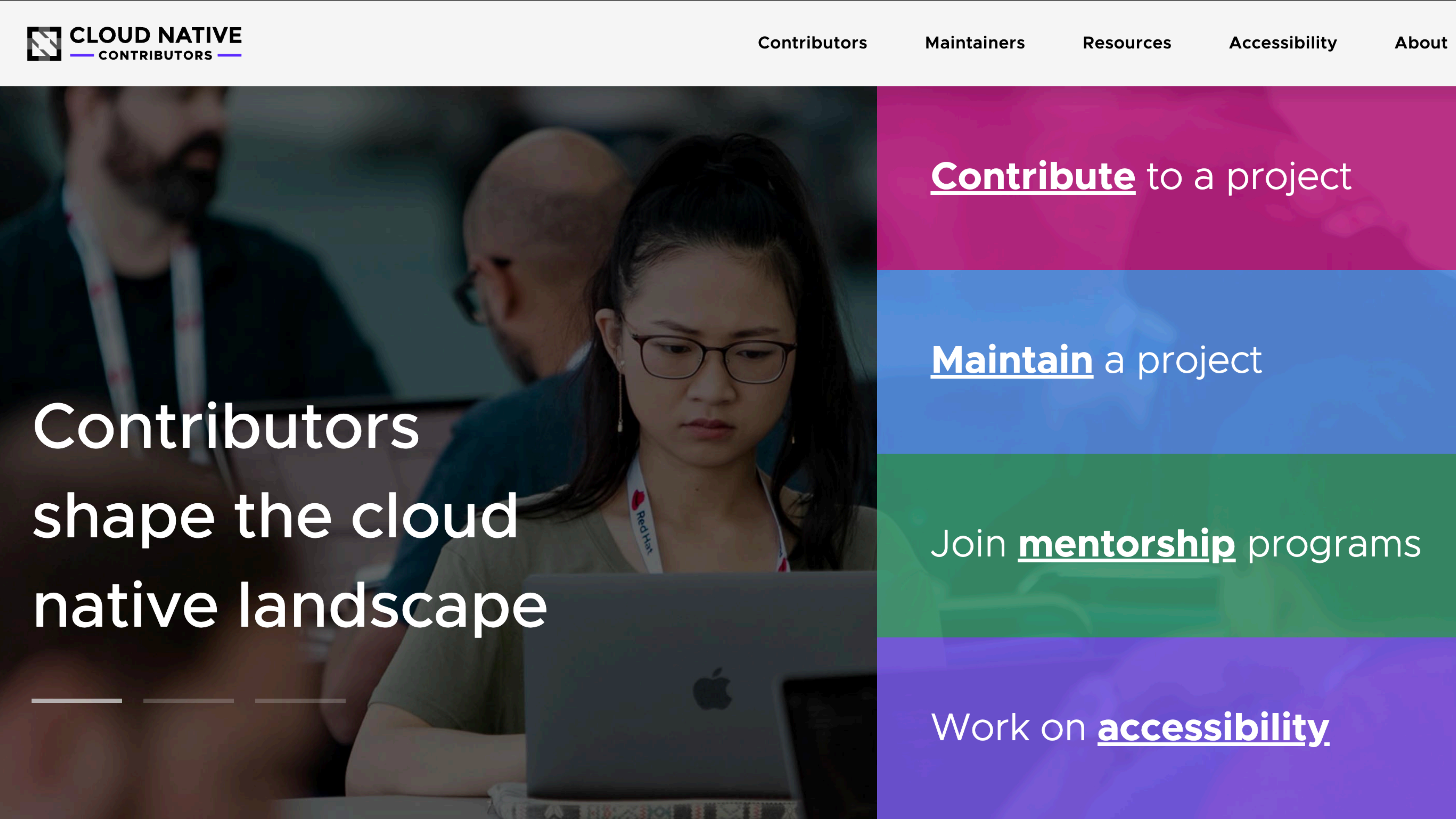
**CLOUD NATIVE**  
COMPUTING FOUNDATION



**Green  
Software  
Foundation**







# Contributors shape the cloud native landscape

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**Contribute** to a project

**Maintain** a project

Join **mentorship** programs

Work on **accessibility**.

**Or you already have**  
**an open source tool you love**







**My journey**

**How I started contributing as a PM**

 Search this site...

Working Groups

App Development Working Group ▾

Artifacts Working Group ▾

Infrastructure Lifecycle Working Group ▾

Operator Working Group ▾

Platforms Working Group ▲

CNCF Platforms White Paper

Glossary

Platform Engineering Maturity Model

Platforms Working Group Charter

# CNCF Platforms White Paper

 [Download PDF](#)

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## Introduction

Inspired by the cross-functional cooperation promised by DevOps, platform engineering has begun to emerge in enterprises as an explicit form of that cooperation. Platforms curate and present foundational capabilities, frameworks and experiences to facilitate and accelerate the work of internal customers such as application developers, data scientists and information workers. Particularly in cloud computing, platforms have helped enterprises realize values long promised by the cloud like fast product releases, portability across infrastructures, more secure and resilient products, and greater developer productivity.

This paper intends to support enterprise leaders, enterprise architects and platform team leaders to advocate for, investigate and plan internal platforms for cloud computing. We believe platforms significantly impact enterprises’ actual value streams, but only indirectly, so leadership consensus and support is vital to the long-term sustainability and success of platform teams. In this paper we’ll enable that support by discussing what the value of platforms is, how to measure that value, and how to implement platform teams that maximize it.

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- 1. Why platforms?
- 2. What is a platform
- 3. Attributes of successful platforms

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## The CNCF Platform Working Group

- Slack Channel
- Regular meeting every 2 weeks
- Deep Dive Meetings
- Platform Coffee
- Content Club
- GitHub Issues and Google Docs

## My journey there

- Joined Slack
- Joined regular syncs
- Helped review Maturity Model
- Translated Platform Glossary
- Co-Lead Platform-as-a-Product Research
- Helping reshape the Community Group



## Challenges of the research

- Start from scratch with research process
- Motivate people to join the effort
- Do research interviews
- Synthesis of research results
- Present the results

## Tools for the research

- Slack Channels
- Blog Posts
- Meeting Apps (Zoom, Meet, etc)
- GitHub / Google Drive
- Whiteboards and AI



**Presenting the outcome**

**With a talk on KubeCon London 2025**

# Platform organisations struggle to define & operationalize measures of success

**Measure activity over impact**

often adoption and usage

instead of user and business value.

**Success is often felt, not proven**

often based on anecdotes

instead of actionable metrics

**Metrics seldom inform prioritization**

often leadership driven

instead of informed by metrics



**Platform  
Engineering Day  
EUROPE**



**And that's the last tip for today**

**You can also do talks and organise events!**

**It's true!**


**Open Source tools need marketing!**







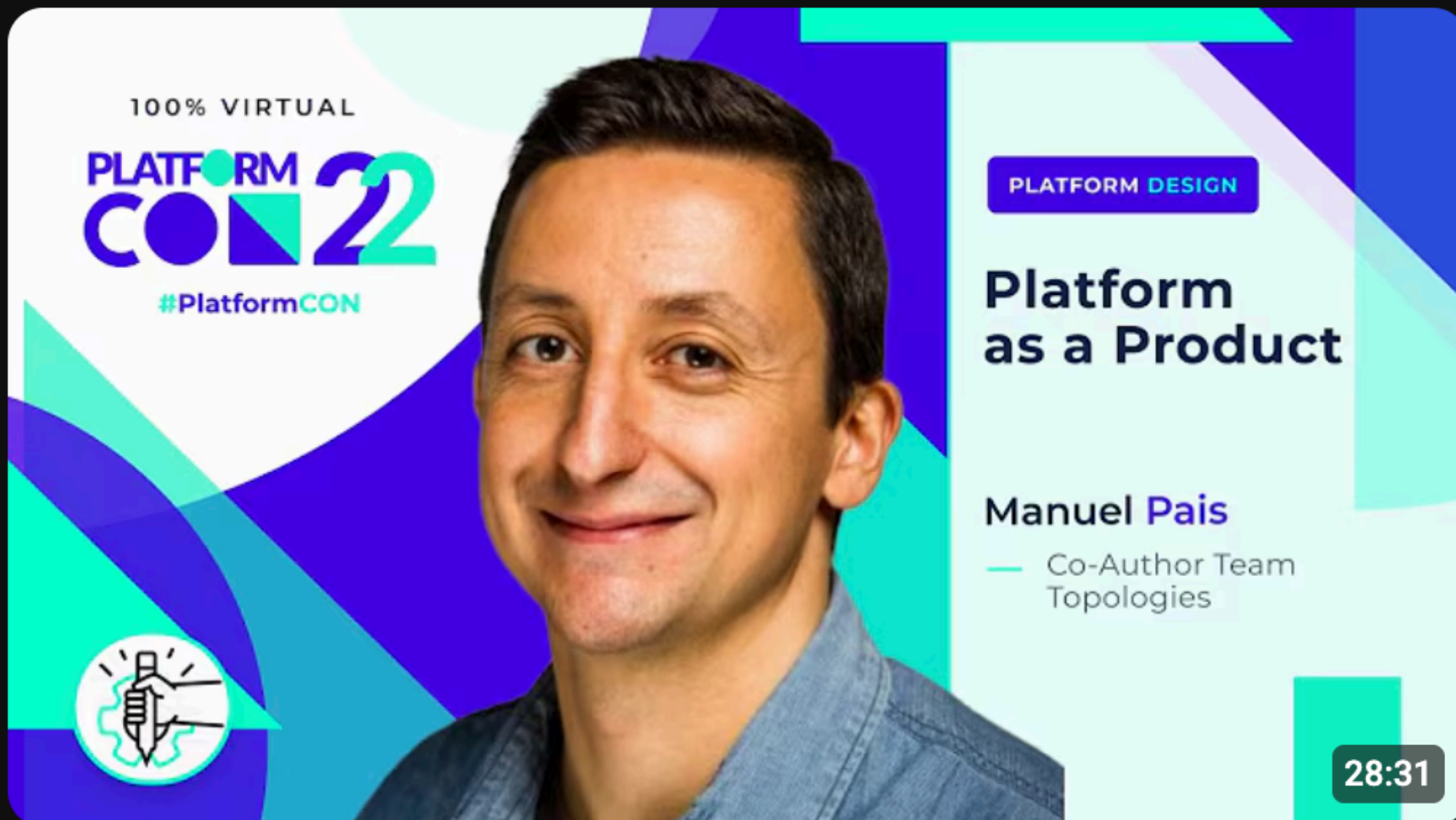
## Platform as a Product • William Rizzo • GOTO 2024

7551 Aufrufe • vor 9 Monaten

 GOTO Conferences ✓


William Rizzo - Lead Architect Consultant at Suse RESOURCES <https://x.com/WilliamRizzo19> ...

 **8 Kapitel** Intro | Platform engineering | Product mindset | Minimum viable platform | Functional representation of... 





## Platform as a Product • Manuel Pais • PlatformCon 2022

16.616 Aufrufe • vor 2 Jahren

 Platform Engineering


Savvy organisations are discovering the value of treating their internal platforms as products. But what does it mean to treat a ...

 **13 Kapitel** Introduction | What is Platform as a Product | What is a Platform | Interaction Modes | Product Definitio... 



## What the heck is Platform-as-a-Product? - How product thinking drives your platform maturity

210 Aufrufe • vor 7 Monaten

 ContainerDays

The Cloud Native Computing Foundations (CNCF) Platform Engineering Maturity Model has made one thing pretty obvious: In



**Every talk, workshop or demo helps!**

**Just go out there and talk about Open Source**

# Wrap Up



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1. Find a tool or foundation that you love or want to help with!

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1. Find a tool or foundation that you love or want to help with!
2. Join the conversation of the existing community around the foundation or tool
3. Don't overthink, just jump in and get active, with some small things to start!



# Thank you for your Attention!

Any open questions?

## Getting started with CNCF



## Connect on LinkedIn

