

## OSPO in China

「开源之道」·适兕

Open Source @ 西门子 2025

30th & 31st of October 2025



Open Source participant

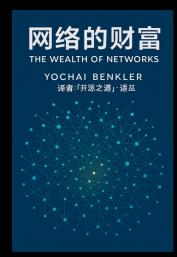
OSPO evangelist author/translator founder of "The Way of Open Source."













#### My OSPO journey in local



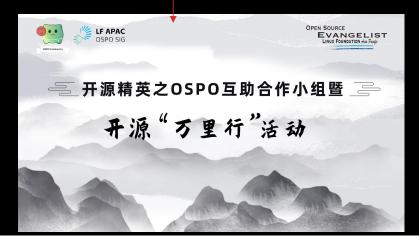
The 2nd OSPO Summit

OSPO Summit 2025

OSPO Summit 2025

2021 co-found

#### Go in local OSPO





#### Open source as an institutional innovation

- Encompassing technology, engineering, organization, law, and culture
- From GNU to Linux, then to Android and PyTorch
- The corporation is a pivotal invention of the modern era, so open source too.
- The underlying logics of the firm and open source differ profoundly
- An OSPO is, in effect, the key institutional bridge that fuses the two
- Enabling each side to achieve the other's ends



#### OSPO is institutional bridge

- Not technology management, but institutional translation.
- Rebuild inside the company a compatibility mechanism that aligns trust, contract, and community behavior.
- The firm's "compliance regime."
- The "institutional docking point" for entering the open-source ecosystem.



### An Explanatory Framework

As non-endogenous institutional change

learn / imitate

internalize/ practice

evolve / deform

#### OSPO In China Overview

- TODO Group OSPO Landscape
- OSPO Summit 2022~ 2025 Sponsoring / supporting organizations
- OSPO cases published by the Cloud & Big Data Research Institute of CAICT

• Education, ministries, universities / research

institutions, etc.

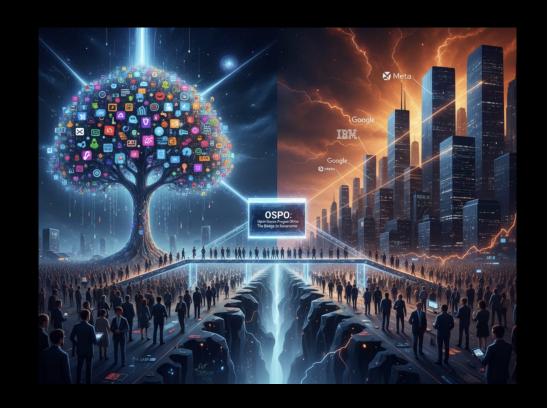






#### Learning, Importing, And Imitating

- Originating in the late 1990s, gaining momentum with the successes of projects and communities at companies like Google
- 2017–2019: codification of explicit knowledge—LF, TODO Group, and GitHub publish open-source guides
- 2021: begins to recognize or establish OSPOs
- 2022: LF APAC OSPO SIG is launched



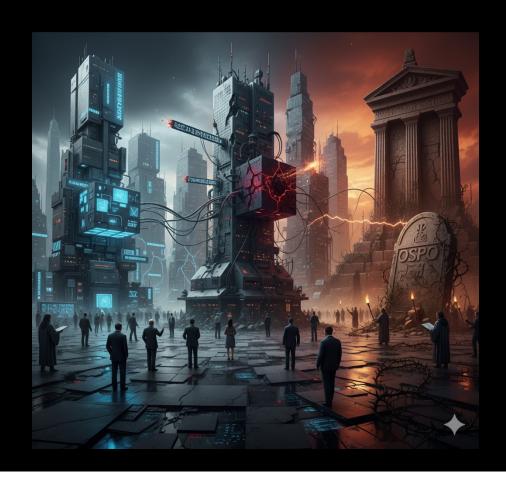
#### Internalization and practice

- Trying to embed it into the existing organizational structure
- Most place it under the technical committee (virtual)
- Placed within standards or ecosystem teams
- Legal teams spin off part of the work
- Helps with hiring, under the banner of DevRel



#### Failed or evolve

- Some evolve into a marketing outlet
- Some exist only as window dressing, spinning idly
- Some get conflated with Inner Source
- Some turn into operations for specific projects
- Some become a sub-unit of an administrative department
- Some serve as a lever for rent-seeking
- Some perform nothing more than compliance checks



#### IF SUCCESS, OSPO

- Deliver win-win for both the organization and the community
- Put in place sustainable governance of the commons
- Fuel innovation and kick-start the next wave of economic growth
- Motivate employees and community members to develop freely
- Transcend traditional production models—Linux, Android,
   K8s
- Cut costs and foster social harmony



#### A first-cut look at why the gap exists

- Open source is treated as a finished technology to be consumed, not created
- No mental model of "the open-source world" and no respect for it
- Distrust and incomprehension of the GPL and of selforganizing communities
- Lacks a builder's mindset or action—content to free-ride
- Outdated internal management systems clash with open ways
- Insufficient grasp of the Internet-era mode of production



"

# We invent institutions to govern cooperation!"

— Jason Potts 《Innovation Commons》