

# How to embed Open Source contribution into your company's DNA

## Who are we?



Rudy BAER
CEO & Once a
Developer & AI
prompter



Yoann FLEURY
Lead Front-End Developer
Expertise React &
TypeScript

# **BearStudio: 2016's context**



**Prio n°1**: Find customers

**Prio n°2**: Work for customers

**Prio n°3**: "Handle the going nuts fixed-price project"

...

**Prio x**: Open source contribution

- **Shy** junior team
- We used JHipster a lot
- → No historical OS contributors
- Limited resources

# The Core Challenge

The Core Challenge: Open Source in a **Service Company** 

- One person doing open source ≠ the company supports open source
- Companies are not individuals, they are for profit and needs time to get money
- Individuals can contribute anytime
- Companies "can't expect" or demand personal-time contributions

# Why?

- → IT companies depend on **Open Source** and make money
  - Completely different industry
  - Give a chance to everyone
- Give back to the community
- → Show **expertise**



# Spoiler alert we did it!

until now...

# **Contributions History**

- **→** 2019
  - ◆ **%** Formiz
  - ◆ 

    ✓ Start UI [web] (React Web boilerplate)
- **→** 2021
  - Start UI [native] (React Native boilerplate)

  - ◆ 

    ◆ Create Start UI (CLI to bootstrap a project)
- **→** 2022
  - Start Repo (Quickly create default issues on GitHub/ GitLab)
  - 🠙 .github
- **→** 2023
- **→** 2025
  - ♦ lunalink (TS library to build URL)
  - ui-state (Pattern Matching for UI)







# Our Company Recipe



# 1st ingredient tech communities

# What is Open Source?

Open source means sharing your code publicly, so anyone can view, use, modify, and contribute to it

It's about **collaboration**, **community**, and building together in the open.





## 1 - Send them as attendee

- → Meet **the people** behind Open Source
- **Encourage** developers to dive in after the talks



# 2 - Send them as Organizer / Volunteer

- → Open Source: share knowledge
- Conferences are mostly about Open Source technologies, by Open Source contributors...

**bonus:** in 2025, real-life kindness matters against online trolls



#### UX/UI Mentor - Hackathon

Handihack Hackathon mars 2018 - mars 2018 · 1 mois Rouen, Normandie, France

Coaching of teams on UX & UI Design

Compétences : Product Design · Front-End Development



#### UX/UI Mentor - Startup Weekend

Startup Weekend Rouen févr. 2018 - févr. 2018 · 1 mois Rouen, Normandie, France

Coaching of teams on UX & UI Design

Compétences : Product Design



#### UX/UI Mentor - Hackathon

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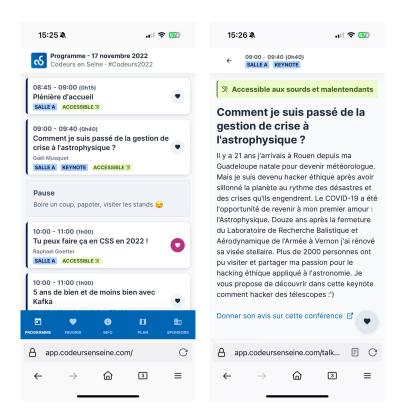
Compétences : Product Design







### **Tools contribution**





# 3 - Send them as speakers

- Talk about an Open Source tool
- → Non developers can do it too

# Secretary Vs Dev : retour d expérience d'une assistante administrative dans un dev studio

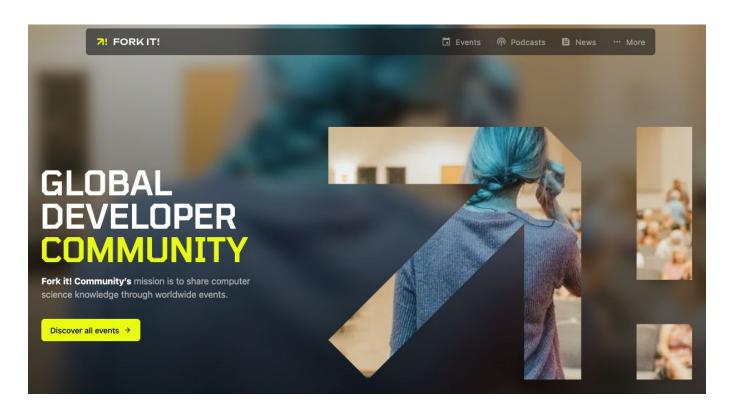
#### Claire Jeanne

Vous vous êtes déjà sentie comme une baleine dans Microcosmos ? Moi ça m'est arrivé.... Quand sur mon parcours professionnel j'ai rencontré un studio de développement. J'avais déjà écumé pas mal de secteurs, bien décidée à ne pas signer de CDI tant que je ne me sentirai pas vraiment bien quelque part ! Mais jamais rien qui ressemblait de près ou de loin au BEARSTUDIO.

J'ai plongé sans bouteille et sans préparation dans un monde où l'on m'a parlé d'agilité, d'auto-gouvernance, mais aussi de sprint, de merge request, d'issue et une flopée d'autre terme que je ne maîtrise toujours pas... En contrepartie je leur ai parlé contrat cadre, convention collective, gestion des congés, plan comptable...

1 an et demi plus tard je suis toujours là, eux aussi, on s'est apprivoisé on a appris à travailler ensemble et à se comprendre. C'est cette expérience singulière mais tellement enrichissante que je voudrais partager parce que franchement je ne regrette pour rien au monde d'avoir osé me lancer dans cette aventure professionnelle et humaine!

# **4- Create your community**



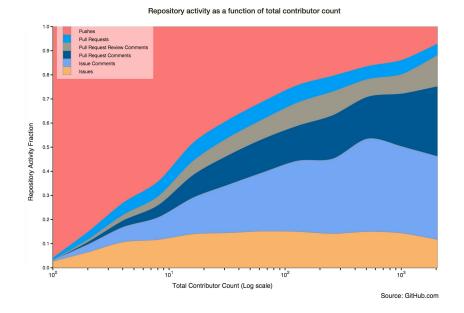
# Challenges for the company

- Encouraging people to **attend in person** while convincing to take a bit of their time
- → **Motivate** to speak: send as attendee first (or as volunteer)
- > Send them as **volunteer** to events
- Budget
- → Time

# 2nd ingredient Contribute to an existing project

# **Major issues**

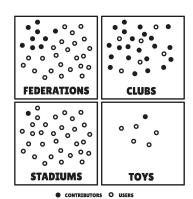
- Where to start?
- → **Impostor** Syndrome
- → **Motivate** team



https://github.blog/news-insights/research/the-shape-of-open-source/

# **Project choice**

- Project, technology or tool used by the team
- → **Size** (federations, clubs, toys, stadium)



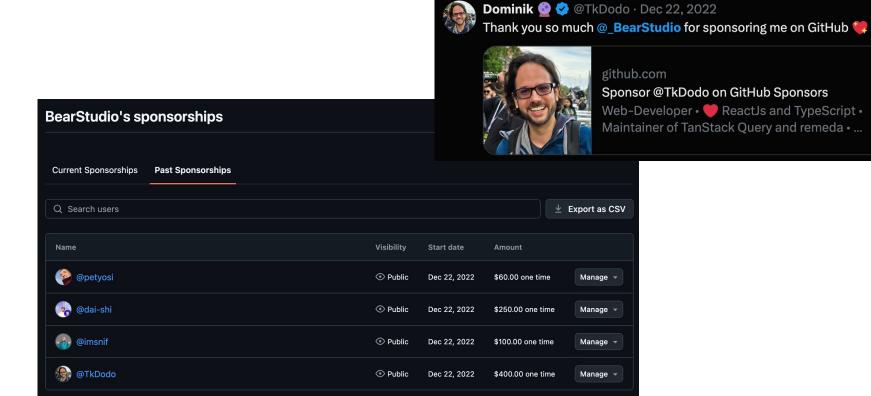
	HIGH USER GROWTH	LOW USER GROWTH	
HIGH CONTRIBUTOR GROWTH	Federations (e.g., Rust, Linux)	Clubs (e.g., Astropy)	
LOW CONTRIBUTOR GROWTH	Stadiums (e.g., Babel)	Toys (e.g., gitweb)	

# **No-code** contributions!

- → **Test** the project/tool
- Create issues
- → Take **simple issues** good first issue
- → Improve documentation
- → Help on the **design**
- → **Answer questions** from the community
- **→ Onboard** people



### **Donate**



# Tips and tricks for motivation and onboarding

- Dedicated recurrent day
- Dedicated period
- → Yearly objective
- Articles

# 3rd ingredient Create an Open Source project

# (Live "only" from Open Source)

- Freelance have a side mission
- Open Source companies sell
  - a product
  - change their business model
- Services companies sell support



# Clearly identify the goals



- For the company
- → For the **contributors**
- → For your **clients**
- → For your **users**

# Methods to move forward



- → Backlok preparation
- → Dedicated week or days
- → Code retreat
- Lunch break
- → Mob programming
- → **In between** contract



# **Techniques**

- Have a real everyday need
- → No need to be perfect on first releases
- > Show and tell
- Promote / Showcase
- → Find a **leader**
- Onboard others
- find users



# 4th ingredient maintain OS project

# **Main issues**

- → Keep up **the motivation**
- Free some time
- → Identify ROI





# **Marketing**

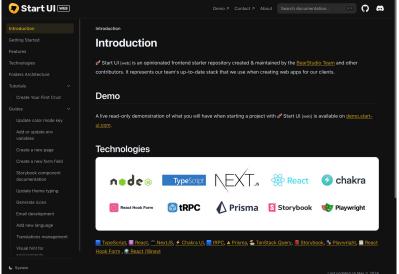
- Goodies
- Exhibitions
- Involve most people in the company





# **Doc & landing**





# Talk about your project











# Talk about your project



This Week In React Articles

cles Newsle

read

Sponso

■ English ▼



#### Issues

#### 2025

#237: RSC, TanStack, Storybook, Lingo Compiler, LiveStore, Base UI | Legacy Arch, Hermes N-API, 120fps, ReactRaptor, DevTools | TC39, Import Maps, Vite, Vitest, Babel, PHP

\*\* #236: Remix, TanStack, RSC, RedwoodSDK, Storybook, Docusaurus | ExecuTorch, Screens, FlashList, Reanimated, Expo, EAS, Radon | TypeScript, Temporal, Angular, JSPM, ESLint, tsdown

#235: React Router, createStore, SuspenseList, Transition Indicator, Compiler, RenderHooks, Waku, React-Scan | Expo, Lava, Fortnite, Skia, Al, Lynx | TC39, using, Zod, Node, Deno

\*\* #234: TanStack DB, TanStack Query, React Router, Vite, Redux Toolkit, Parcel | 0.80 RC, Expo, Legal, Re.Pack, Skia, Radon IDE, Rive | Rslib, Composites, Lightning CSS, Accessibility, V8

\*\* #233: RSC, Next.js, Compiler, Unhead, Shadcn, Relay, Mantine | Expo, WebGPU, Skia, Apple fees, Reanimated, Fragment Refs | Node.js, TS, Prisma, Deno, GSAP





#### Start UI [web] - Opinionated web app UI starter

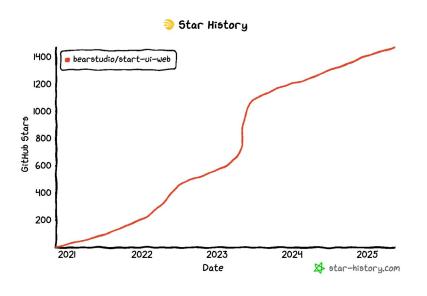
Our free and open source UI web app starter offers a quick and easy way to bootstrap your next project. It includes best practices & production ready tools to help you get started right away, saving you time and effort in the initial setup phase.

Comes with built-in **features** like \*\*Authentication, \*\*Responsive Layout, \*\*& User Management, \*\*Internationalization & Right-to-Left support, \*\*Dark Mode, \*\*\*Advanced components for easy development. You can try out the example app.

Ready to use with TypeScript, NextJS, Chakra UI, TanStack Query, Storybook and more.

Start UI [web] on GitHub

## **Collect Stars**



- Organic
- → **Give back** to the community by sponsoring newsletter
- Exhibit giveaway

# **ROI** on the company

A BEAR'S WORD

- Make your employee **learn** new things
- Improved efficiency and time saved through the use of OS projects
- ☐ Trigger **business** opportunities
- Learn and share Open Source bestpractices
- Builds "healthy" confidence

- Improve technical skills
- Improve **soft skills** (communication, project management, ...)
- ☐ Improve **documentation** skills
- Credibility



# Don't forget

- Subjects skipped like:
  - deprecation
  - version update
  - o community
  - 0 ...

# The main point

ROI is not measured by **money** 

- → ~€10 million in revenue thanks to open source.
- → How many from our contributions? Difficult to tell, but **not null**
- → Budget: teambuilding, marketing, business, HR...

FOSS contribution allows companies to manage their budgets differently

# Don't sleep on Open Source

