

Insider Truth in Developer Ecosystems

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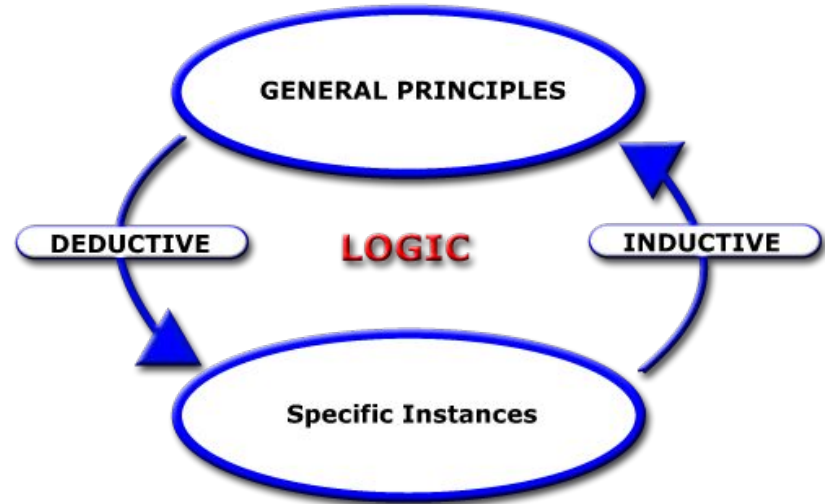
The history of science, like the history of all human ideas, is a history of irresponsible dreams, of obstinacy, and of error. But science is one of the very few human activities—perhaps the only one—in which errors are systematically criticized and fairly often, in time, corrected. This is why we can say that, in science, we often learn from our mistakes, and why we can speak clearly and sensibly about making progress there. In most other fields of human endeavour there is change, but rarely progress ... And in most fields we do not even know how to evaluate change.

— Karl Raimund Popper

Induction

Deduction

Concepts from philosophy that are basic to all human reasoning and thus important here too.



Insider truth refers to a basic system under which developers in a project operate and a commitment to various notions and principles that govern their activities. It is the basis for communication.

Successful communication occurs within that basic and common body of beliefs and notions

ECOSYSTEM

The notion of Truth is shared among multiple open source that are part of an ecosystem.

But projects cater to special areas and therefore it is often the case that there are special Truths that are valid for a certain project in the context of the Truth concept in the Ecosystem.

DEVELOPERS and USERS

There is a difference between those that are involved in developing software and the users. The developers are heavily invested in the project (thus a lot of buy in into insider truth) whereas the users may just occasionally have time for the project because it satisfies a special need that they have. Thus their commitment to the project and their buy in to the basic “Truths” of the project is often limited.

Meaning in Life

People get heavily invested. Zealous for Open Source or “Free Software” principles. The idea of doing something good for society or for humanity as a whole.

A Way of Life

Customs develop around life with open source. An emphasis on the openness of communication. Building social groups that support one another. Cooperation.



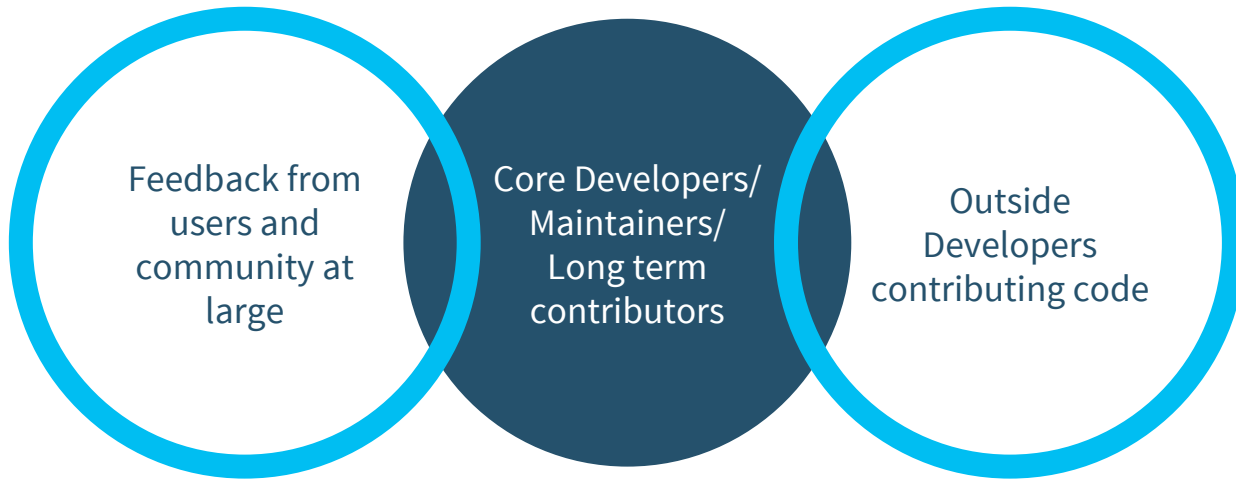
Science does not rest upon solid bedrock. The bold structure of its theories rises, as it were, above a swamp. It is like a building erected on piles. The piles are driven down from above into the swamp, but not down to any natural or 'given' base; and when we cease our attempts to drive our piles into a deeper layer, it is not because we have reached firm ground. We simply stop when we are satisfied that they are firm enough to carry the structure, at least for the time being.

(1959)

— Karl Raimund Popper

- » Tribes that span continents
- » No longer constrained by locality
- » Daily communication between tribe members
- » Membership in multiple tribes causes issues
- » Ecosystem may consist of multiple groups that we are a part of as a part of the whole of the open source movement

- » Draw other in and expand the ecosystem
- » Provide useful information or software
- » Ability to change to address challenges
- » Stable core developers
- » “Truth” defined mostly by core developers.
- » Truth approximates reality by interacting with outside world to provide a value to them.





We have arranged for ourselves a world in which we can live - by positing bodies, lines, planes, causes and effects, motion and rest, form and content; without these articles of faith nobody could now endure life. But that does not prove them. Life is no argument. The conditions of life might include error.

Nietzsche

Any questions?

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