

# Why Do We Need The Commons Conservancy?

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*The Commons Conservancy*

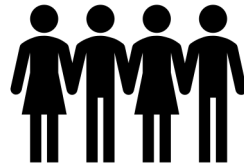
TNC 19

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# The Problem Space



You write  
some code  
for a thing

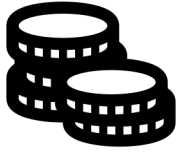


Other  
people like  
your thing



Stick code  
on github –  
SUCCESS!

# The Developer Suddenly Needs To Do:



Funding and Finances



User Support



Technical Requirements



Legal Agreements



Analytics and Monitoring



Security Audits

**I JUST WANT TO  
CODE**

## TERENA Study, 2013

**Do we need a Conservancy, what should it do, what should it be?**

You said:

- Trusted intermediary.
- Known jurisdiction.
- Light-touch.
- Community appropriate.
- Social.

## Basic Principles

- Open to anyone acting in the public interest
- Constructive, positive and inclusive approach
- (Open) License agnostic
  - Limited to Free Software/Open source efforts without commercial provisions
- No lock in
  - A Programme is free to go at all times to upgrade and run its own 'bare metal' organisation
- No sketchy stuff (review process)

# From project to programme

- A software project might:
  - Have a limited timespan
  - Defined team
  - Be innovative / capable of failing
  - Designed for short-term needs
- A Commons Conservancy programme:
  - Open timeline
  - Open community
  - Proven technology
  - Addresses long-term needs (software hardening, security audits etc.)

# Programme Structure

- Commons Conservancy is an 'organisation hypervisor' that can spawn and support virtual open source foundations
- Each Programme runs independently from all the others, in perfect isolation
- Each Programme determines its own operating environment (such as bylaws) with templates provided, and has own infrastructure (website etc.)



## What about money?

- Donations go to NLnet Foundation tagged for use within certain projects
- Invoices can be sent via a different entity “Commons Caretaker”
- Benefits of professionally audited environment with charitable status, but independent
- Programmes then free to maintain their own independence

## What about legal stuff?

- Templates for governance structure
- Templates for contributor agreements
- Advice on licensing
- Templates for IPR contributions etc.
- More can be added here if identified
- IPR held for the programme

## Does it Work?



**FILESENDER**



**eduVPN**

# Thank you

Any questions?

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