

Open Source Community Organization

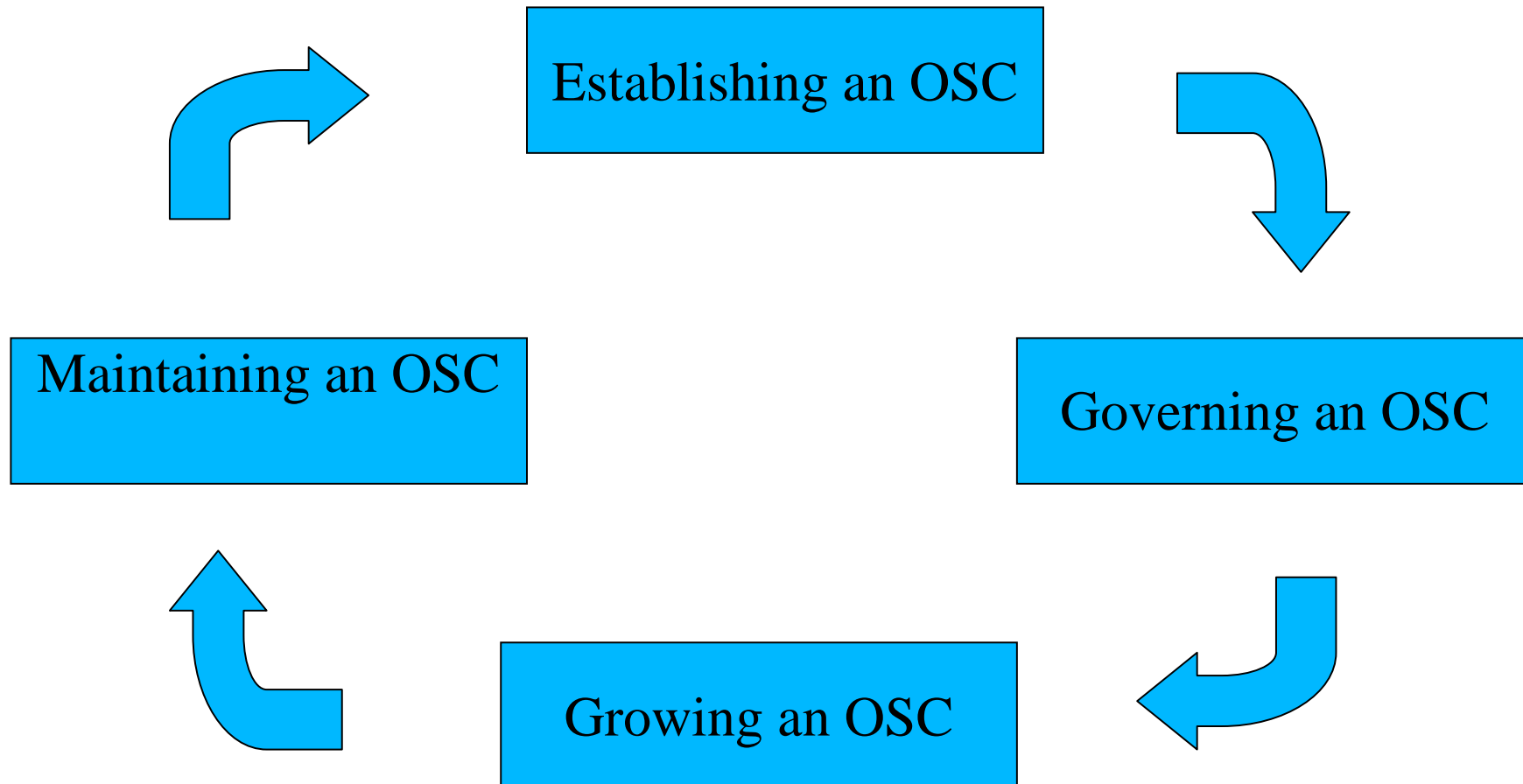
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- Motivation
 - Scubuntu project <URL: www.meraka.org.za/scubuntu.htm>
 - Simpler ways of establishing and maintaining an OSC
- Problem
 - Scattered literature (published articles) on OSC

- Provide insight into establishing and maintaining an OSC
- Propose a framework for OSC models
- Compare and analyse already successful OSCs
 - 4 case studies (Scilab, Debian, Apache, Ubuntu)

- Methodology
 - qualitative study
- Approach
 - Framework
 - Comparative case study analysis

- Framework developed for discussing OSCs
- Identification of key aspects influencing the OSC success
 - Attractiveness for new contributors and users
 - Governance and coordination strategy, leadership styles, community constitution
 - Growth and maintenance



- OSC Initiation

	Started by	Goal
Scilab	Research org	Address gap in OSS
Debian	Individual	Accelerate Linux adoption
Ubuntu	Individual	Give back to OSS community
Apache	Existing project	Ensure survival of project

- OSC governance

	Governance mechanism	Style
Scilab	Consortium of stakeholders and partners	Governed by committee, community manager
Debian	Elected leadership Strong constitution	Democracy (each contributor has equal an vote)
Ubuntu	Self appointed leader Councils and boards (some elected)	Combination of autocratic with democratic styles – key driver is pragmatism
Apache	Leadership, based on track record of contribution	Meritocracy – led by top contributors

- OSC growth

	Success factors
Scilab, Debian, Ubuntu, Apache	Projects rely on referrals, members participation, donations and reputation for growth

- OSC maintenance

	Success factors
Scilab, Debian, Ubuntu, Apache	Resolution of common issues

- Scilab
 - OSS consisting of numerical scientific software packages
 - Intended for engineering and scientific applications
- Debian
 - OS Linux distribution
 - Community owned and driven
- Ubuntu
 - Popular Linux distribution
 - Based on Debian
- Apache
 - Continuation of HTTPD web server from NCSA
 - Moved away from NCSA version, received lot of contributions

- When organizing an OSC
 - communication, planning, infrastructure
- Governing an OSC
 - governance, leadership styles
- Growing an OSC
 - motivate people, involvement, recognise contribution
- Maintaining an OSC
 - common issues

- Framework
- Comparison of existing OSCs
- Success requires
 - the community be accessible for new contributors and users
 - good governance structures
 - open communication
 - strong leadership
- Future work:
 - need for transparency and openness vs the need for strong governance
 - how governance style impacts community size and composition