Open Source
Program Office

Leading in Open Source, A Strategic Approach

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Agenda

- Dynamics of Collaboration: Individuals, Companies, and Communities.
- Contribution Strategy and Plans
- Tips for Sustaining Long-Term Strategic Contributions in Open Source
- Resources and Final Thoughts

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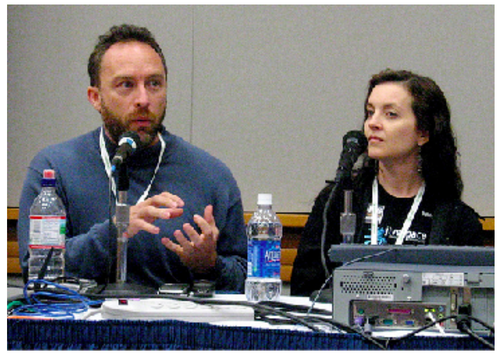
whoami



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- Geek, traveler, reader
- 20+ yr tech career focused on community & open source (Intel, Puppet, Scale Factory, …)
- OpenUK Board
- CNCF TAG Contrib Strategy co-chair
- CHAOSS Governing Board / Maintainer
- PhD from the University of Greenwich focused on Linux kernel collaboration

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Collaboration in OSS Projects: individuals, companies, and communities

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Individuals

Make contributions and earn leadership positions

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Companies

Employees contribute as individuals, but on their company's behalf

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Community = People

Community comes before company or individual needs

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Balance

Your organization needs to balance individual, company, and community needs

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Contribution Strategy and Plans

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Contribution Strategy and Plans

Align with business goals to highlight importance and impact

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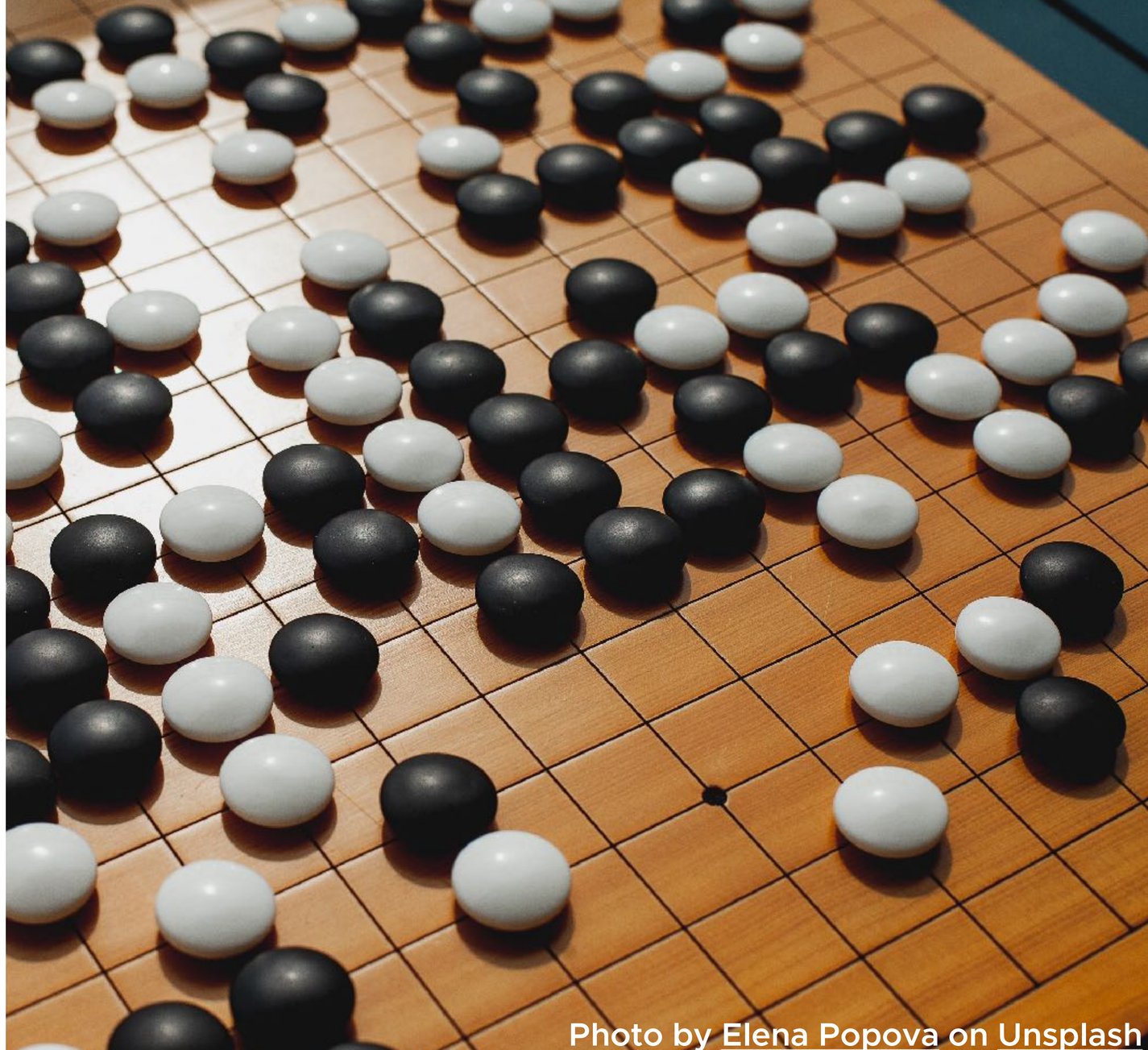
Which Projects?

Focus on strategic projects

with the biggest impact

to your company



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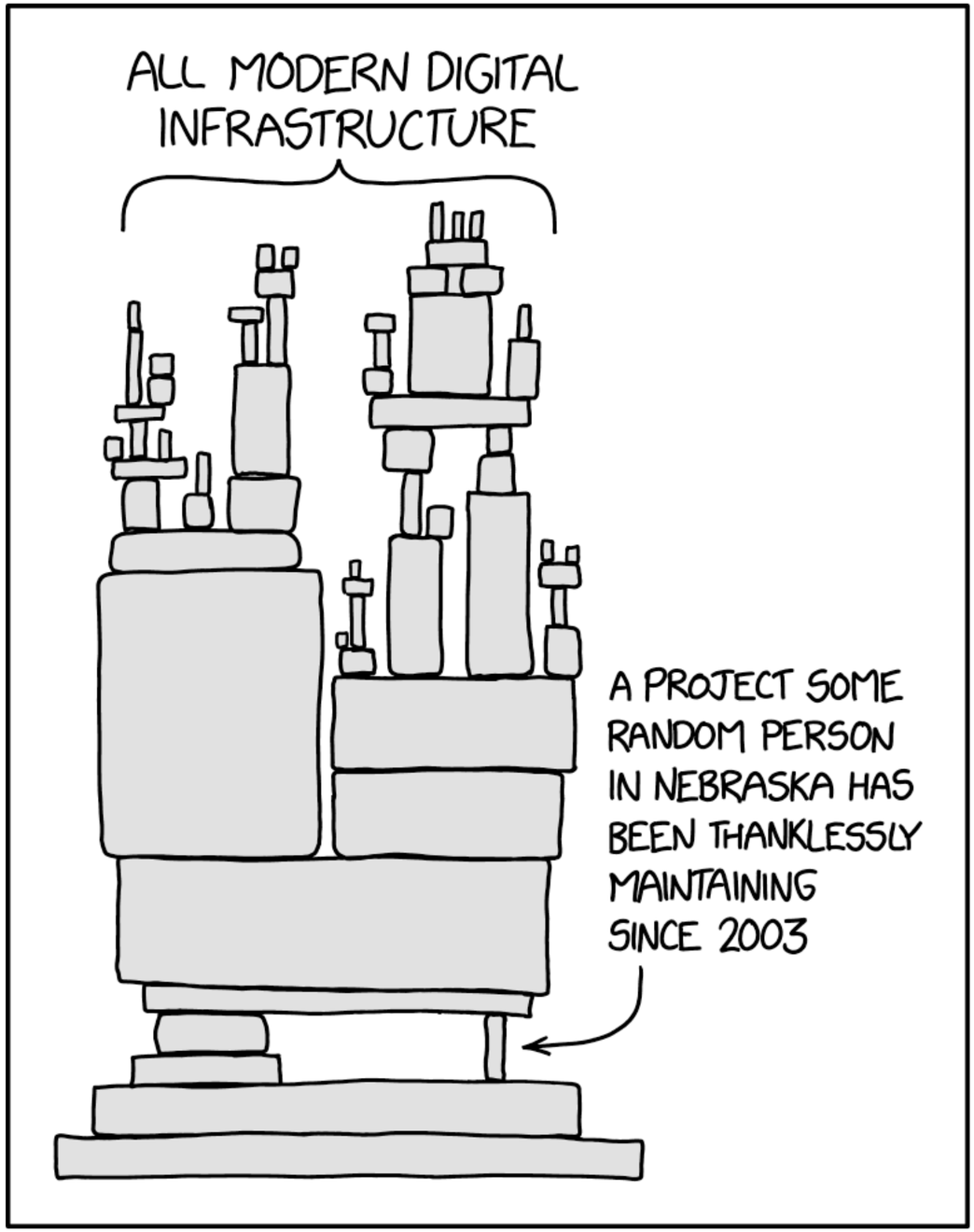
Risk and Strategy

Strategies should take both project and supply chain risks into account



https://xkcd.com/2347/

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Build / Contribute

Think strategically about decisions to build vs. contribute

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Staffing

Find or hire people

who want to contribute

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Guidelines

Guidelines and processes

should make it easy to contribute

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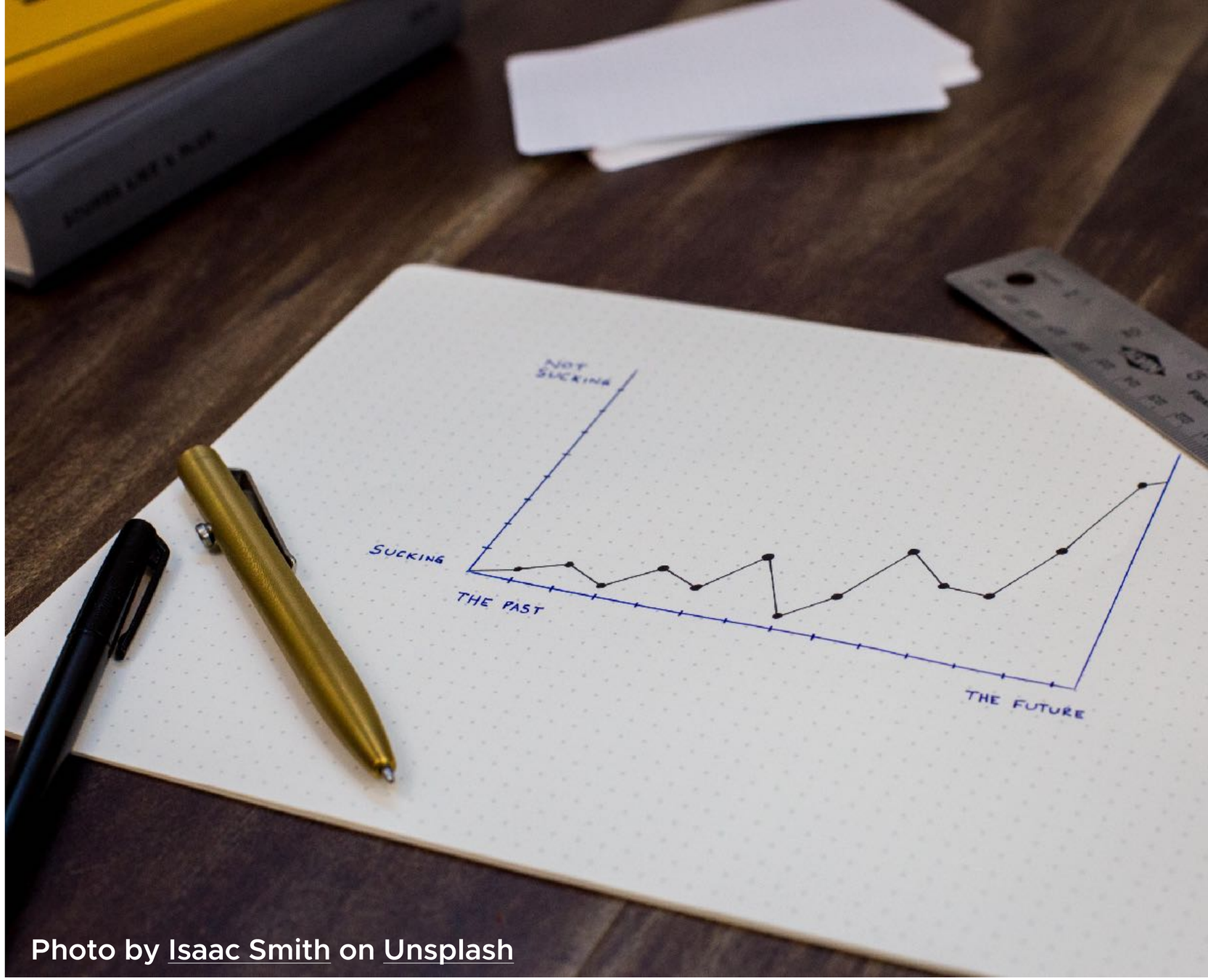
Measure Success

Define success criteria and data required to measure it

https://chaoss.community



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Sustaining Long-Term Strategic Contributions in Open Source

Upstream Your Patches

Long-term benefits

for your company

and the community

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Work with the Community

Discuss changes first and break them into smaller contributions

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Leadership

Encourage your employees to move into leadership positions within their communities

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Relationships

Send employees to events to get to know other community members

Image by The Linux Foundation CC BY

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Maintenance Expectations

Don’t expect someone else to maintain a large contribution

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Open Sourcing Your Software

Open source projects

for the

right reasons

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Resources

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Linux Foundation's TODO Group
https://todogroup.org/guides/

CNCF Contributor Strategy TAG Docs & Templates
https://contribute.cncf.io/maintainers/

The Open Source Way Guidebook
https://github.com/theopensourceway/guidebook/

CHAOSS Metrics
https://chaoss.community/

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Final Thoughts

Open source contributions work best if you take a long-term strategic approach

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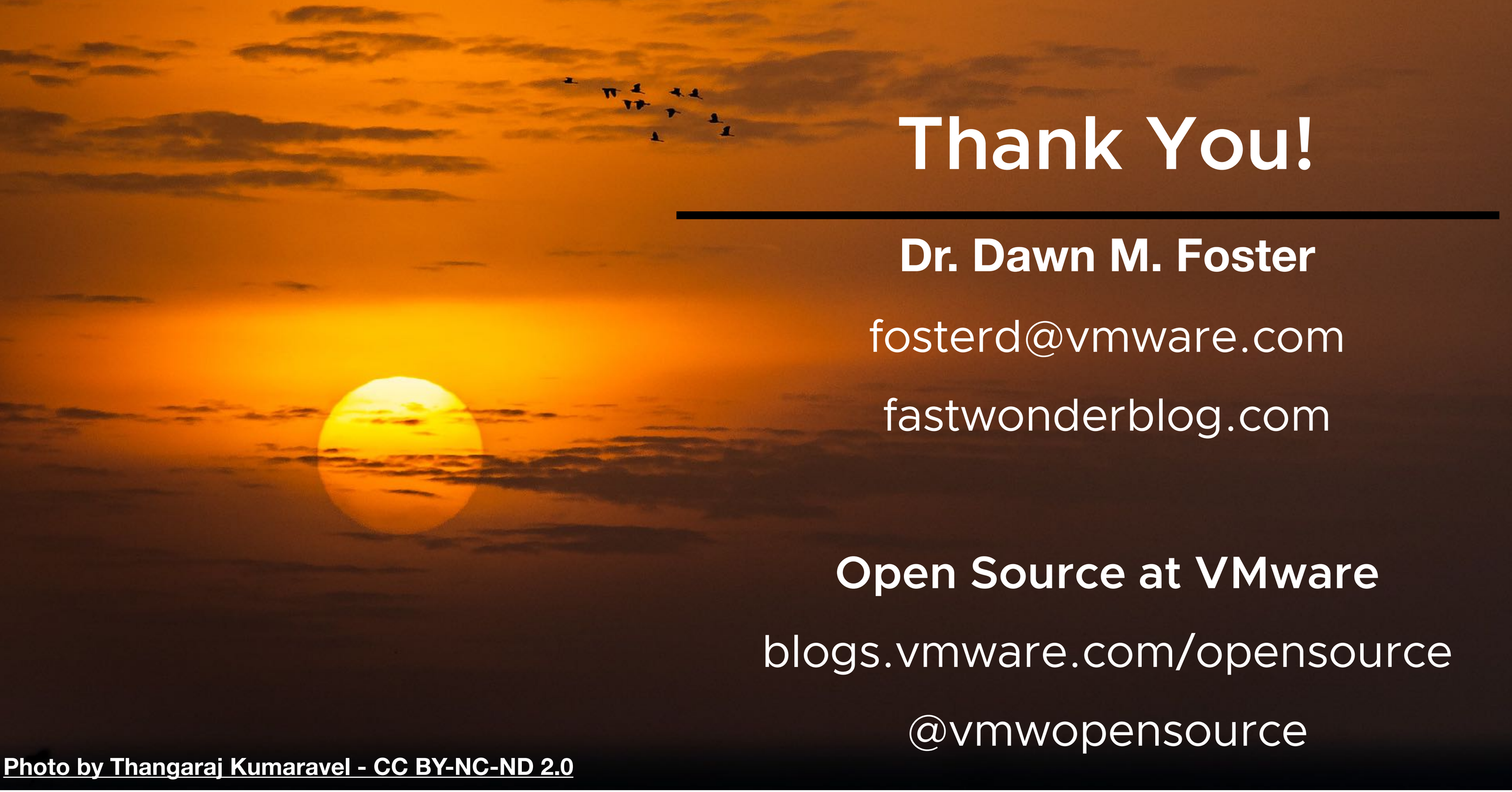

Thank You!

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Open Source at VMware

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