Engaging in Open Source Communities

OpenUK Meetup London - May 2023

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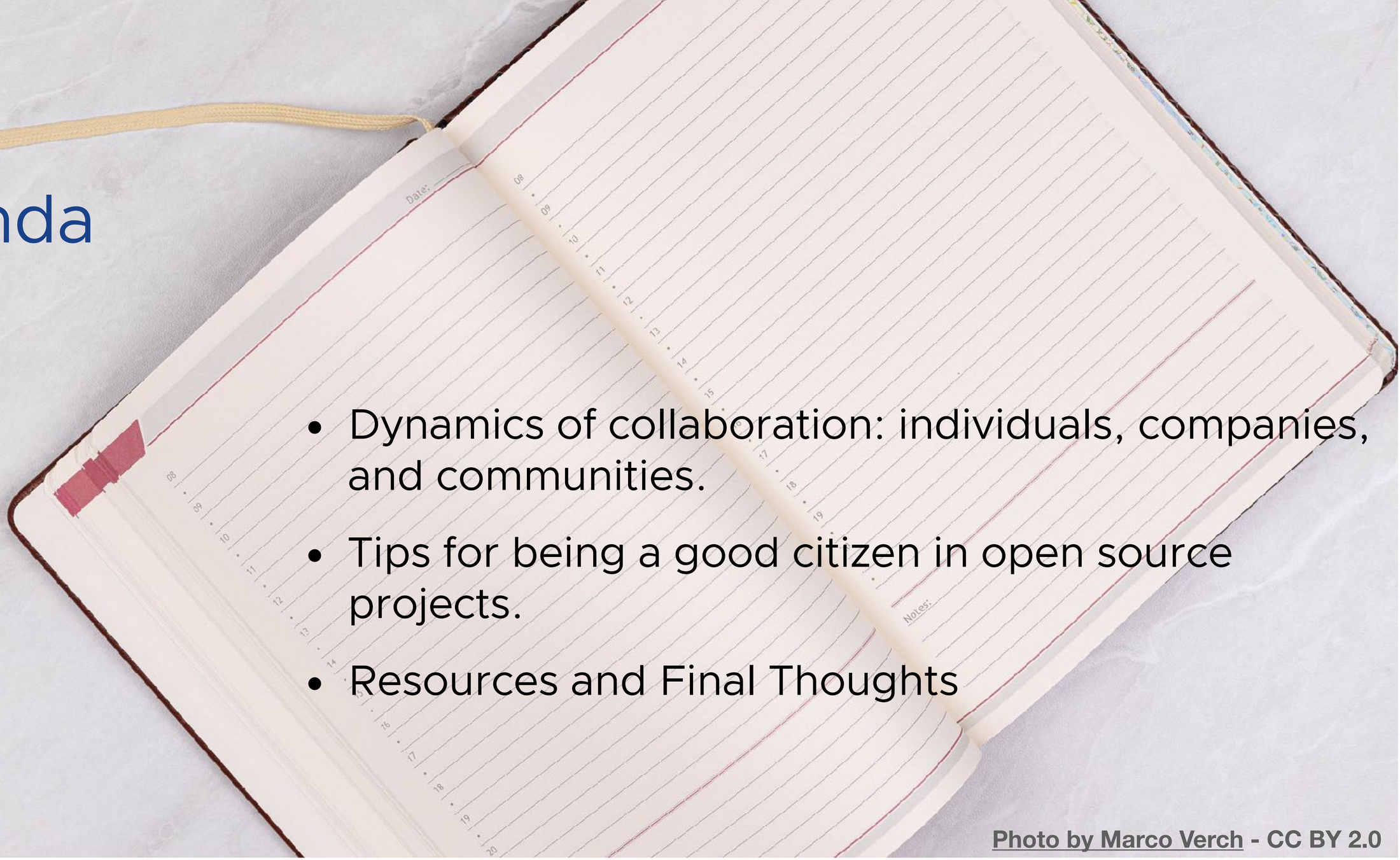
Agenda

- Dynamics of collaboration: individuals, companies, and communities.
- Tips for being a good citizen in open source projects.
- Resources and Final Thoughts



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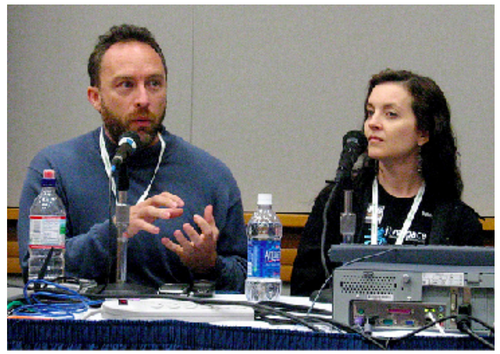
whoami



Photos by Mom, Josh Bancroft, Don Park

- Geek, traveler, reader
- 20+ yr tech career focused on community & open source (Intel, Puppet, Scale Factory, …)
- OpenUK Board
- CHAOSS Board and Maintainer
- CNCF TAG Contrib Strategy co-chair
- 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

Individual, company,

and community needs

need to be balanced

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Making Contributions as a Good Citizen in OSS

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Getting Started

Lurk and understand before starting with a small contribution

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Learn from Feedback

Avoid getting defensive and prepare to iterate on feedback

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Work with the Community

Discuss changes first and break them into smaller contributions

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Relationships

Attend events and

get to know people

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Upstream Your Patches

Reduces your work and benefits the community

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Maintenance Expectations

Don’t expect someone else to maintain a large contribution

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Open Sourcing Your Software

Prepare to maintain it

over the long-term

and build community

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Resources

CNCF Contributor Strategy TAG Docs & Templates

https://contribute.cncf.io/maintainers/

https://contribute.cncf.io/contributors/getting-started/

The Open Source Way Guidebook

https://github.com/theopensourceway/guidebook/

GitHub Open Source Guides

https://opensource.guide/

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Final Thoughts

Participation in OSS communities impacts your personal reputation. Strive to make it a positive impact.

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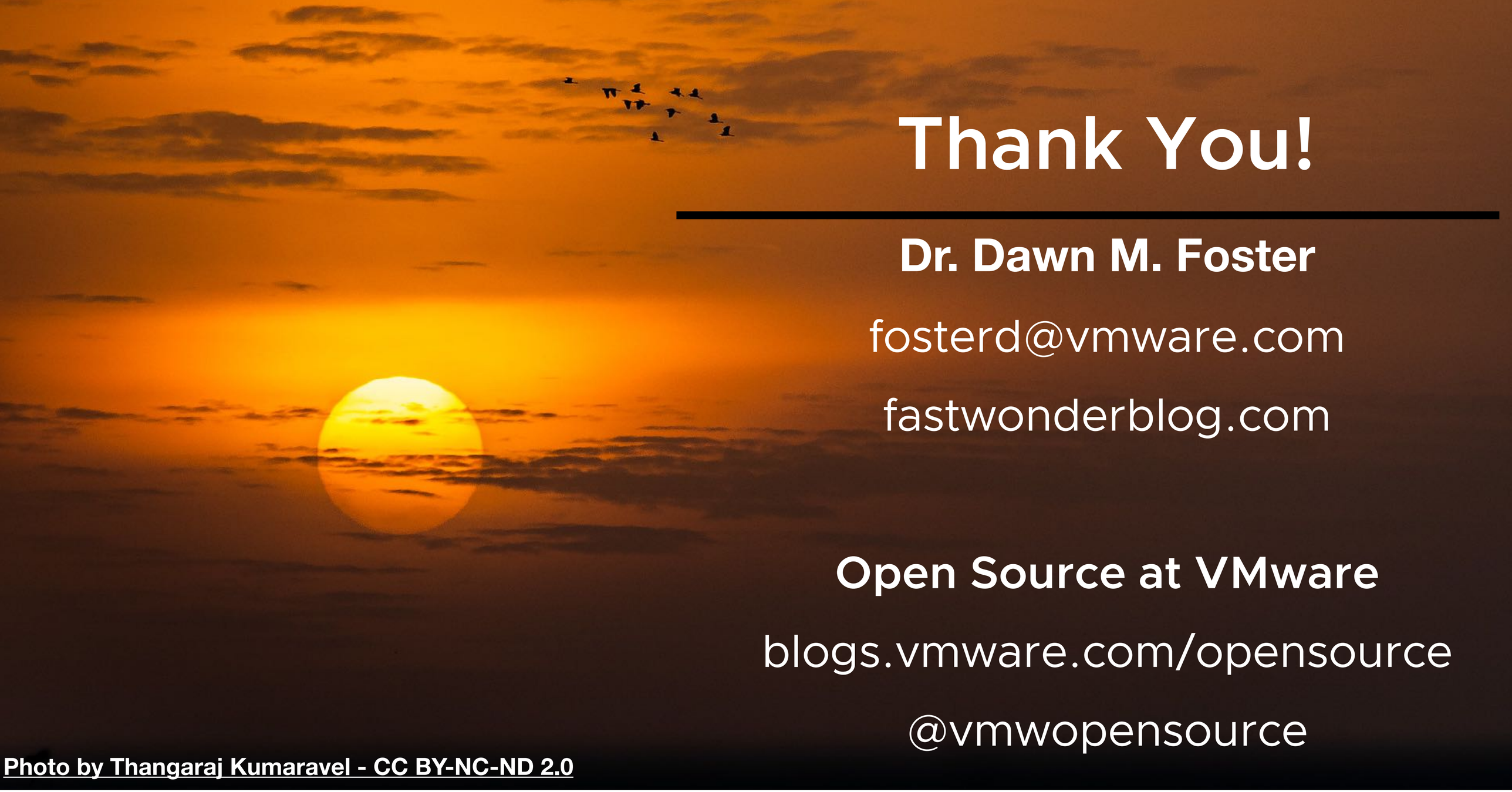

Thank You!

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