

Demonstrating the Value of Open Source Efforts

OSPOLogyLive Lyon Nov. 2025

Dr. Dawn M. Foster

Consultant and CHAOSS Director of Data Science

<https://chaoss.community/practitioner-guide-demonstrating-org-value/>

 <https://chaoss.community/>

 <https://github.com/chaoss>

 @chaoss@fosstodon.org

 <https://fastwonderblog.com/>

 <https://github.com/geekygirldawn>

 @geekygirldawn@hachyderm.io

 [@geekygirldawn.bsky.social](https://bsky.social/@geekygirldawn)



Thank You!



ALFRED P. SLOAN
FOUNDATION



Bob Killen

CNCF / Ex-Google

[https://www.linkedin.com/in/
mrbobbytables/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mrbobbytables/)



Whoami



- Geek, traveler, reader
- 30+ yr tech career focused on open source (VMware, Intel, Puppet, ...)
- Open Source Strategy Consultant
- OpenUK Board
- CHAOSS Board and OSPO WG lead
- PhD on Linux kernel collaboration

Photos by Mom, the Linux Foundation, and me

Agenda

- **CHAOSS Overview**
- **Goal Alignment**
- **Prioritization, criticality, & health risk**
- **Framing the Value**

Photo by Marco Verch - CC BY 2.0

CHAOSS: Community Health Analytics for Open Source Software

An Open Source, Linux Foundation Project

Context WGs: OSPOs, Academic / Uni,
Scientific, Data Science, UN SDGs, Funding
Impact, AI Alignment

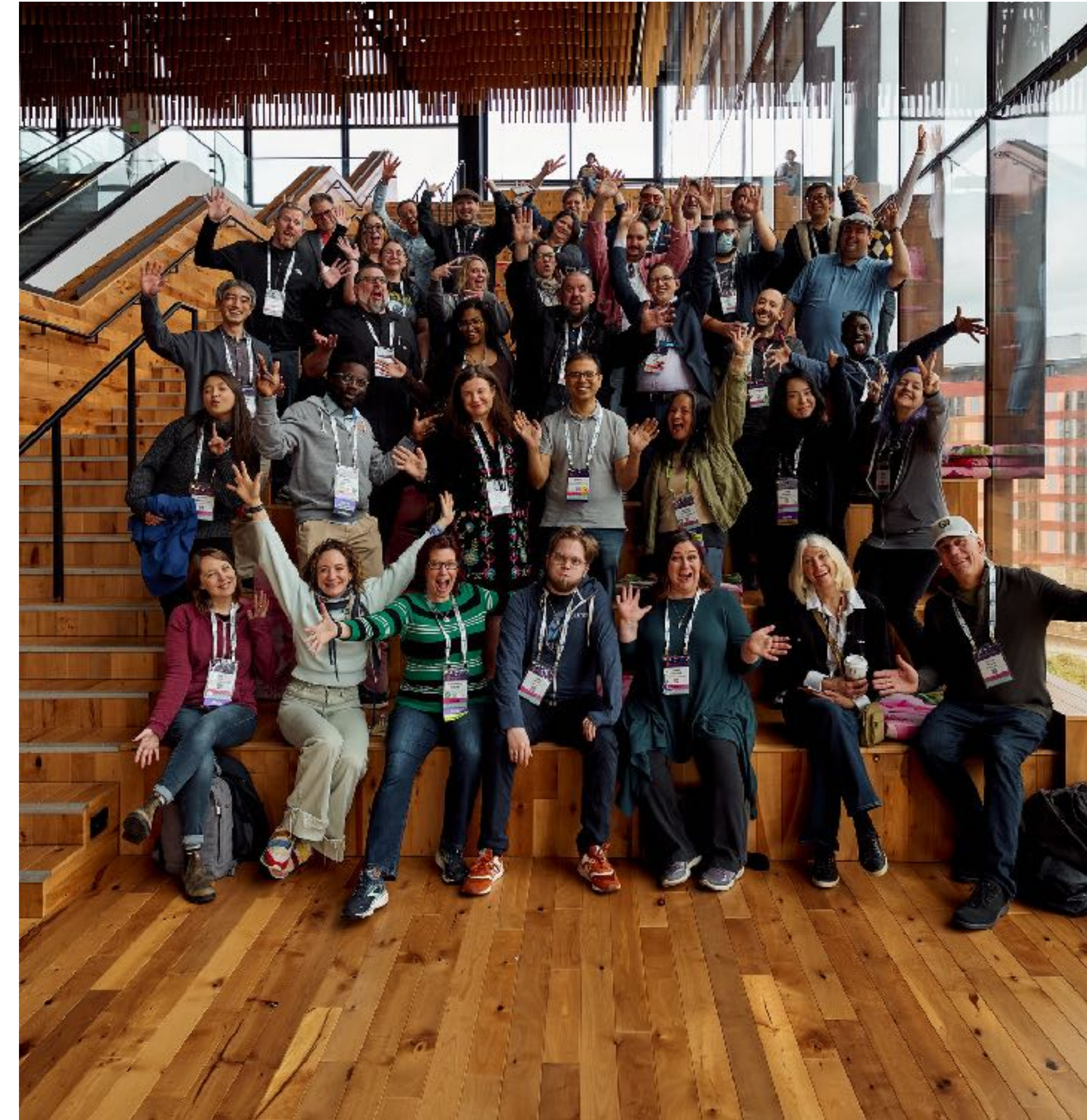
Metrics WGs: Metrics Development, DEI

Chapters: CHAOSS Africa, CHAOSS Asia

Programs: DEI Event and Project Badging

Software: Augur and GrimoireLab

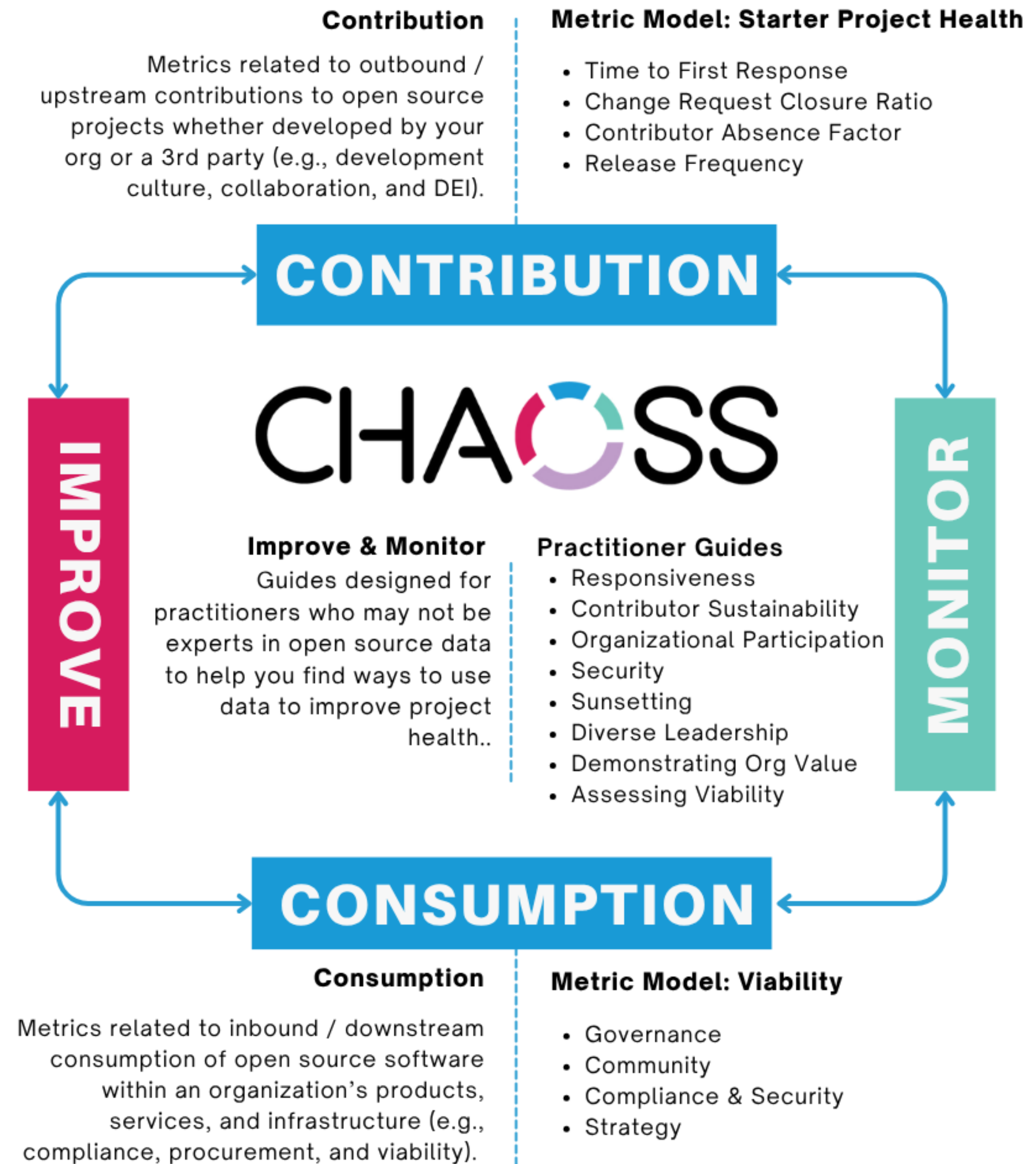
And More!



Practitioner Guides

Practitioner Guides
to improve the
health and sustainability
of your projects

<https://chaoss.community/about-chaoss-practitioner-guides/>



Demonstrating Org Value

Organizations need to show the value of their open source engagements to continue them over the long periods of time needed to sustain OSS efforts.



Photo by [Farhat Altaf](#) on Unsplash

Goal Alignment

Align with organizational goals
to demonstrate OSS value
to your leadership



Example: Goal Alignment

Aligning Pivotal's
company / product
goals with upstream
Kubernetes
contributions



Image by the [CNCF](#) CC BY-NC 2.0

@geekygirl dawn

Criticality

Determine which open source projects are the most critical for your organization

Priority = Criticality X Health Risk



Photo by [Rick J. Brown](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Criticality

Criticality is about
strategic projects

Could you easily
drop in a replacement?

Priority = Criticality X Health Risk



Photo by [Arjan de Jong](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Project Health Risk

Assess open source project health risk to understand which projects might need your contributions

Priority = Criticality X Health Risk

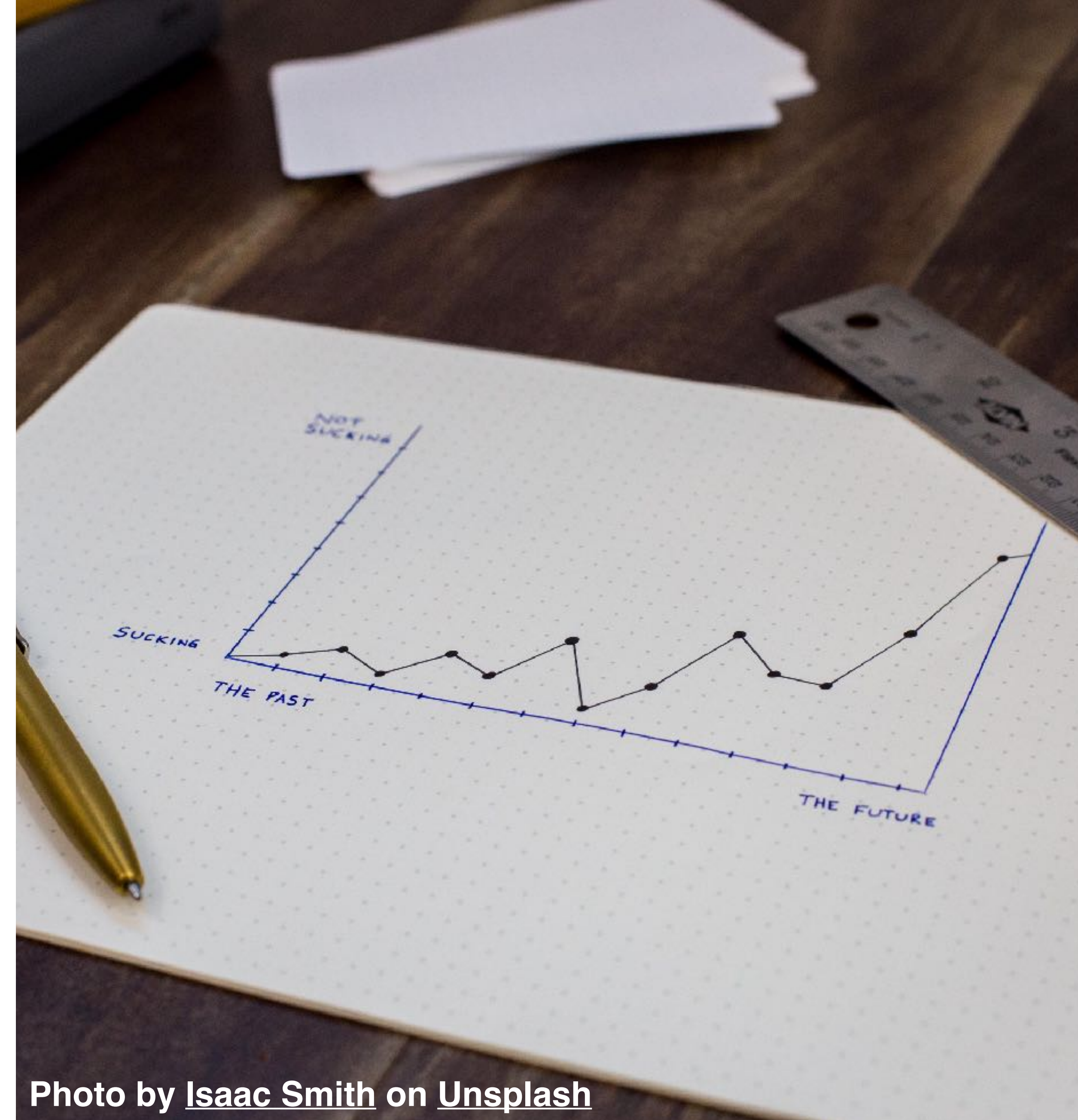


Photo by [Isaac Smith](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Prioritization

Prioritizing your investment in
open source within your
organization's limited resources

Priority = Criticality X Health Risk



Photo by Ch_pski on Unsplash

Putting it together

Priority = Criticality X Health Risk

Number to help you prioritize where you have the largest potential impact on your organization's goals.

How much do we depend on it?

What opportunities are there for us in the project?

How does it fit into our goals?

How healthy is the project?

What risks do I incur while using it?

Does it need help to become more sustainable?

Resources you have available

Framing the Value

**Measure and frame the value
in ways that resonate
with the leadership team**



Photo by Alexander Grey on Unsplash

Example

Project	Total Bugs	Total bugs resolved	Bugs submitted by org	Org bugs fixed	% bugs fixed by others	Avg. time to fix bug	Security issues reported	Security issues fixed	Avg. time to fix sec.
Foo (50)	41	32	11	11	36%	3 days~	3	3	2 days
Bar (21)	21	19	7	7	57%	4.5 days~	1	1	1 day

Foo (50) - 5 SWEs @ 20% - 1 SWE/quarter

- Opportunities
 - Feature <baz> that will improve our developer productivity is set to release next month. Should be deployed internally 2 weeks post release.
- Supportability
 - Hired maintainer John Doe, investing time in mentoring dev team in <Foo>
- Health
 - Health is improving. Implemented triage best practices and time to first response has been cut down to 24hrs

Bar (21) - 2 SWEs @ 20%, 1 PM @ 30% - .7 FTEs/quarter

- Opportunities
 - Feature <qux> has gained support and has begun development, will ensure our product supports new security standard requested by customers - \$Xm/year
 - BarCon took place last month; between our speakers and presence at the event our share of voice has outpaced all other vendors investing in <Bar>.
- Supportability
 - Project is overhauling docs with support from a TW hired by <quux>
- Health
 - Project remains healthy. <BarCon> has brought more interest in contributing.

Final Thoughts

**Demonstrating the value
of your open source efforts
should align with your
organization's unique goals**

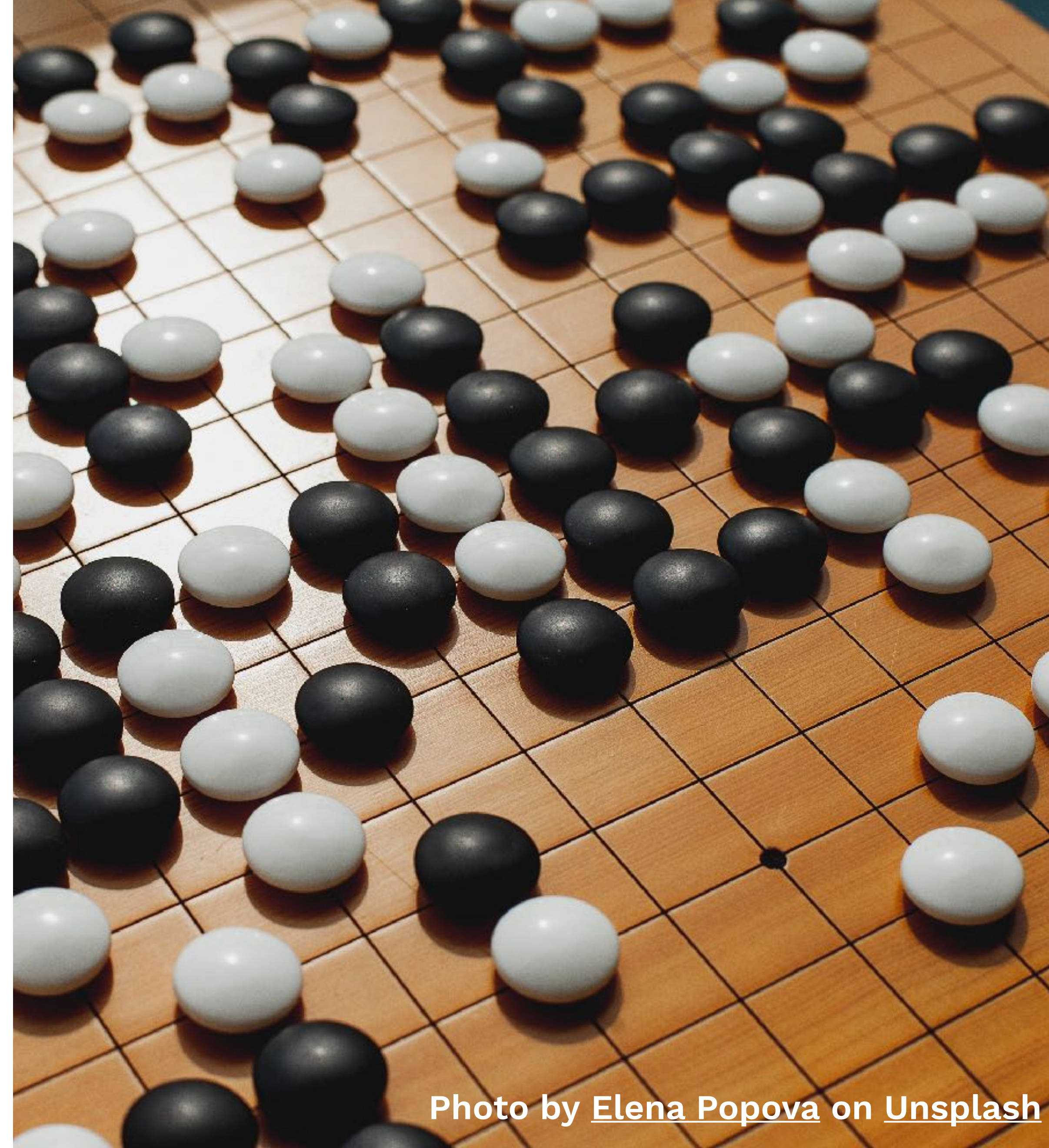


Photo by [Elena Popova](#) on [Unsplash](#)

THANK YOU!

Any Questions?

 <https://chaoss.community/>
 <https://github.com/chaoss>
 @chaoss@fosstodon.org

 <https://fastwonderblog.com/>
 <https://github.com/geekygirldawn>
 @geekygirldawn@hachyderm.io
 @geekygirldawn.bsky.social

