

Overview:

OSS Leader: Software Stewardship Lab Director, OpenUK Board, TODO Group, CHAOSS Governing Board, and others.

Data Science: Expert in open source project health metrics. PhD analysis of the Linux Kernel using Python, R, and Metrics Grimoire tools.

Community Building: Built communities for Puppet, MeeGo, Tizen, Jive, and more. Author of the book, Companies and Communities.

Blogging: The New Stack. Linux.com. GigaOM. One of the 5 original Intel.com bloggers. VMware Open Source blog, and Fast Wonder.

Speaking Engagements: Spoke at 100+ industry events including KubeCon, SXSW, OSCON, LinuxCon, DevOpsDays, and OSSummits.

Awards:

- **Cloud Native Computing Foundation (CNCF) TAGGIE 2025:** For work in TAG Contributor Strategy
- **OpenUK 2023 Awards:** Winner in the Individual category
- **OpenUK Honours list 2023:** Top 100 Open Source Influencers in the UK
- **OpenUK Honours list 2021:** Top 100 Influencers in Open Technology in the UK

Leadership Positions in Open Source Organizations:

- [Software Stewardship Lab](#): Independent Non-Executive Director (2026 - present)
 - The Software Stewardship Lab is a non-profit dedicated to funding research on open source sustainability.
- [OpenUK: Board Member](#) (2020 - present)
 - OpenUK is a UK not for profit organisation and advocacy group that provides UK leadership and international collaboration in Open Technology across open source software, open hardware and open data with a focus on creating a cohesive business community, legal and policy work to influence the UK government, and promoting education and learning of skills in open technology.
- [Linux Foundation's CHAOSS Project: Governing Board member and Working Group Co-Chair](#) (Jan 2018 - Present)
 - CHAOSS (Community Health Analytics in Open Source Software) is a Linux Foundation project focused on creating metrics, metrics models, and software to better understand open source community health on a global scale.
- [Linux Foundation's TODO Group](#): Elected Steering Committee member (Jan 2021 - Dec 2022) and Ambassador (2026 - present)
 - The TODO group is a community of practitioners who collaborate on best practices, tools, and other ways to run successful and effective Open Source Program Offices.
 - Currently serving as an Ambassador and Co-Chair of the OSPO Metrics WG (jointly with CHAOSS)
- [CNCF Contributor Strategy Technical Advisory Group \(TAG\): Co-chair](#) (Jan 2022 - 2025)
 - The Cloud Native Computing Foundation (CNCF) is an open source foundation hosting leading cloud native projects. The Contributor Strategy TAG was responsible for providing guidance, mentoring, best practices, and templates focused on contributor experience, sustainability, and governance to improve the health of CNCF projects.
- Program Committees to select talks for global technology conferences:
 - Linux Foundation Open Source Summit CFP Committee for North America, Europe, and more for several years.
 - Several CHAOSScon events in North America and the EU over the past 5 years.

Experience:

Fast Wonder: Open Source Strategy Consultant (2023 - Present)

- Consulting services focused on open source strategy, contributor strategy, improving project governance, and related topics.

CHAOSS: Director of Data Science (2023 – 2026)

- Led the data science initiative for the CHAOSS project to help people use CHAOSS metrics and software to gain more meaningful insights from their open source software metrics.
- Built a data science community within CHAOSS and drove publication of a series of practitioner guides.

VMware: Director of Open Source Community Strategy. Pivotal: Principal Technologist OSS Strategy Lead (2018 – 2023)

- Leading the Open Source Community Strategy team within VMware's OSPO: people management, metrics, and strategy.
- Advisory role for questions about participating in open source communities, governance, contributor growth, and related topics.
- Developing and maintaining OSPOs project health metrics using CHAOSS tooling, GitHub API calls, and custom Python scripts.
- Responsible for Pivotal's Upstream Kubernetes Contribution Strategy, including personal contributions to Kubernetes.

University of Greenwich Centre for Business Network Analysis: PhD Program (2015 – 2018)

- Dissertation Title: Understanding Collaboration in Fluid Organizations, a Proximity Approach
- Supervisors: Dr Guido Conaldi (BA, PGCert HE, MSc, PhD) and Dr Riccardo De Vita (PhD, MSc, FHEA, CMBE)
- Analysis overview: Network analysis of Linux kernel mailing lists and source code along with logistic regression models to study collaboration between contributors. Developed custom Python and R code to parse, store, and analyze OSS data.

The Scale Factory: Consultant (2015 – 2018)

- Strategic advice for building and participating in communities while supporting organizational strategies and goals.

Puppet: Director of Community (2012 – 2015)

- Responsible for all aspects of the Puppet community: open source community, metrics, user groups, conference talk selection.
- Managed the community team staff, developed community strategy, and worked cross-functionally with other teams at Puppet.

Intel: Community Lead, Open Source Technology Center (2010 – 2012)

- Managed community infrastructure team made up of another community manager, web developers, event managers, and more.
- Built communities for MeeGo, Tizen, and 01.org and managed all aspects of these open source communities.
- Developed and implemented community metrics programs to measure community health across various projects.

Fast Wonder LLC: Consultant (2008 – 2010)

- Consulting services focused on online community building, social media, and RSS-based information monitoring.

Jive Software: Director of Developer Relations (2007 – 2008)

- Built the Jivespace Developer Community from the ground up. Within 3 months of joining Jive, the community was launched.
- Managed all aspects of Jivespace and the Ignite Realtime open source community including moderation, metrics, spam control, newsletters, promotion, site enhancements, and content creation in the form of blog posts and video podcasts for developers.

Compiere: Director of Community and Partner Programs (2006 – 2007)

- Redesigned the Compiere partner program and managed relationships with Compiere's network of nearly 60 global partners.
- Managed all aspects of the relationship between Compiere and the open source community.

Intel: Manager / Program Manager / Product Manager / Strategist (2000 – 2006)

- Responsible for Intel's global open source engagement strategy and planning for Linux operating system vendor enabling.
- Managed and negotiated multi-million dollar contracts, including contract amendments.
- Managed a staff of program managers including performance reviews, budgets, hiring, career development, and coaching.

The Timken Company: Principal - System Administration / Programming / E-Commerce / Market Research (1995 – 2000)

- Directed the business functionality of Timken's e-commerce site.
- UNIX system administrator: Server configuration and management, including DNS, NFS, firewall, and engineering apps.
- Developed market research and competitor analysis to drive decisions for the development of new business ventures.

Education:

PhD – University of Greenwich Centre for Business Network Analysis 2018.

MBA – Executive Management, Ashland University 2000.

B.S. – Computer Science, Kent State University 1995.

Selected Presentations:

Presented at 100+ industry events including KubeCon, SXSW, OSCON, LinuxCon, DevOpsDays, and OSSummits. This is a small selection of those presentations. For a full list of the 50+ presentations given over the past 5 years and information about older presentations from the past 15+ years, visit <https://fastwonderblog.com/speaking/>

- [KubeCon | CloudNativeCon Europe 2023](#) (April 2023) - Invited Keynote: Building a Sustainable CNCF Project Contributor Base - The event had over 8,000 in person attendees and another 6,000+ virtual attendees from April 17 - 21, 2023.
- [Kubernetes Community Days UK 2022](#) - Invited Keynote: Be a Good Corporate Citizen in Kubernetes ([video](#)). A longer version of this presentation was delivered at KubeCon EU 2020 ([video](#)).
- [OpenUK State of Open Con](#) (February 2025) - Invited Keynote / Plenary: Meet the Forkers.

Selected Corporate Webinars and Podcasts:

- [SAP Open Source Program Office Webinar Series](#): Navigating Open Source Risk on February 16, 2022 ([video](#)).
- [SAP Open Source Way Podcast](#): Open Source at VMware - Key Driver of Innovation on June 29, 2022 ([audio](#)).
- [VMware Tanzu Talk Podcast](#): The Kubernetes community, being a good corporate citizen on February 11, 2020 ([audio](#)).
- [The New Stack Podcast](#): How Can Open Source Sustain Itself without Creating Burnout on September 22, 2022 ([video](#)).
- [The New Stack Podcast](#): The Future of Open Source Contributions from KubeCon Europe on June 1, 2022 ([audio](#)).
- [The Business of Open Source Podcast](#): Navigating Risks and Building Open Source Communities on January 5, 2022 ([audio](#)).
- [CHAOSCast Podcast](#): Appeared in many episodes of this podcast talking about open source project health and metrics.
- For links to additional podcasts and webinars, visit <https://fastwonderblog.com/speaking/>

Interviews and Quotes:

- [The Linux Foundation Research Report](#): Open Source as Europe's Strategic Advantage, August 2025. Interviewed and quoted in various sections in the report as an open source expert in Europe.
- [OpenUK State of Open Report: The UK in 2021. Phase Two: UK Adoption](#), July 7, 2021. Interviewed as a subject matter expert on open source program offices for the section of the report titled, "VMware: Aligning internal and external best practices".
- [The Linux Foundation Research Report](#): Diversity in Open Source. December 2021. Interviewed and quoted in various sections in the report as an expert in open source diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Academic Publications:

- Foster, D., 2026. Open Source Governance Practices: A Path to Improving Sustainability. *Computer*, 59(6), pp.116-119, Available at <https://doi.org/10.1109/MC.2026.3667269>
- Foster, D., 2025. From Data to Action: Building Healthy and Sustainable Open Source Projects. *Computer*, 58(6), pp.74-78, Available at <https://doi.org/10.1109/mc.2025.3530556>
- Foster, D., 2024, 'The New Dynamics of Open Source: Relicensing, Forks, and Community Impact', paper presented to OpenForum Academy Symposium, Boston, Massachusetts, 13-14 November, Available at <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2411.04739>
- Osborne, C., Sharratt, P., Foster, D., Boehm, M., 2024, 'A Toolkit for Measuring the Impacts of Public Funding on Open Source Software Development', paper presented to OpenForum Academy Symposium, Boston, Massachusetts, 13-14 November, Available at <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2411.06027>
- A full list of publications is available from <https://fastwonderblog.com/academic/>