



# Reflections on our experience moving to open source pan-pharma code collaboration on clinical trial reporting tools

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**What does open-source look like in late-stage pharma?**

# We are well on track to transition to an R based (*multi-lingual??*) backbone for clinical trial reporting



# Open source software (OSS) is becoming common for internally resourced and funded tooling

## How we used to interact with OSS

Using packages like 

Pushing out statistical packages into the ether


Occasional collaboration and often only ad-hoc

## The new normal

Officially **resourcing and securing internal funding** for teams to work on open source R packages

More of **our talent is naturally flowing to**, or starting, ad-hoc open source projects

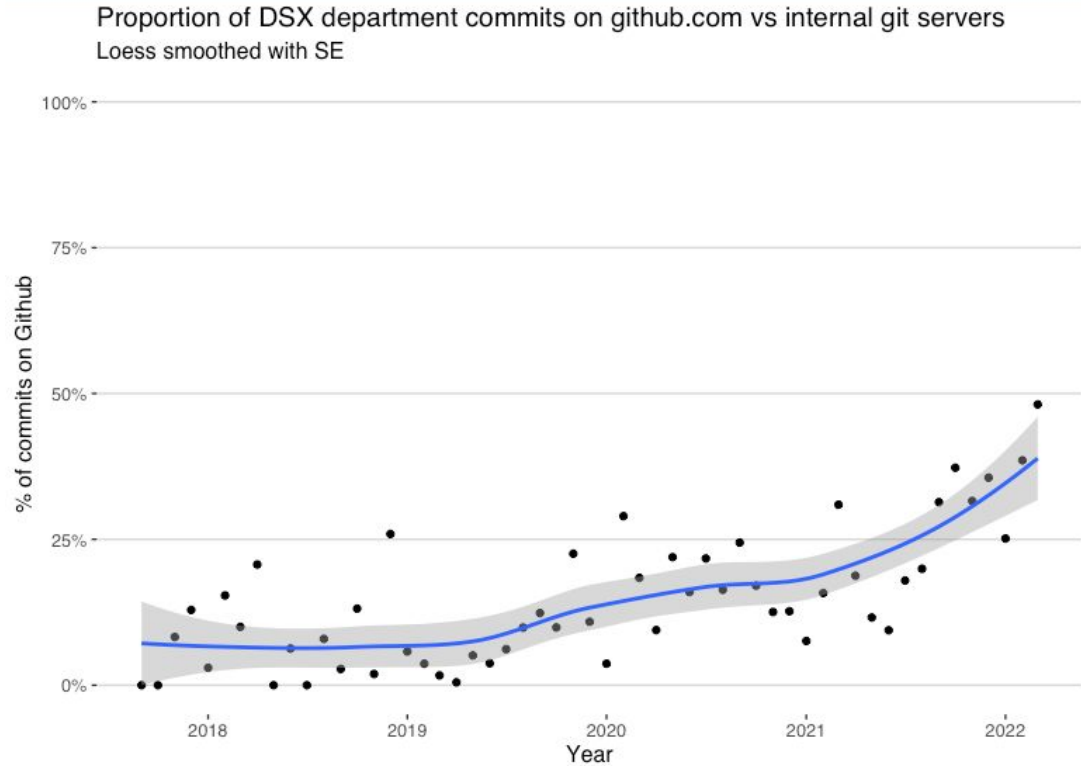
**Co-creating** packages that are core to workflows

**Increase in the release of packages**, including formal collaborations appearing on statistical packages (e.g. )

## Disclaimer

***The following data is based on the Github and Gitlab APIs, and has not been cleaned. Numbers are indicative rather than accurate.***

# We are gradually doing more on GitHub



Survivor bias present as only tracking those still at Roche / Genentech and capturing work related Github.com activity inaccurate

# Four repositories to represent 4 types of projects

Part of 's clinical reporting strategy



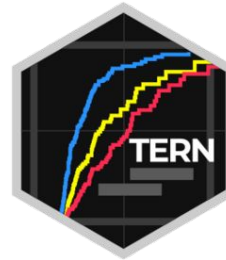
8

10 yrs



25

1.2yrs



77

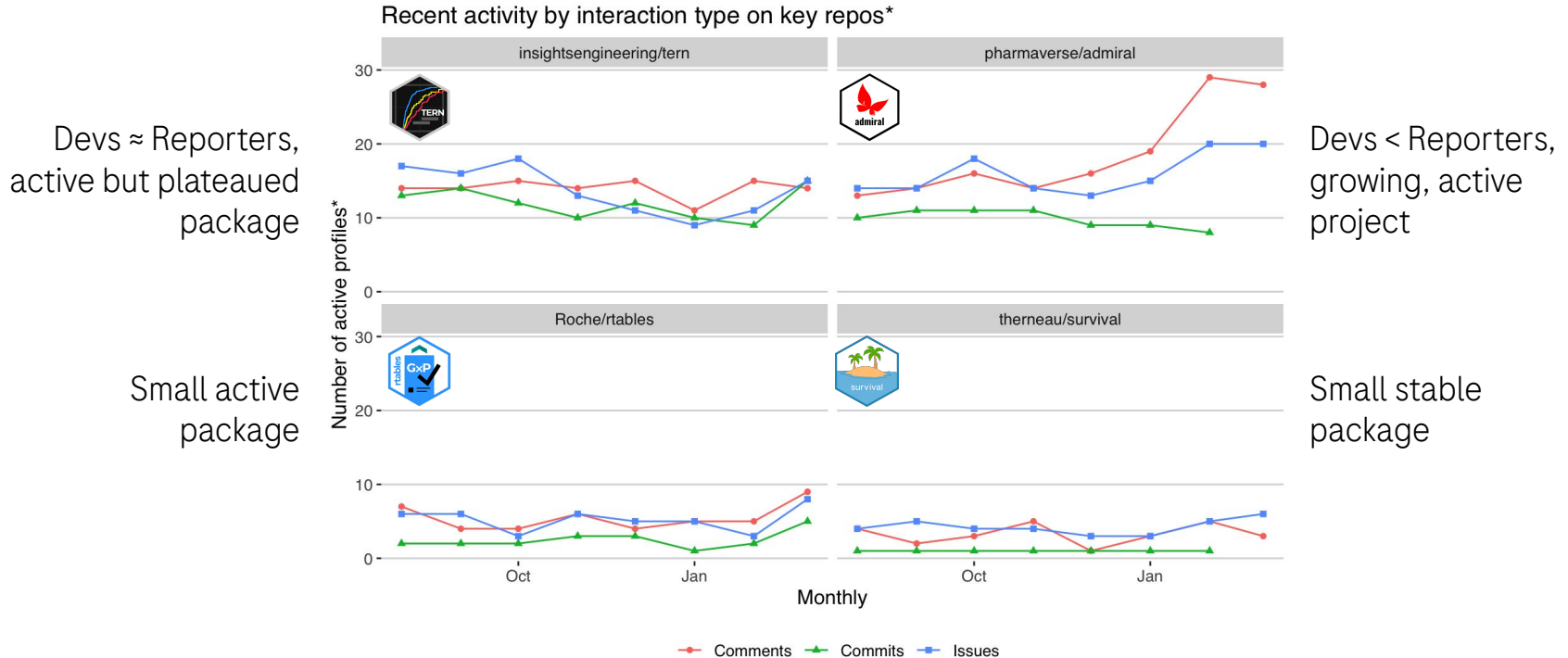
5yrs



21

4yrs

# Open source 'health' is about people and communities



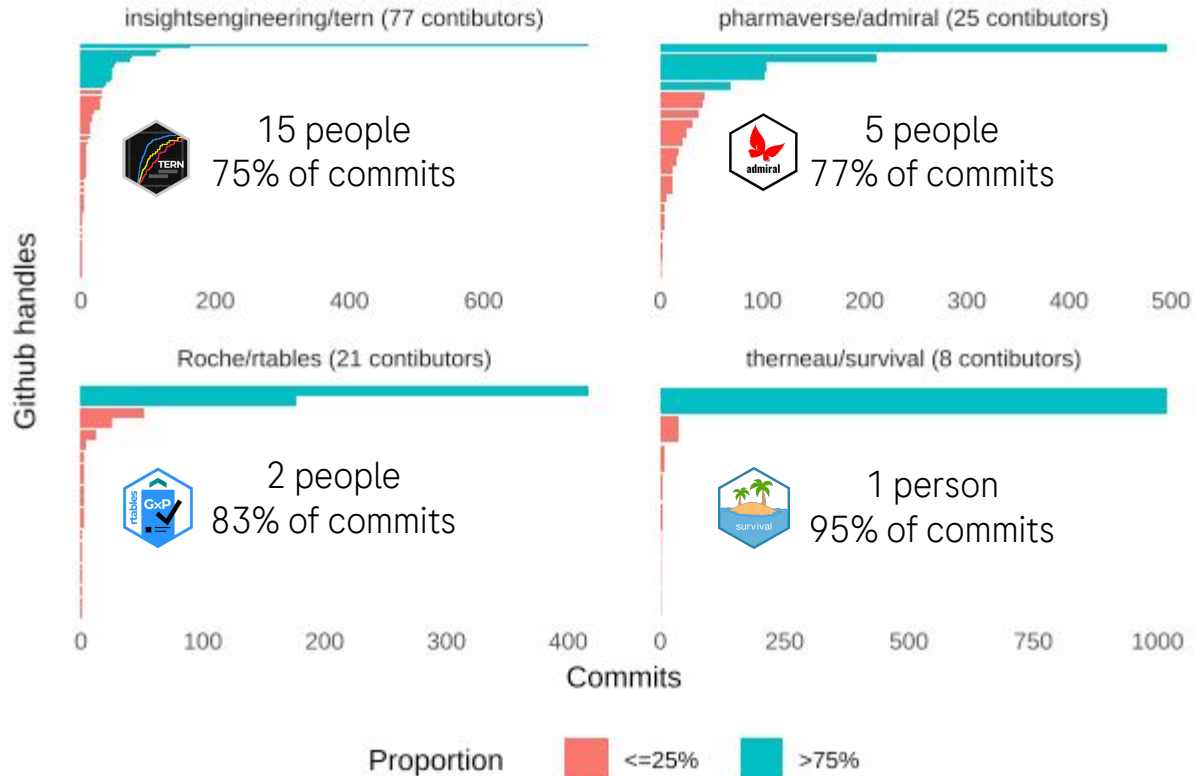
\*Github profiles used where possible, otherwise unique emails where commits made do not match github profiles



**What have we learnt?**

# People can sometimes mean a person...

Commits by author for several clinical reporting R packages



\*Github profiles used were possible, otherwise unique emails where commits made do not match github profiles

# Moving from publication to collaboration is non-trivial

But there are tools and communities to help!

## openpharma.github.io

Pulls and surfaces metadata daily on 270+ R/Python packages relevant to Late-Stage Pharma on Github.

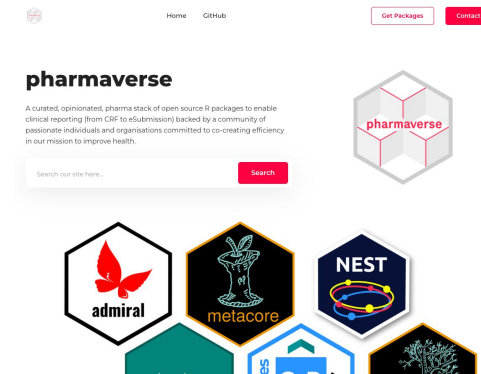
*A substantial overhaul of openpharma metadata started this month*

Repo	%	Description	Type	Last updated	Contributor overlap
vdorie/barts		Fits Bayesian additive regression trees (BART; Chipman, George, and McCulloch (2010)) while allowing the updating of predictors or response so that BART can be incorporated as a conditional model in a Gibbs/Metropolis-Hastings sampler. Also serves as a drop-in replacement for package 'BayesTree'.	r	2022-04-05	
alexanderrbrtsch/miceadds		Contains functions for multiple imputation which complements existing functionality in R. In particular, several imputation methods for the mice package (van Buuren & Groothuis-Oudshoorn, 2011) are included. Main features of the miceadds package include plausible value imputation (Mehry, 1991), multilevel imputation for variables at any level or with any number of hierarchical and non-hierarchical levels (Grund, Luedtke & Robitzsch, 2018; van Buuren, 2018, Ch.7).	r	2022-04-04	mdrb

→  
package metadata

## pharmaverse.org

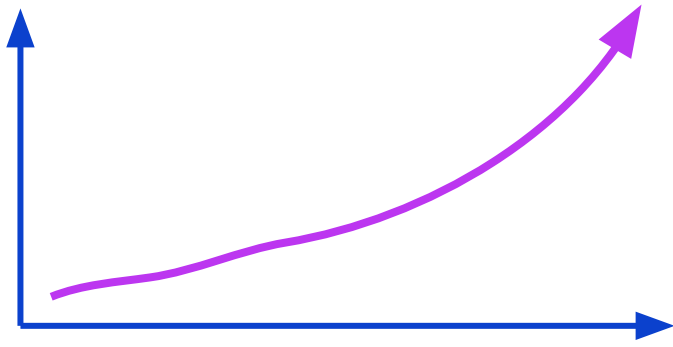
Opinionated and curated window into R packages used in clinical reporting.



# Release early!

IP complexity when open sourcing has an exponential relationship with maturity of project

Open sourcing  
complexity



Age of project

- ✓ New project
- ✓ Clear defined scope
- ✓ Free of patient data
- ✓ Post-competitive IP
- ✓ Useful outside Roche
- 🚀 Don't wait to open source it!\*

\* After formal IP release via internal processes

# Lawyer up!

Dependency licences



My code

```
my_cool_function <- function(x) {
  y <- dependency::helper(x)
  y + 1
}
```



Sharing code that references dependencies???

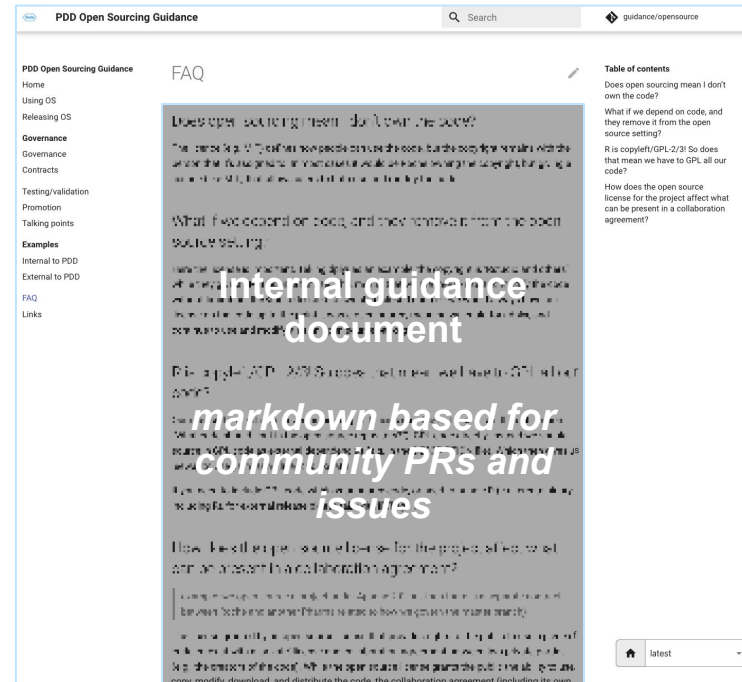


Compiled propriety product??

From the Roche Data & Statistical Sciences experience, one of our most important resources navigating open source has been a dedicated IP lead from legal that understands research software.

# Open source guidance can be inner sourced

- Initial discussions internally showed a variety of opinions on what we open source, and developing a common set of classifications helps to protect our IP
- Partnering with Legal/IP, we created an internal guidance based on MKDocs, and continue to update as new questions arise.

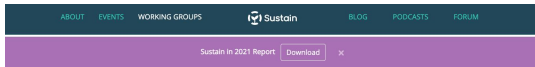


# Resources are plentiful

Some example sources the Roche guidance builds on (and references)

## sustainoss.org

Focus on making OSS sustainable, but still covers topics like licences



### Sustain Working Groups

At the 2020 Sustain Summit, dozens of small groups met and discussed all aspects of what sustainability means. At the end of the day, we decided to hold these conversations going forward, and to ensure that what we learned didn't stay in a single room. These working groups stemmed from those efforts, or from conversations had by Sustainers around the same time.

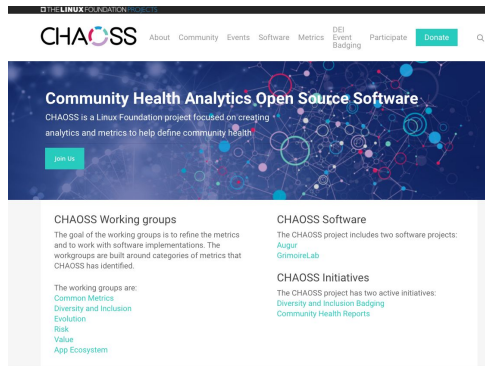
All of our work and organizing is open source. If you're interested in a working group, want to get involved and help out, or want to found your own working group around sustainability and code, get in touch and let us know.

These groups are active! Give a shout if you want to be involved. Learn more in their profiles below.

<p><b>Governance Guidance</b></p> <p>How can we guide developers to create efficient governance models?</p>	<p><b>Back Your Stack</b></p> <p>How can we give back to OSS projects that we already use at our work? What does our stack look like, and who among our</p>	<p><b>Docs</b></p> <p>Who writes, uses, and updates the docs? What do sustainable first docs look like? How can we write better ones?</p>
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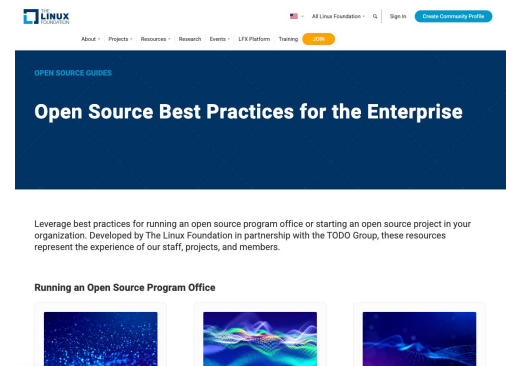
## chaoss.community

Working groups and tools focussed on OSS health



## linuxfoundation.org/resources/open-source-guides/

A comprehensive guide



# Collaboration contracts are a WIP

Do they really need to be?

- Our early contracts were modified research agreements, which is a fundamentally different type of engagement
- Arising IP (generated together in the project) is a simpler topic than existing IP
- It's important to stress permissive licences allow you to fork the code
- Licences dictate how the code can be used and modified, so a focus has been on lighter contracts focus on governance of the main branch
- Bi-lateral contracts don't reflect the fact companies may step in, and out, of wanting to govern an open source projects main branch



# Conclusions, gaps and future discussions

# Summary

- Open source collaborations are diverse collaborations with different types of engagement
- Open sourcing early helps ensure you have simpler discussion ‘this is the IP can we co-create’, rather than ‘this is the IP we will release and merge with your IP’, and hopefully prevents duplication - and better products rather than diversity through arbitrary decisions.
- Tools exist (and are being improved!) to help understand the health and engagement on your open source projects
- Licences can fundamentally change how your project can be used
- Partnering with Legal/IP, and users, to capture learnings in robust guidance - and help to evolve collaboration contracts
- The PhUSE **End-to-End Open-source Collaboration Guidance** working group hopes to help collect and share learnings and guidance across companies

## Links

- Roche Pharma Development (late stage clinical reporting) notes on R code collaboration between companies: [codecollaboration.org](https://codecollaboration.org)
- [pharmaverse.org](https://pharmaverse.org) (opinionated stack for clinical reporting with R)
- [openpharma.github.io](https://openpharma.github.io) (metadata on any Pharma R/Python packages added to it's tracker)
- [Jeoren Ooms talk](#) on R package open source health

## More at this conference

- Tue 13:30-17:00; **workshop**; `pharmaverse` workshop on building open source e2e clinical reporting tools collaboratively
- Wed 11:15-11:30; **talk**; Pan-pharma code collaboration successes and new horizons

**Doing now what patients need next**