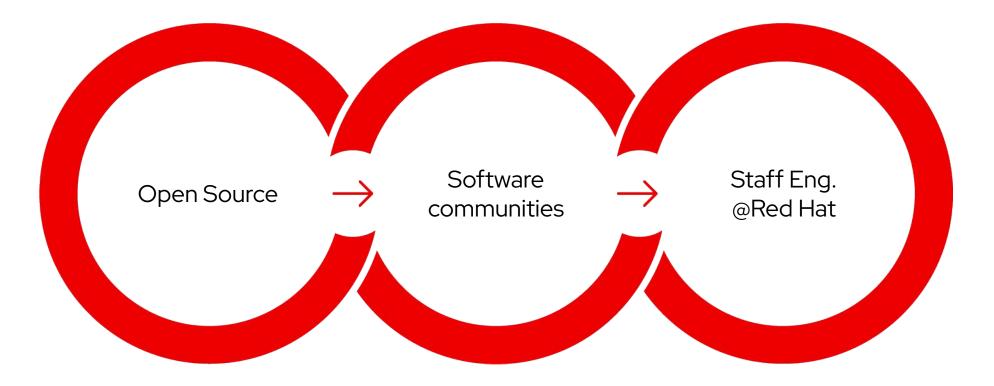
# Unlocking Career Growth Through Open Source

Eder Ignatowicz Senior Principal Software Engineer



# What I do for living?







#### Integrated MLOps platform

Create and deliver GenAl and predictive models at scale across hybrid cloud environments.



#### Model development

Provides flexibility and composability by supporting multiple AI/ML libraries, frameworks, and runtimes.



#### Model serving and monitoring

Deploy models across any OpenShift footprint and centrally monitor their performance.

#### Lifecycle management



Expands DevOps practices to MLOps to manage the entire AI/ML lifecycle.



#### Increased capabilities / collaboration

Create projects and share them across teams. Combine Red Hat components, open source software, and ISV certified software.











# OptaPlanner















"I wish I had heard this information when I was starting out"









People get better at whatever they spend time on.



# Challenges of aspiring technologists outsiders of a Tech Scene



Lack of understanding of the career path No clear path beyond senior.

Lack of complex challenges Mostly CRUD work, tech skills are commodities.

#### Lack of role models and mentors

Lack of guidance in the right direction as we make career decisions

#### Lack of opportunities

Mostly of career growth opportunities requires being on Managers Path



How do I keep growing in my career as an individual contributor?



# What is beyond senior level?





#### The Maze to keep on Technical Track



You should figure out your path by yourself Frustrating and bias-ridden approach to career development

Mysticism of the role What do seasoned professionals do?

Lack of clear role definition

Each company has a different view of the role

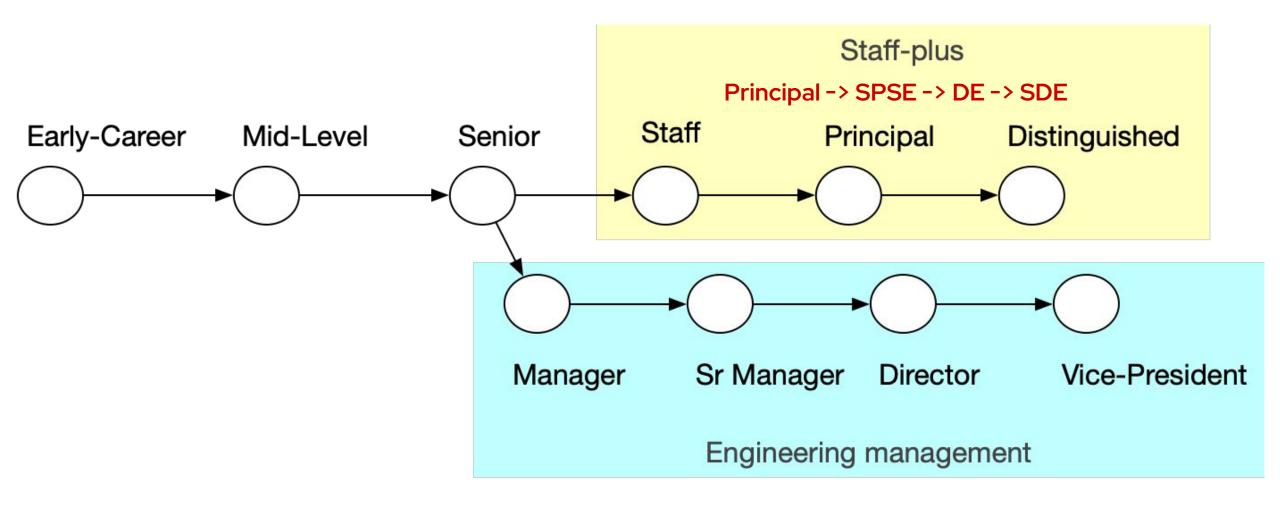
Lack of required skills

How do you acquire skills to become a lead to successful technical leader?

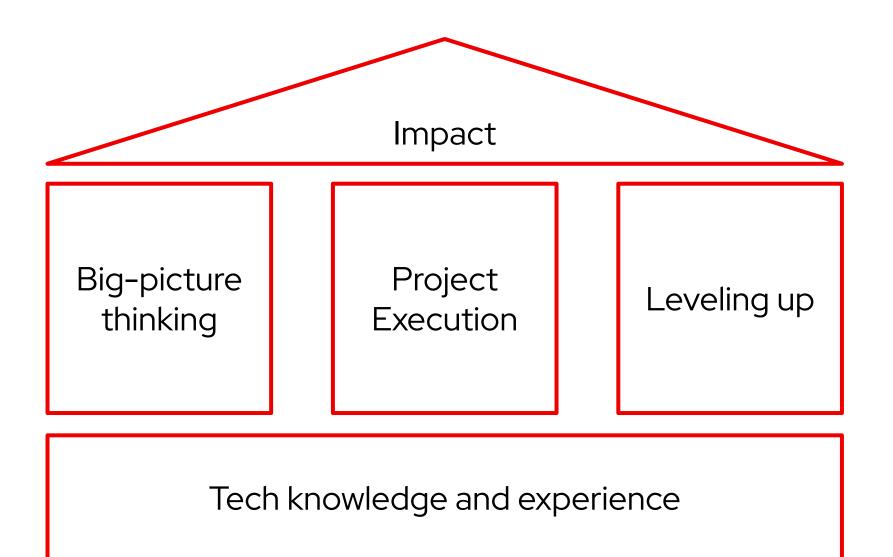


# What is a Staff-Plus Engineer?











# Staff engineer archetypes



#### The Team Lead

Guides the approach and execution of a particular team or group of teams within a focused area.



#### Architect

Responsible for the direction, quality and approach within a critical area, both today and stretching into the multi-year future horizon



#### Solver

Digs deep into arbitrarily complex problems and finds an appropriate path forward.



#### **Right Hand**

Partner and an extension of an executive-level manager, borrowing their scope and authority to operate particularly complex organizations.





# How does someone thrive on the technical path?



# How does someone become a successful Staff-Plus Engineer?



How can you learn from the best engineers and access the latest technologies even if your current job or situation doesn't give you this kind of opportunity?



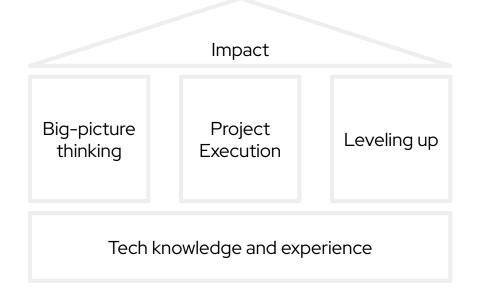
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# How did I end up as Staff+ ?

# Open-Source engagement



# Open Source Engagement

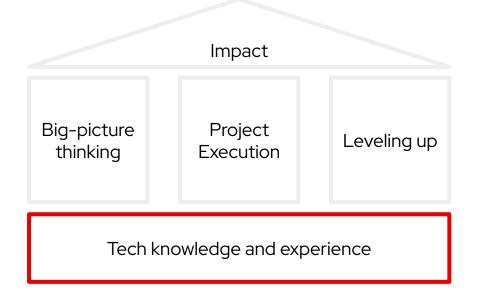


What do I mean by engagement?

- Presence
- Contribution
- Feedback



# Open Source Engagement

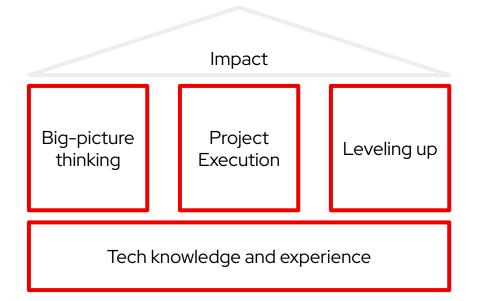


Contributing and engaging with open source can help you sharpen tech skills.



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# Open Source Engagement

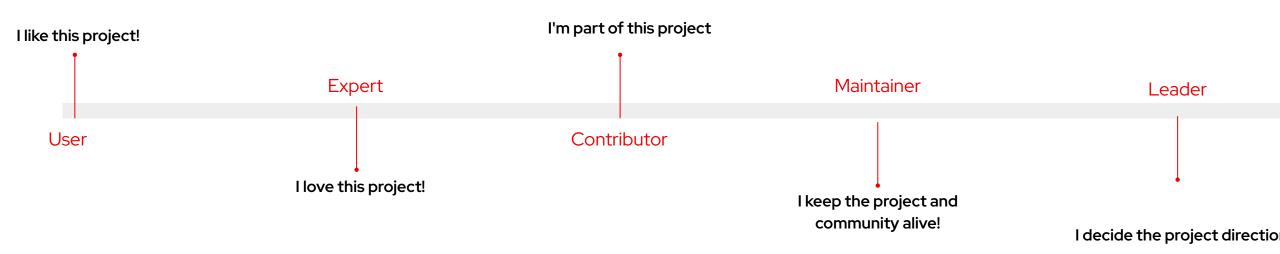


But it can also help you level up towards Staff+.



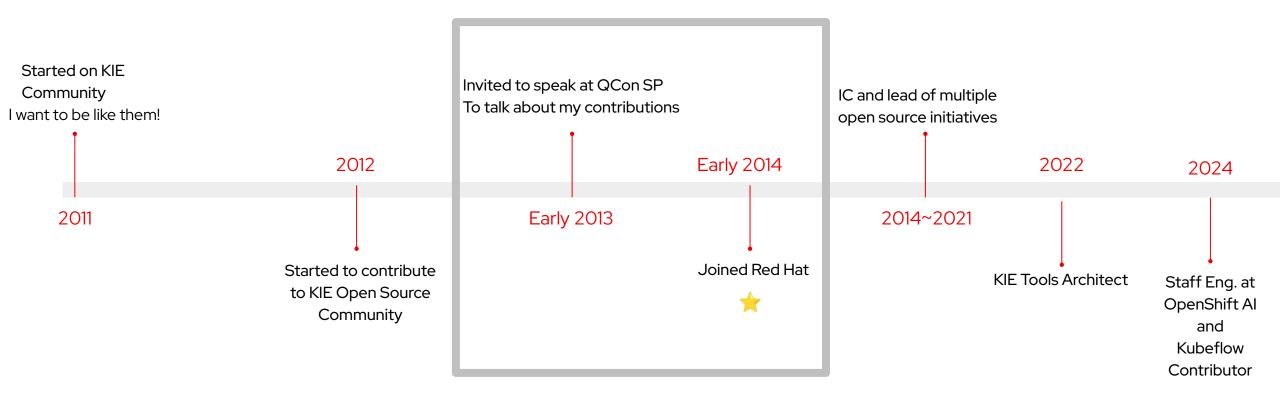
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### Open Source Community Members Growth



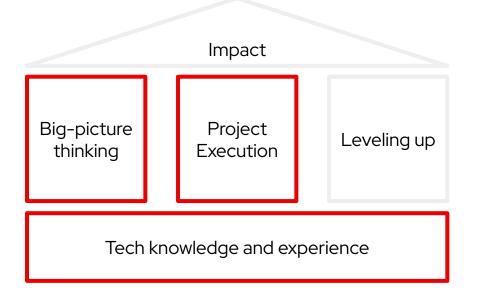


### Open Source Engagement - My timeline



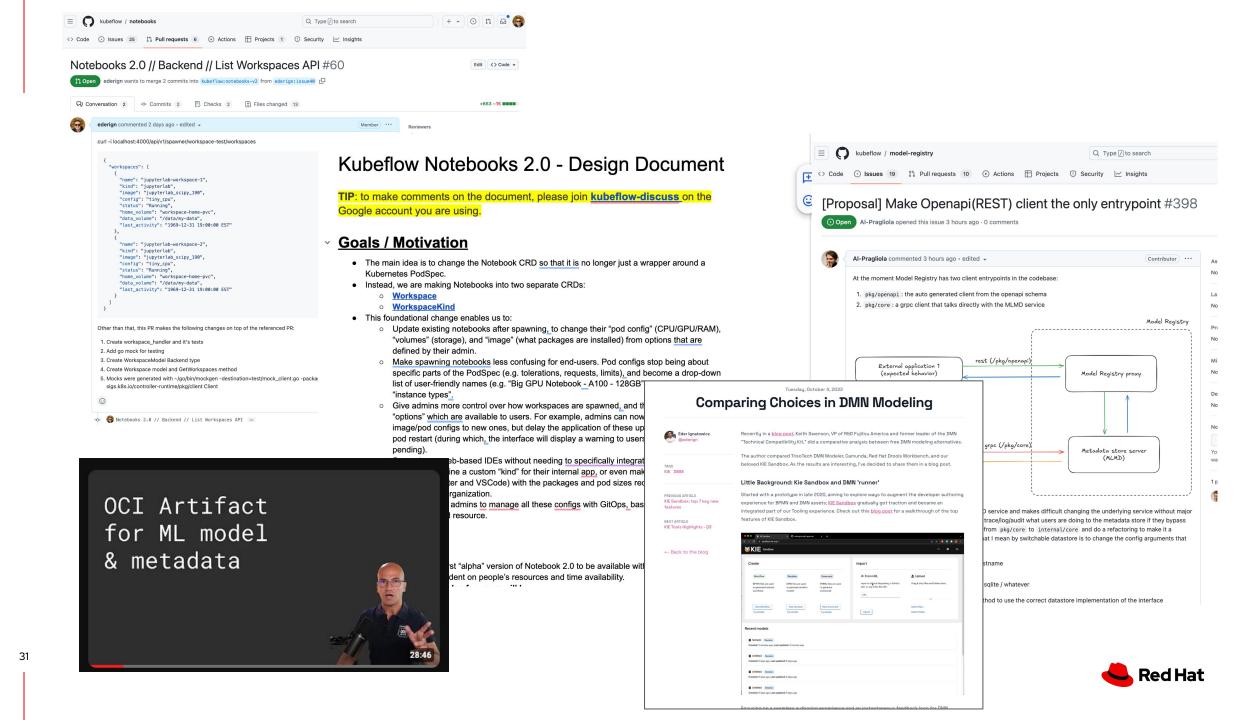


## Written Communication

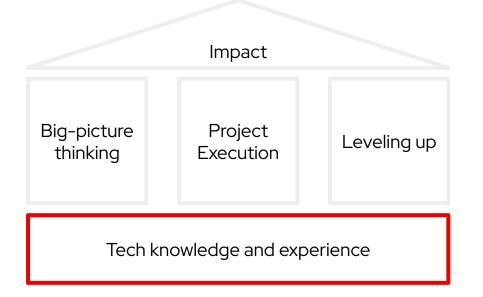


- Open Source is built async and remote
- Writing is the best format for async communication
- A critical skill for developers
  - Emails, Issues, Design Docs, etc.
- Opportunities:
  - Blog posts, Mailing list, Feature Requests, Bugs, Pull Requests





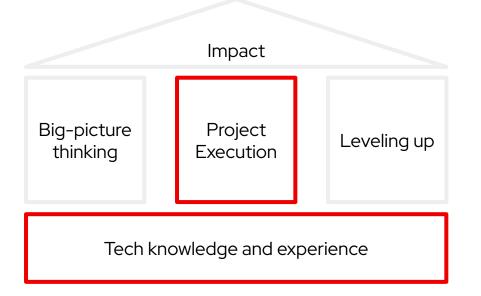
### Improve your Technical Quality



- Exposed to code from people around the world
- Code reviewers by different people from different backgrounds
- Opportunity to collaborate and learn at the industry level



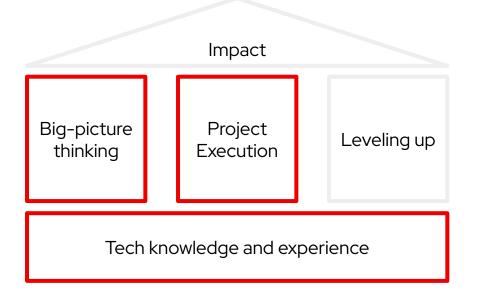
### To lead, you have to learn how to follow



- Align your contributions with the community direction
- Effective leaders spend more time following than leading
- Contribute to the ought to be of the community



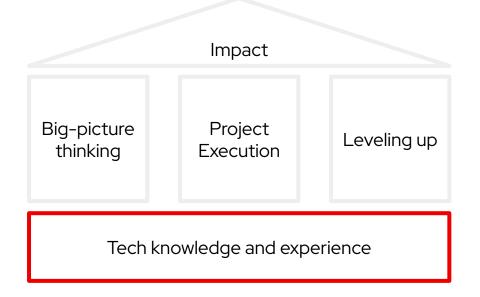
### Learn how to lead without authority



- Learn to lead people with multiple backgrounds
- Learn to conciliate the interests of multiple stakeholders
  - 'Read the room'
- Learn how to preserve the best interests of a community/project
- Learn how to influence without authority



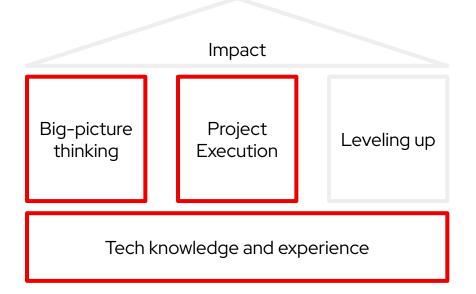
## Expand your network



- Open-source software is distributed across the globe
- Build multicultural network, increase your diversity exposure
- Network across industry

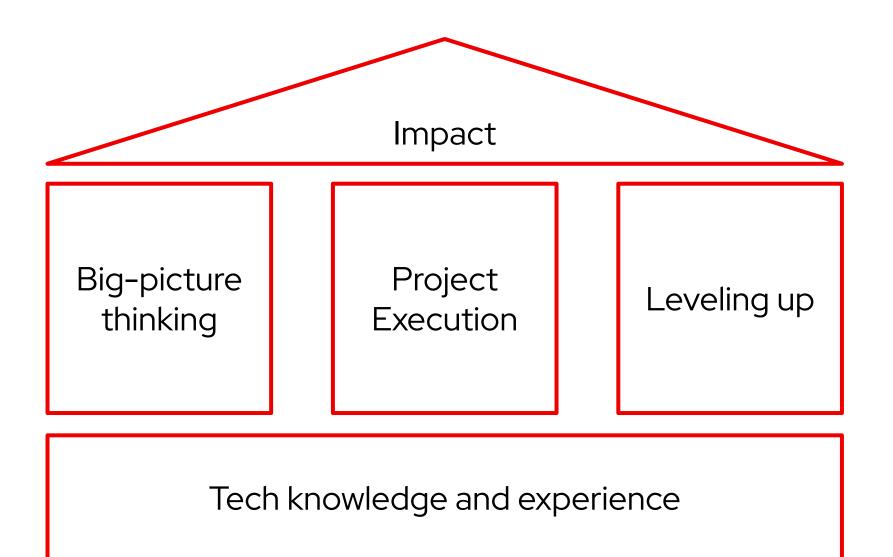


## Create visibility



- Visibility based on public contribution
- Increase visibility with contributions aligned with your company's needs
- Access new sponsors







## Open Source Engagement - Takeaways for...

#### Aspiring IC

- Learn a lot from a diverse group of people;
- Build your personal brand;
- Become a reference in your community;
- Become a reference in your company;
- Learn to lead without authority

#### Staff+

- Good for the industry;
- Become a reference in the field;
- Practice leading without authority



## Open Source Engagement - Suggested Action items

#### **Aspiring Staff**

- Find an open source community project that your current project consumes;
- Join the communication channels;
- Build it!
- Narrow your scope
- Make your first contribution to this project;
- Career Impact!

#### Staff+

- If possible, become a core contributor of a open-source community project that your current initiative consumes;
- Mentor/pair with someone from your team on their first contribution on open-source
- Career Impact!





### We are evolving as community



Books

The Staff Engineer's Path Staff Engineer: Leadership beyond the management track

Talking with Tech Leads



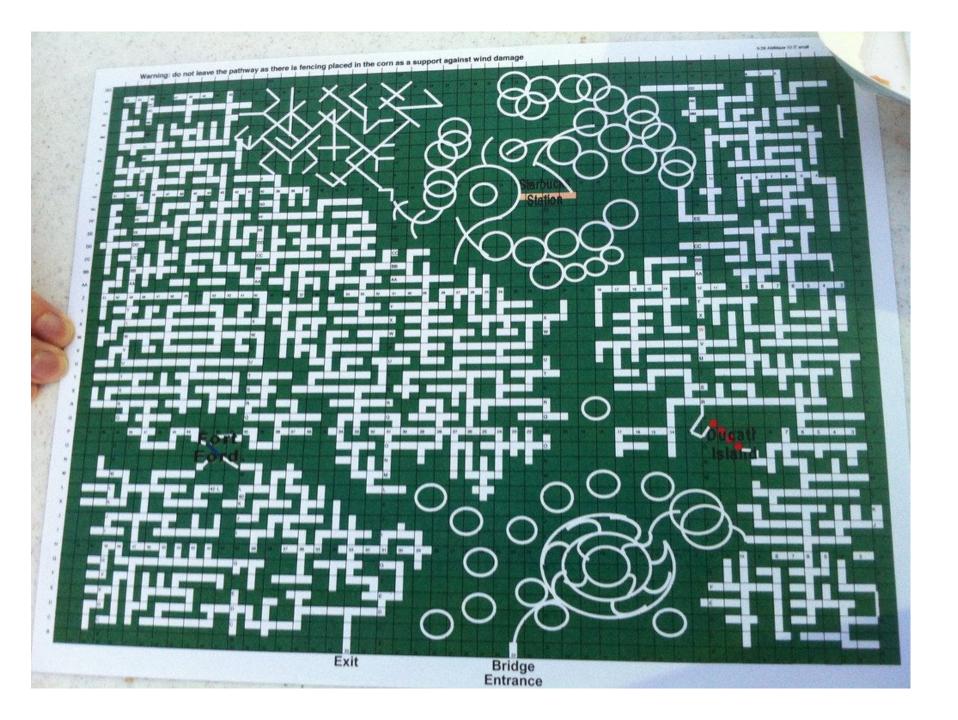
Conferences

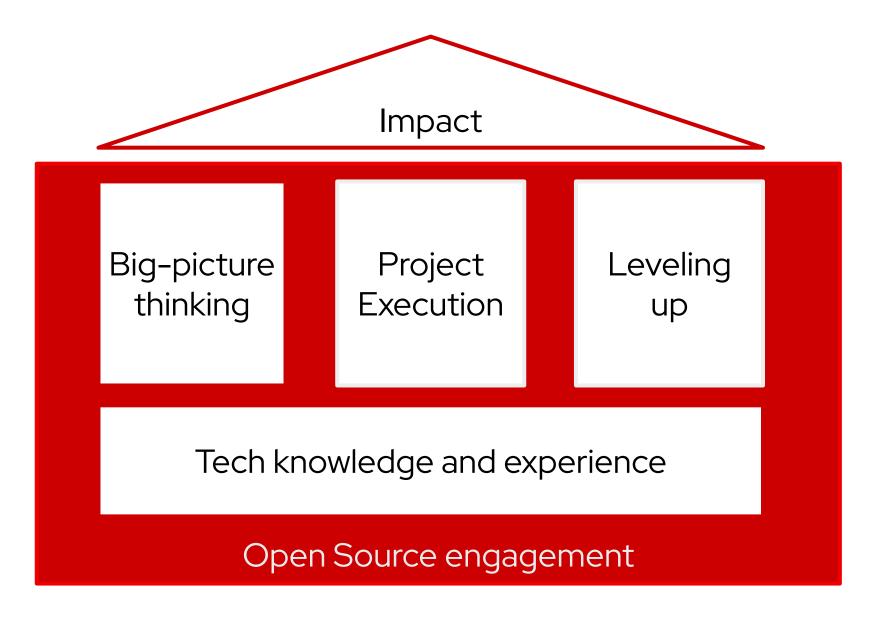
QCons, Lead dev etc.



Communities

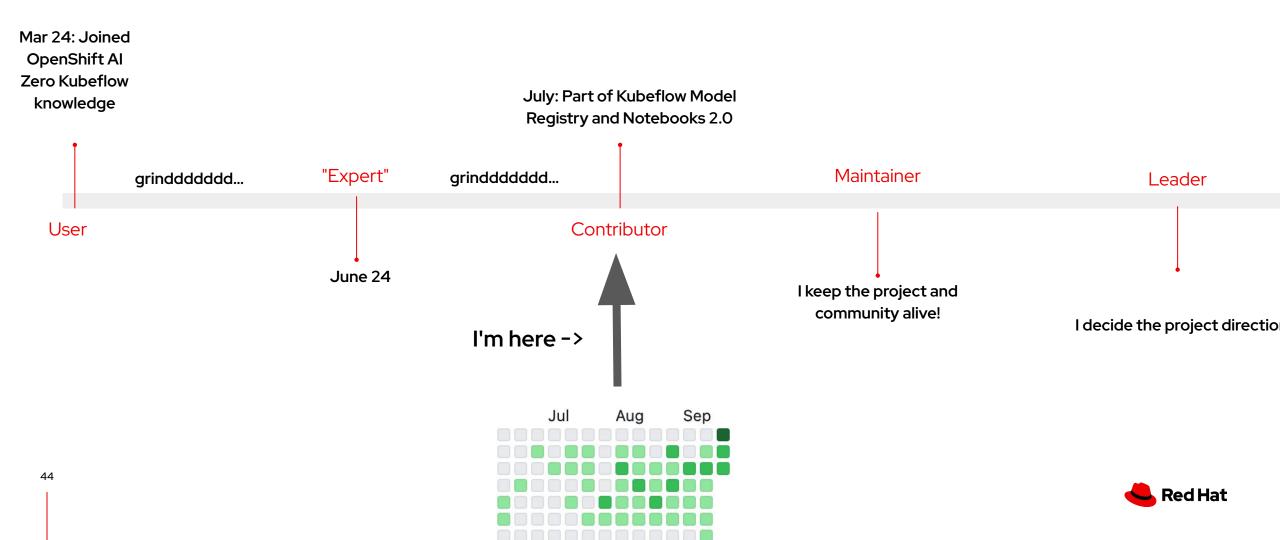








## Walk the talk - Kubeflow community



# Thank you!



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twitter.com/ederign

