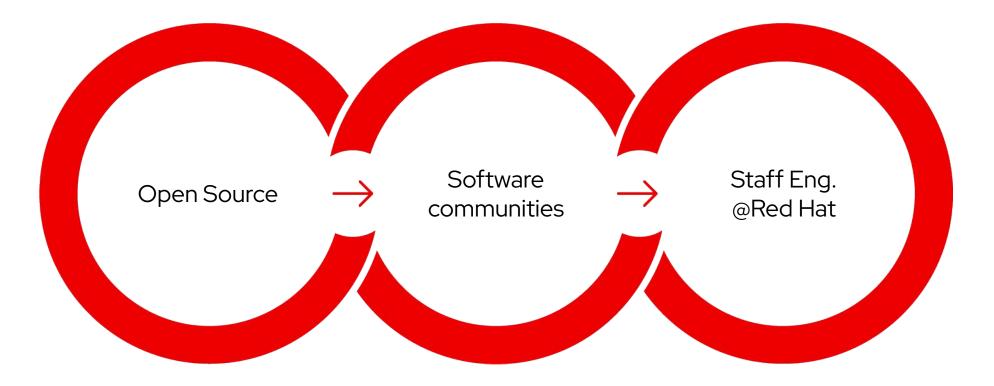
Unlocking Career Growth Through Open Source

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

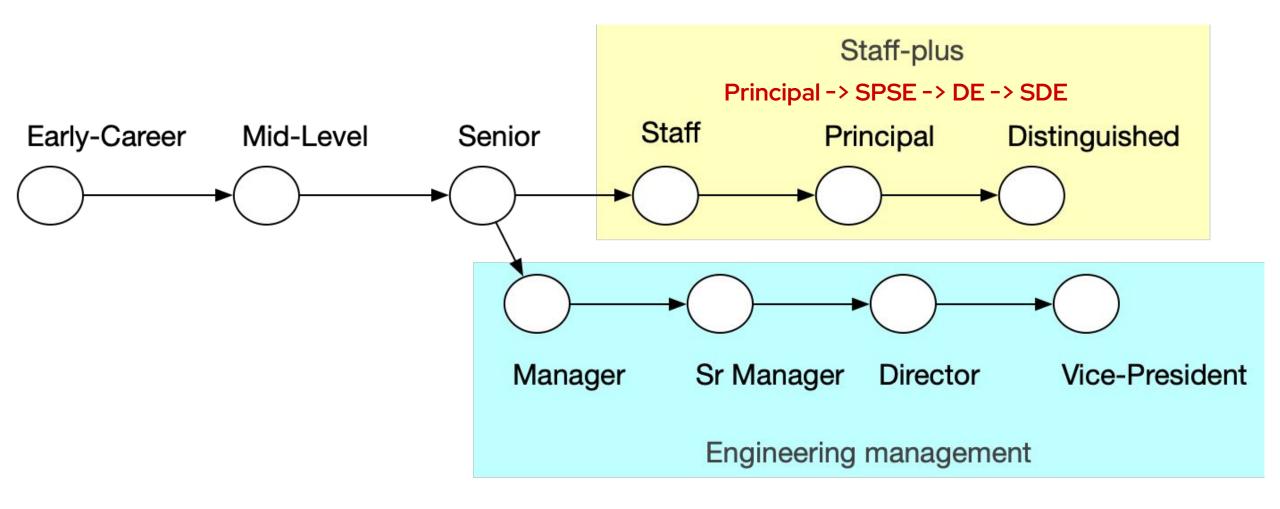
Lack of required skills

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

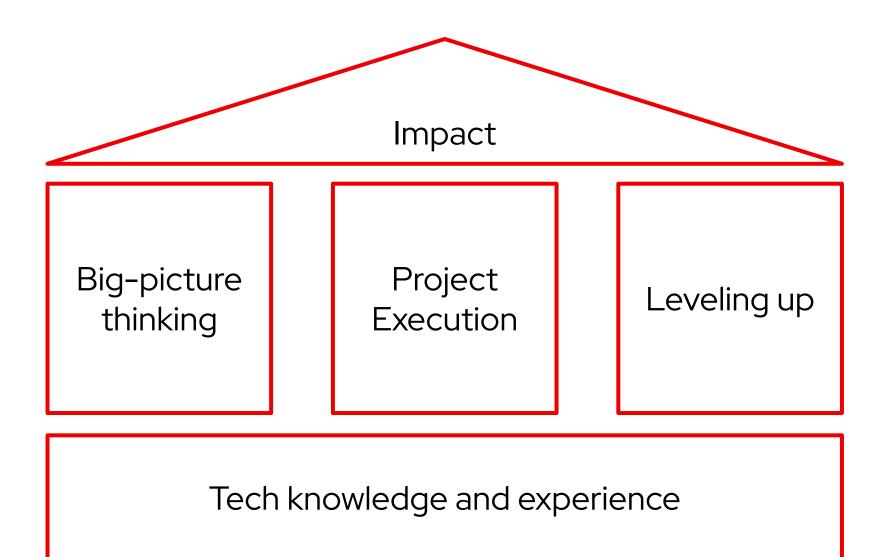


What is a Staff-Plus Engineer?











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?



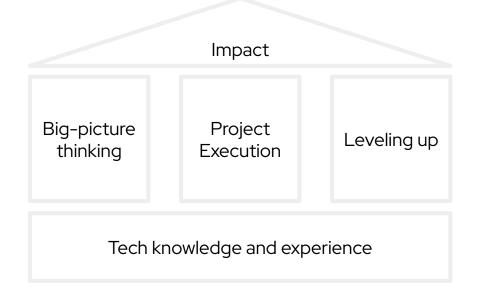
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How did I end up as Staff+ ?

Open-Source engagement



Open Source Engagement

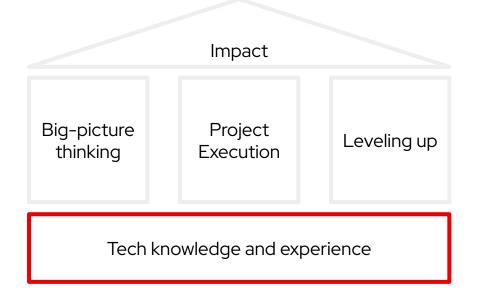


What do I mean by engagement?

- Presence
- Contribution
- Feedback



Open Source Engagement

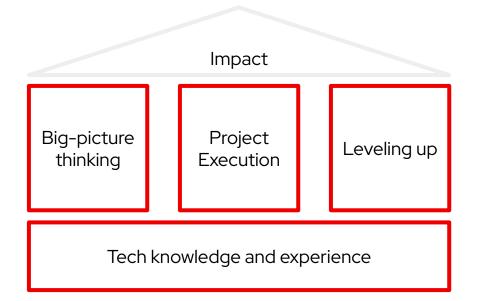


Contributing and engaging with open source can help you sharpen tech skills.



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Open Source Engagement

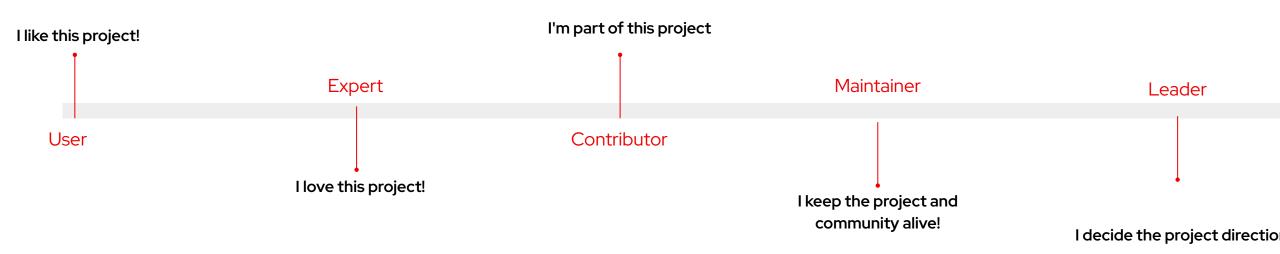


But it can also help you level up towards Staff+.



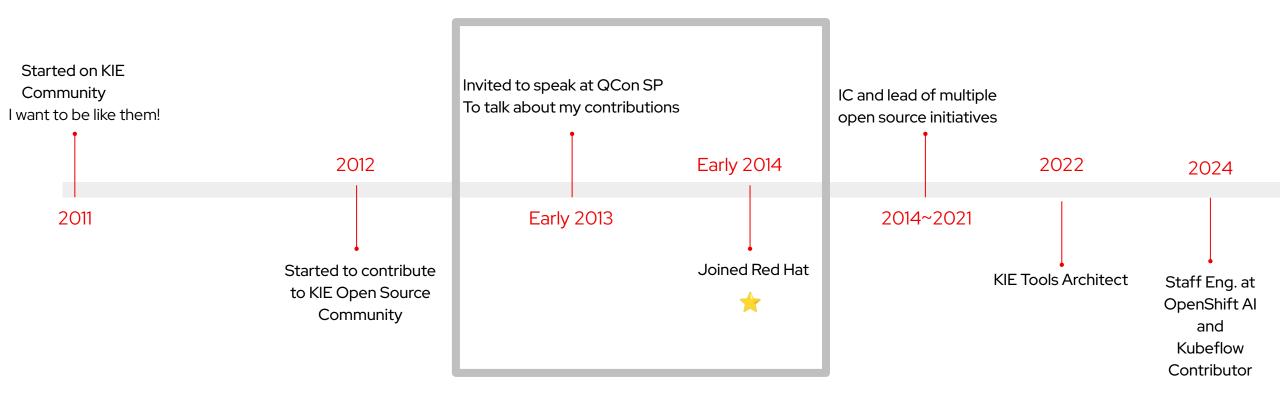
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Open Source Community Members Growth



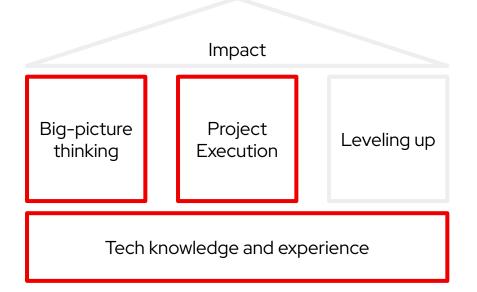


Open Source Engagement - My timeline



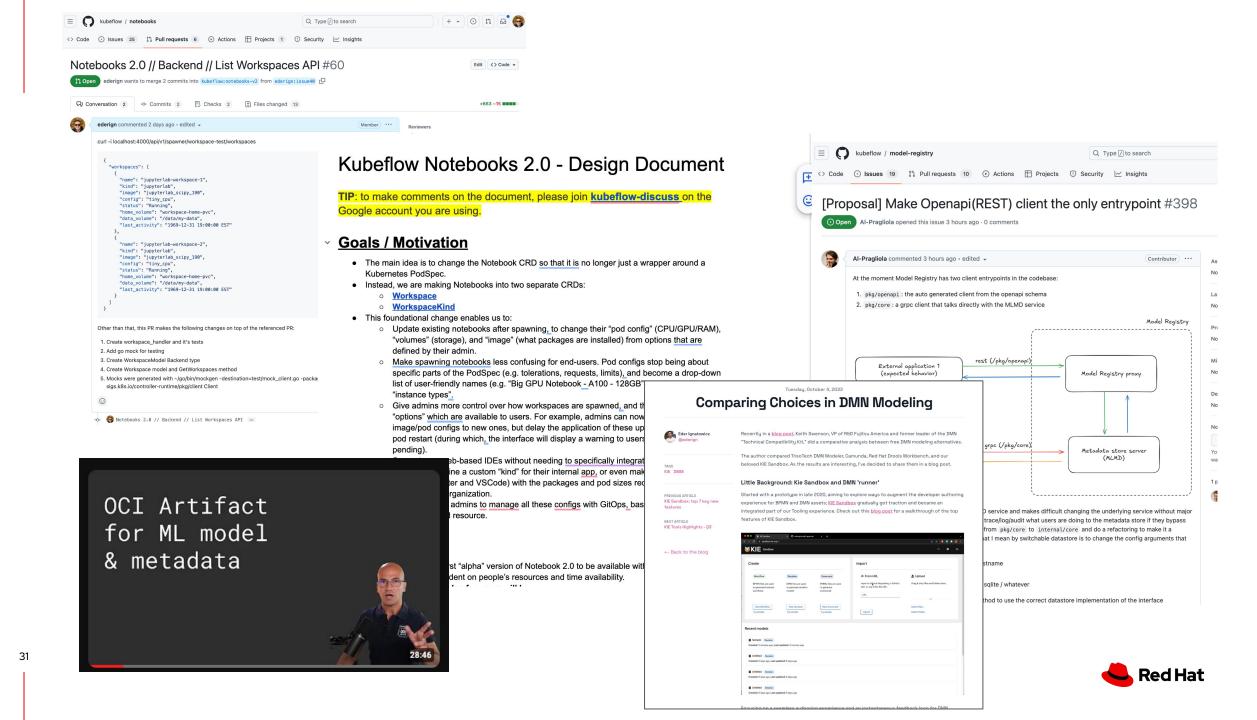


Written Communication

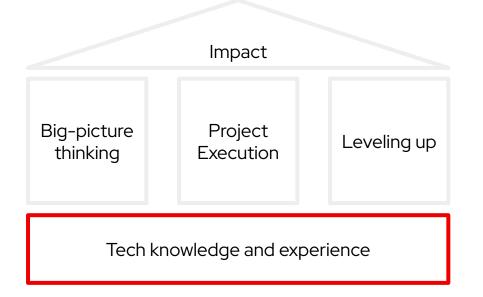


- Open Source is built async and remote
- Writing is the best format for async communication
- A critical skill for developers
 - Emails, Issues, Design Docs, etc.
- Opportunities:
 - Blog posts, Mailing list, Feature Requests, Bugs, Pull Requests





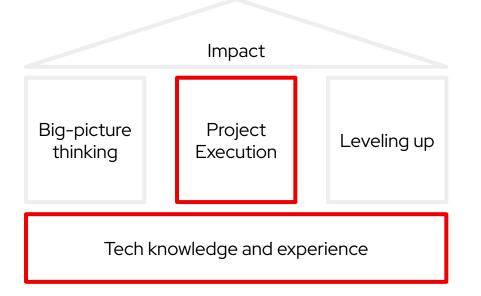
Improve your Technical Quality



- 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



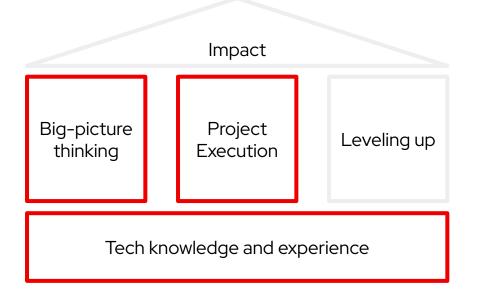
To lead, you have to learn how to follow



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



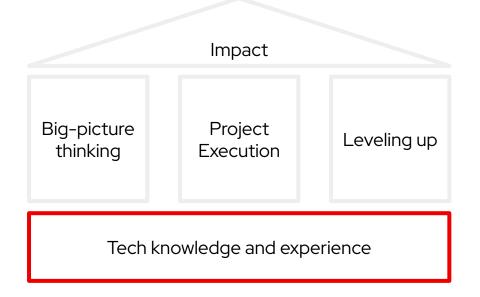
Learn how to lead without authority



- 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



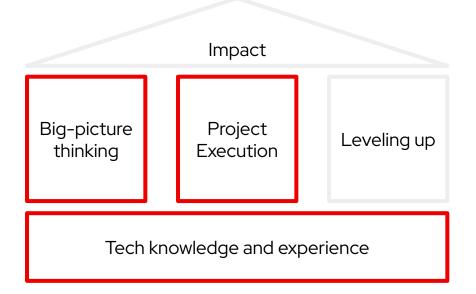
Expand your network



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

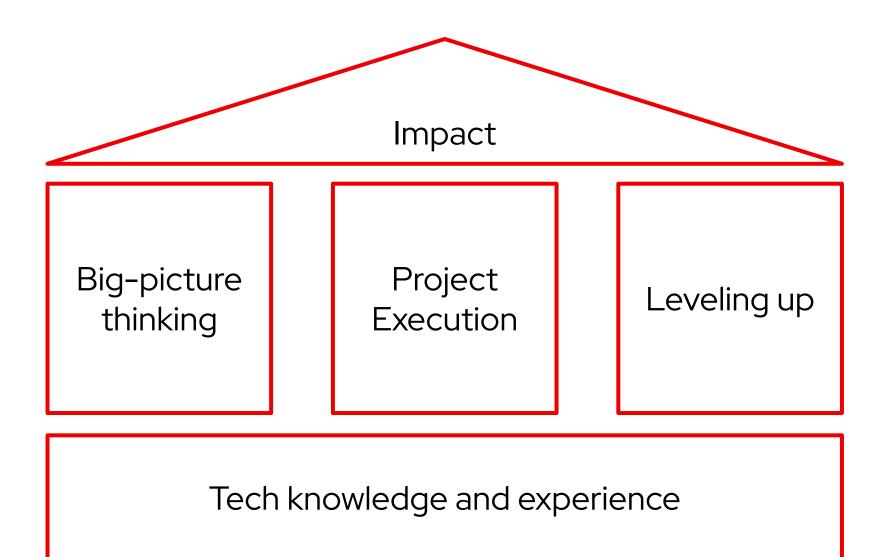


Create visibility



- 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



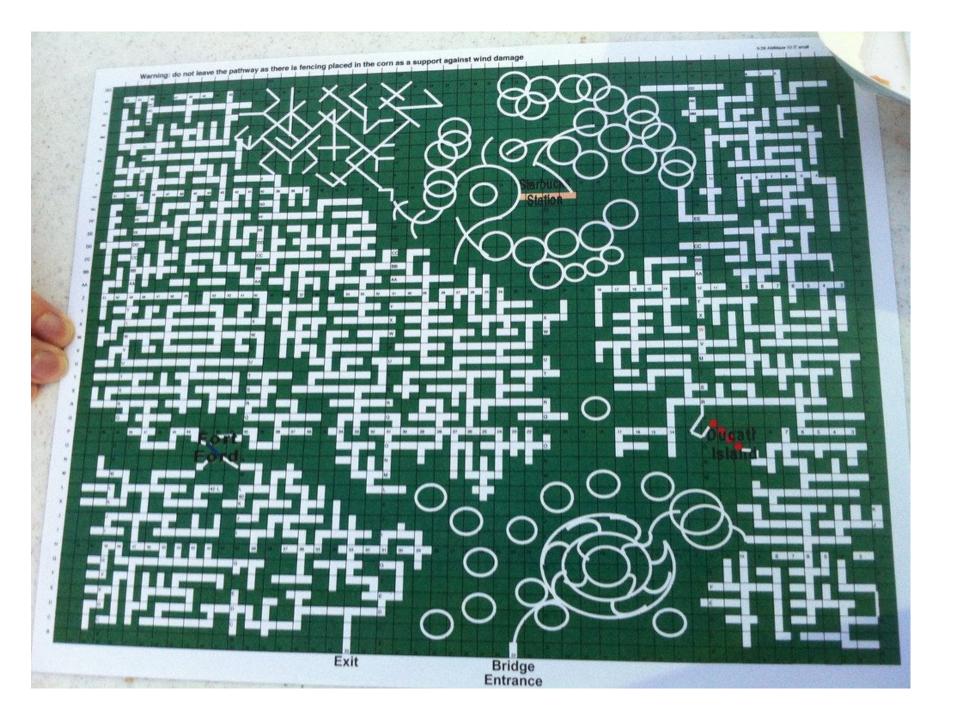
Conferences

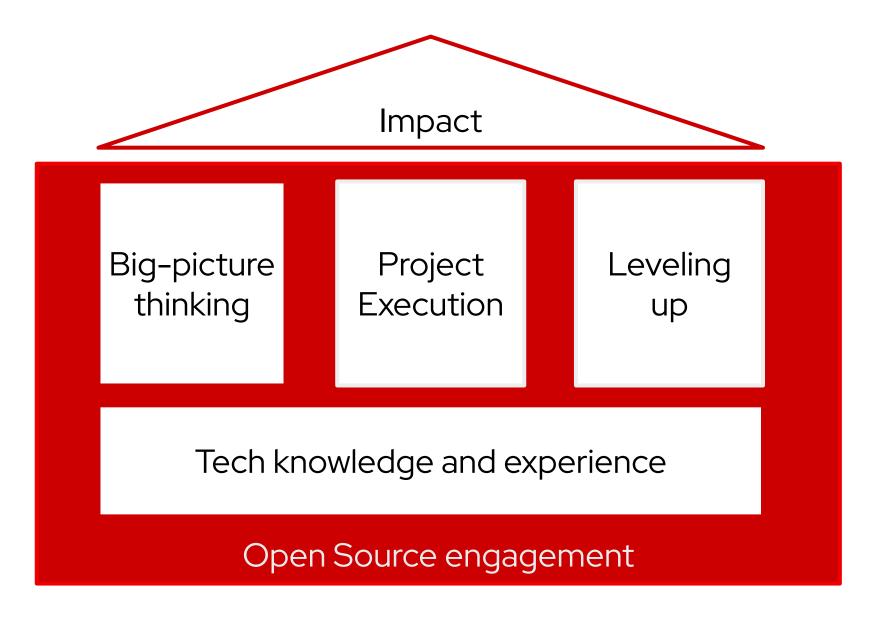
QCons, Lead dev etc.



Communities

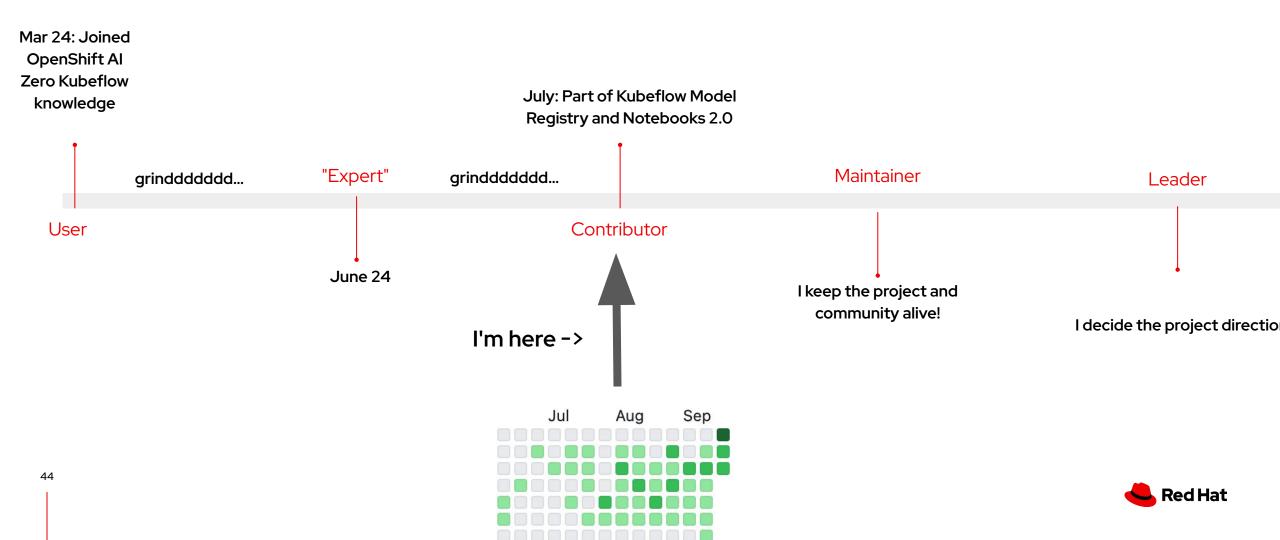








Walk the talk - Kubeflow community



Thank you!



linkedin.com/in/ederign



twitter.com/ederign

