



Foundation for Public Code

Introduction to Public Code

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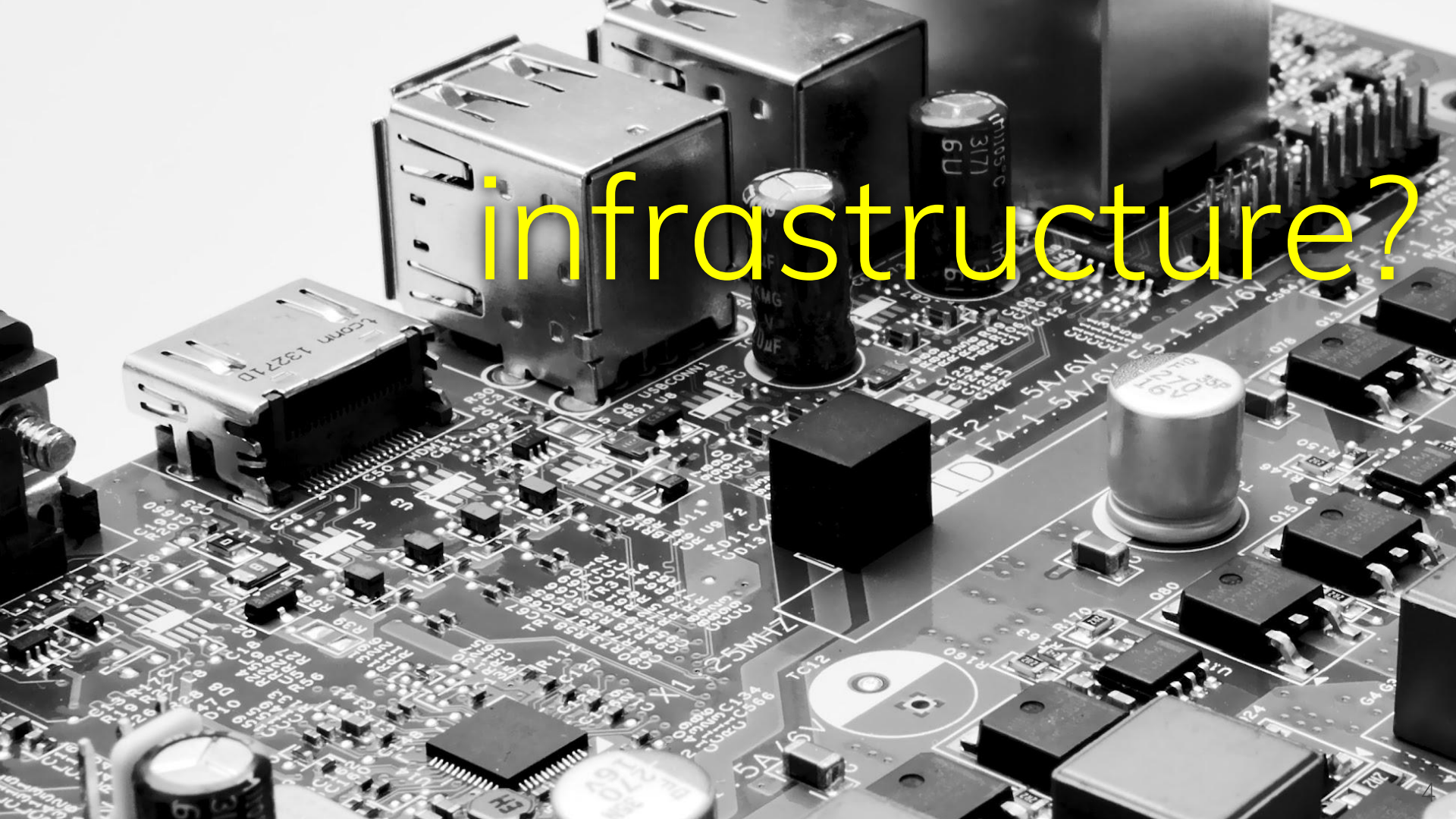
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NLUUG 2023



rapid technological acceleration





infrastructure?



cities turn technology
into infrastructure

Cities work to transform
technology into infrastructure
through iterative generation of
policy, or ‘civic code’.



Policy defines the
possibility space of society.

Are we really
still **FIGHTING**
for this Shit?
Unbelievable.

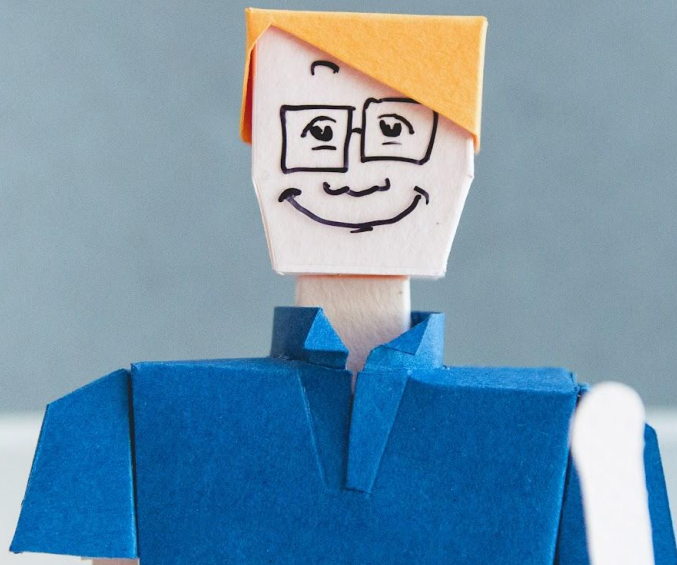









```
<?php echo  
"Hello World!"  
?>
```



policy

digital society?

software

policy

digital society?

software

uninformed and vague



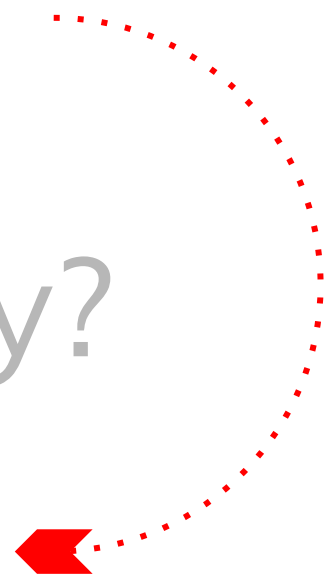
proprietary and closed



policy

digital society?

software



uninformed and vague

We believe software that runs our society can no longer be:

- ▷ hidden in **proprietary codebases**
- ▷ producing data not owned by the public
- ▷ licensed at ever-increasing cost from outside companies

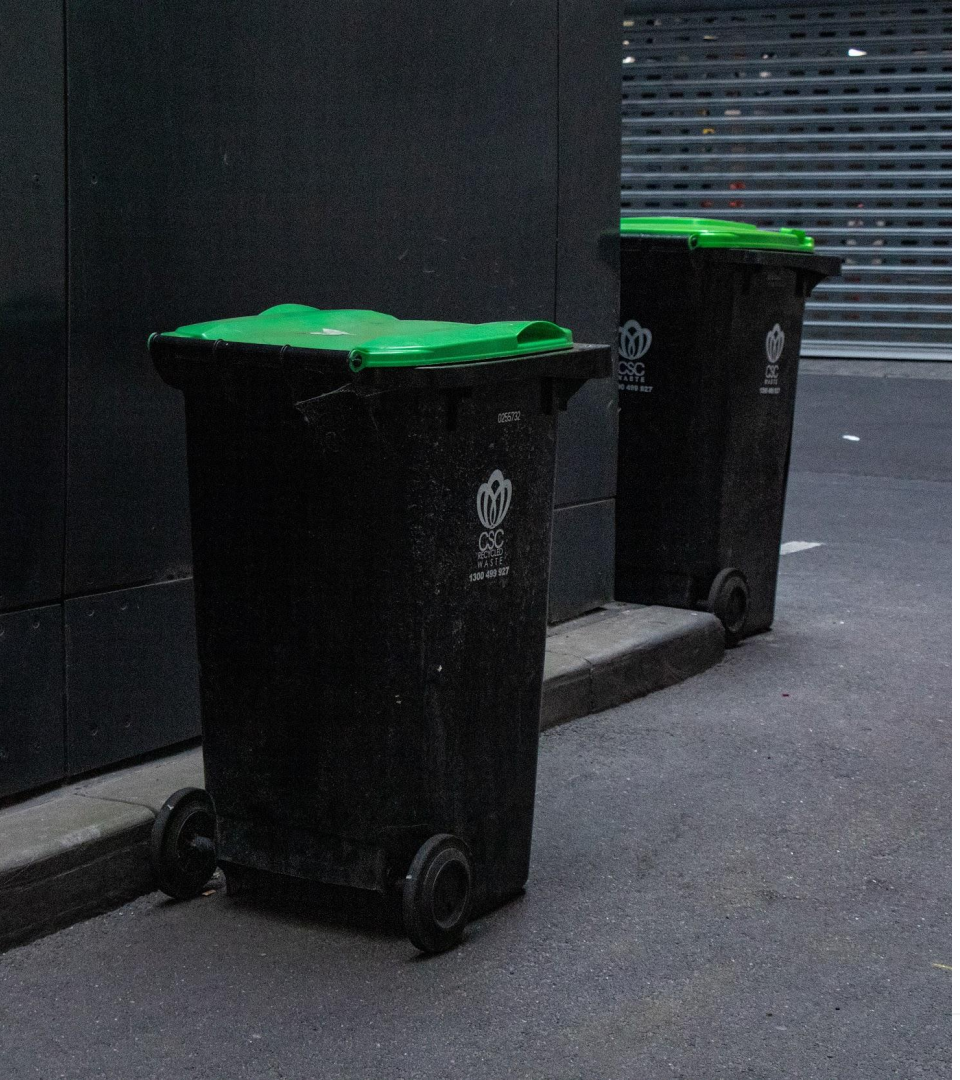
governments need
technological sovereignty



An aerial photograph of a paved plaza with several people walking. Their shadows are cast long and dark on the light-colored pavement. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

Public software must
reflect the values of
the society it serves





Forward thinking cities are already
building **public digital**
infrastructure for themselves



software + policy

produced by
and for the public

= **public code**



A green, arched sign with the word "OPEN" in white, serif font. The sign is mounted on a dark wooden door with a diagonal brace. Two metal clips hold the sign in place. Two light-colored wooden strips are attached to the top and bottom of the sign.

OPEN



software has 'terroir'

A close-up photograph showing two hands holding a rustic, reddish-brown ceramic bowl filled with fresh cherry tomatoes. The tomatoes are mostly bright red, with one green one on the left. The hand on the right is wearing a light-colored, textured work glove with blue polka dots. The background is a soft-focus green field. The word "sharing" is written in a white, sans-serif font across the center of the bowl.

sharing

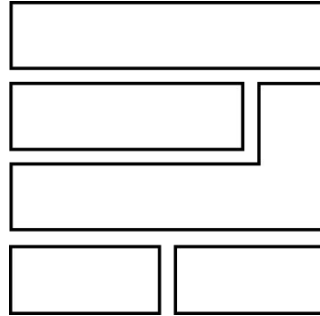
Cities need to develop open,
adaptive and **reusable**
public codebases
together as part of their
core civic functions.



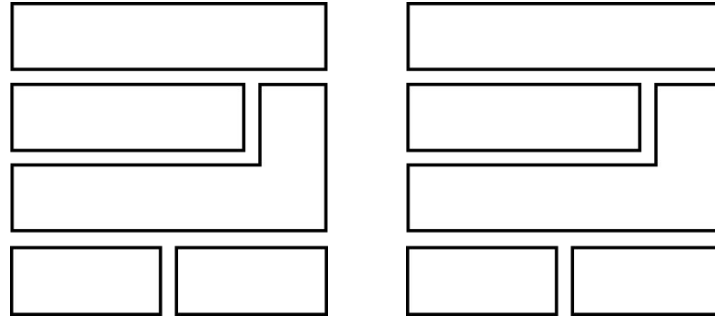
codebase?



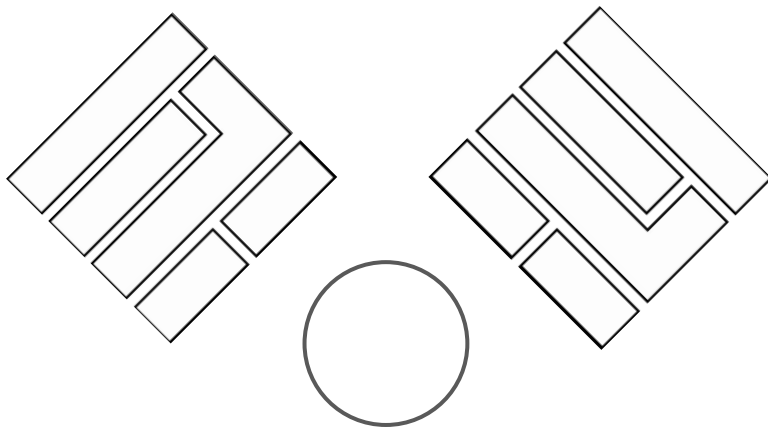
Code



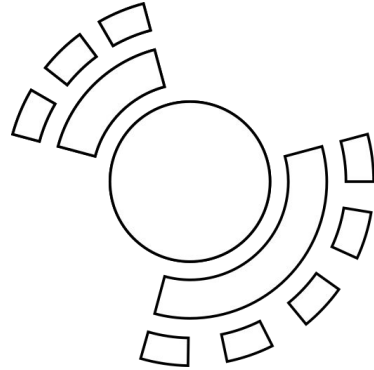
Code can be shared



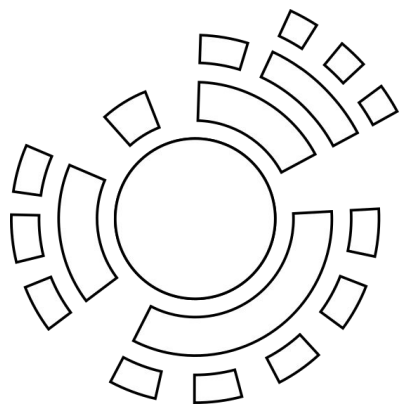
Codebases can be shared

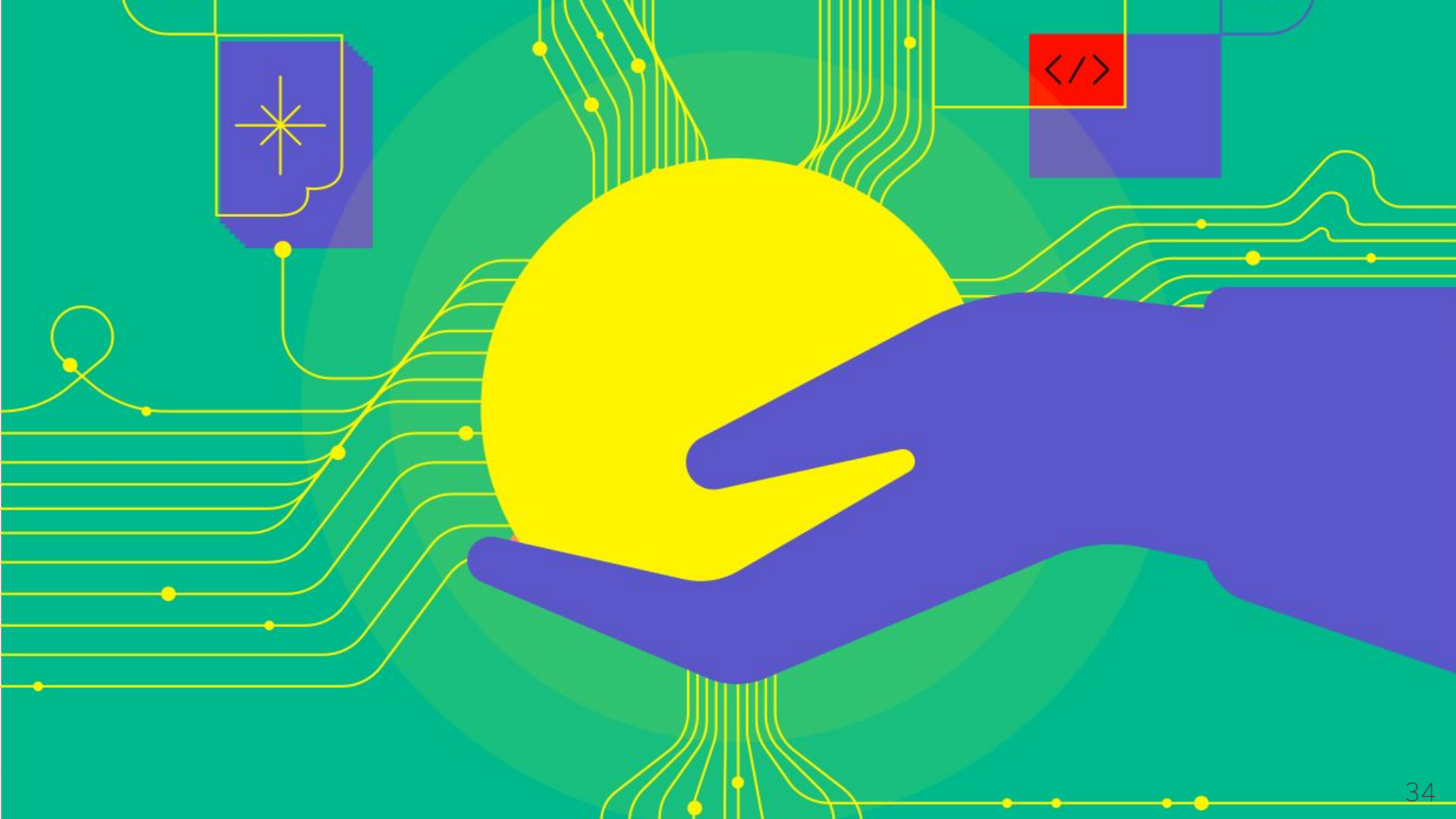


Codebases can be modified

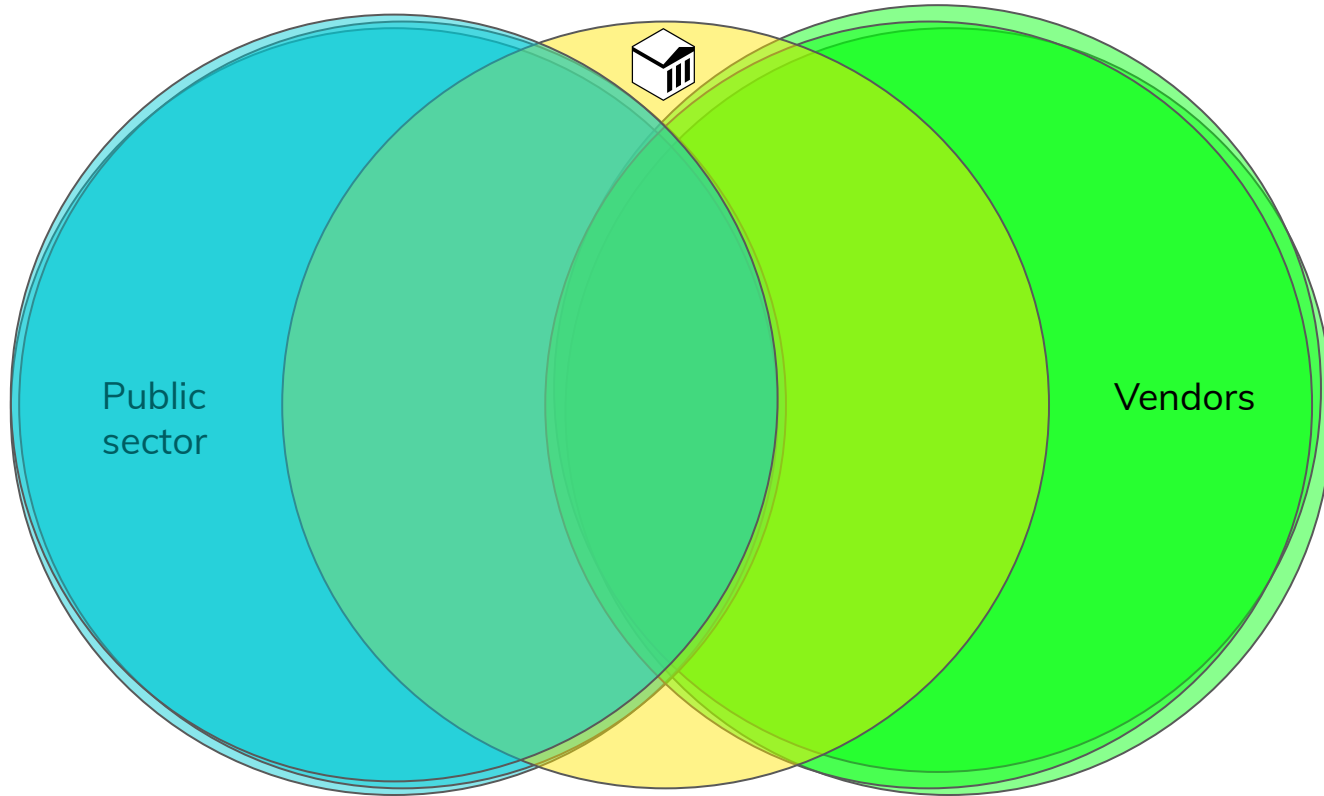


Codebases can be collaborative





What a community needs



Codebase stewardship

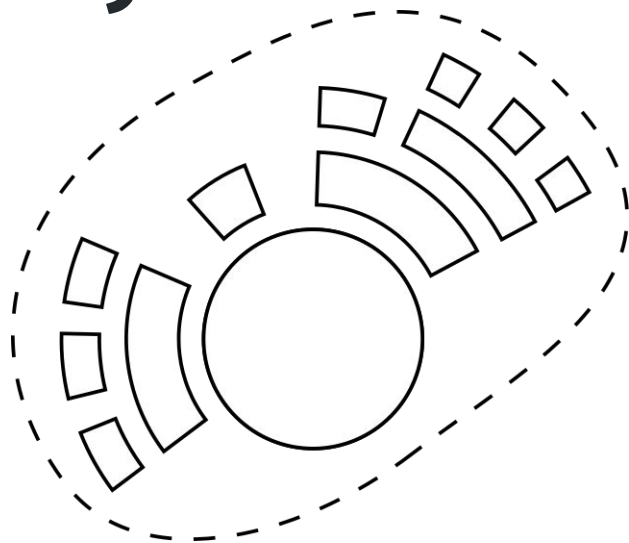




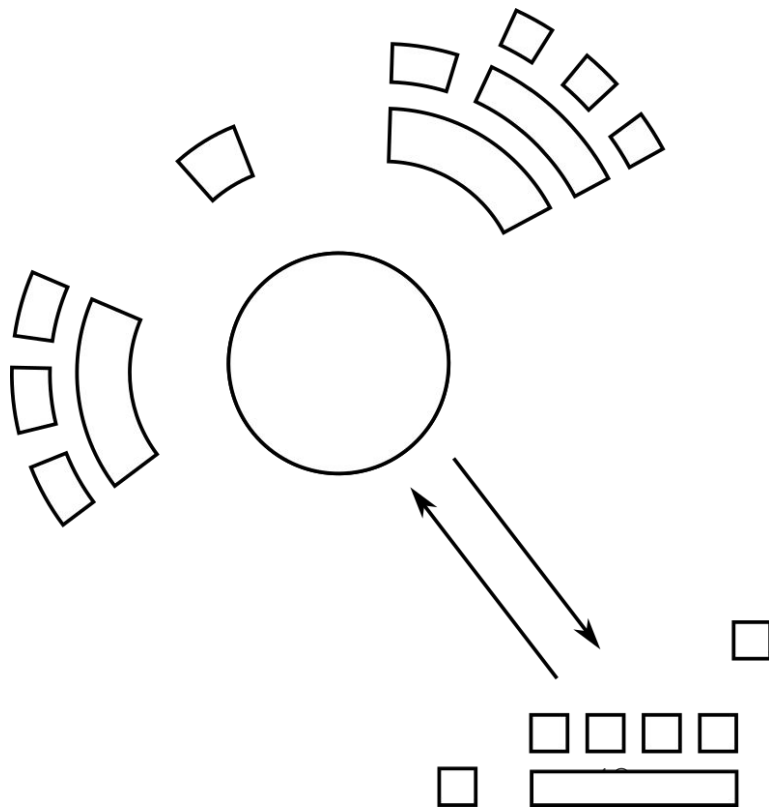
Codebase stewardship

- ▷ community development
- ▷ product management
- ▷ quality assurance
- ▷ support for success

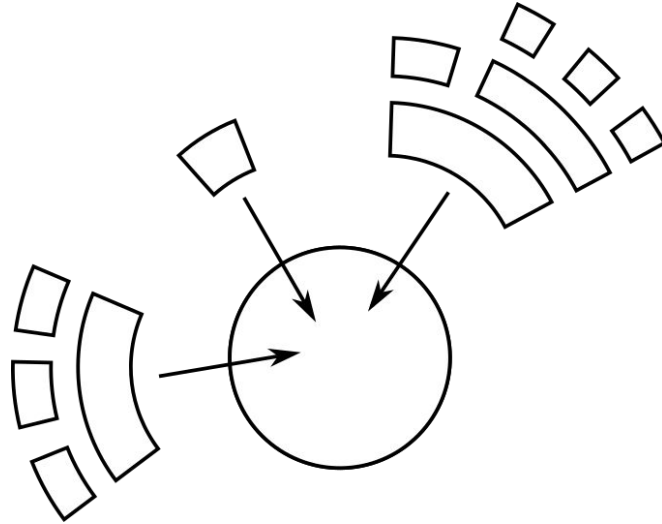
Community



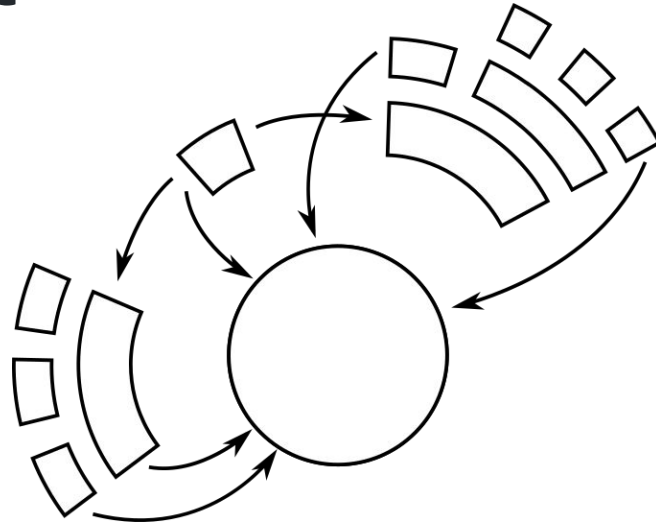
Product



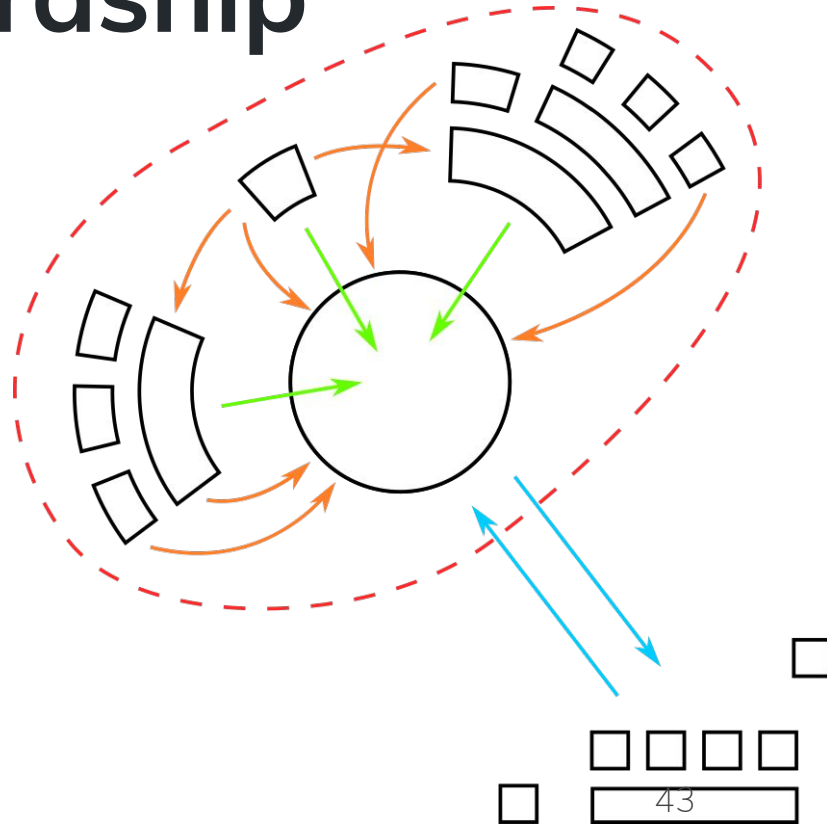
Quality



Support



Stewardship



Codebase stewardship

- ▷ community
- ▷ community
- ▷ community
- ▷ community

Request for contribution
**Standard for
Public Code**

What public code is and

Policy makers

Management

Designers and developers

Draft
Version 0.1.0, April 16th
<https://standard.publiccode.net/>

Request for contributions
**Standard for
Public Code**

What public code is and how

Policy makers

Management

Designers and developers

Draft
Version 0.1.1, May 9th 2019
<https://standard.publiccode.net/>

Request for contribution
**Standard for
Public Code**

What public code is and

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Management

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Draft
Version 0.1.2, August 22nd 2019
<https://standard.publiccode.net/>

Request for contributions
**Standard for
Public Code**

What public code is and how

Policy makers

Management

Designers and developers

Draft
Version 0.1.3, October 8th 2019
<https://standard.publiccode.net/>

Request for contributions
**Standard for
Public Code**

What public code is and how to implement it for:

Policy makers

Management

Designers and developers

Draft
Version 0.1.4, December 1st 2019
<https://standard.publiccode.net/>

<https://standard.publiccode.net>

16 criteria

Code in the open

Bundle policy and source code

Create reusable and portable code

Welcome contributors

Make contributing easy

Maintain version control

Require review of contributions

Document your objectives

Document the code

Use plain English

Use open standards

Use continuous integration

Publish with an open license

Make the codebase findable

Use a coherent style

Document codebase maturity



Requirements

- Software source code **MUST** be licensed under an OSI-approved open source license.
- All source code files in the codebase **SHOULD** include a copyright notice and a license header that are machine readable.
- Codebases **MAY** have multiple licenses for different types of code and documentation.

What you need to do

- Policy makers
- Management
- Developers and designers

1. Make it theoretically possible to join you

Code in the open

Create reusable and portable code

Publish with an open license

Use open standards

Make the codebase findable



2. Tell the world how you would like to collaborate

Welcome contributors
Make contributing easy



3. Explain details about the codebase

Document your objectives
Document the code
Use plain English
Document codebase maturity
Bundle policy and source code



4. Create a process that supports collaboration

Maintain version control
Require review of contribution
Use continuous integration
Use a coherent style





Community implementation guide

<https://publiccodenet.github.io/community-implementation-guide-standard/>

- Examples
- Good practices
- Tools
- Templates

Community translations

<https://publiccodenet.github.io/community-translations-standard/>

- Spanish
- Danish in review
- Swedish and Finnish just started

The Foundation for Public Code

provides **tools and processes**
that bring **people** in **institutions** together
to **collaboratively** build and maintain
software as public infrastructure.



Thanks! 🙏

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