2023 Annual Report

The steward of the Open Source Definition

The foundation for the entire Open Source software ecosystem
Letter from the Executive Director
Stefano Maffulli

It’s been a great year for the Open Source Initiative, thanks to our sponsors and individual donors who support us stewarding the Open Source Definition. In addition to celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Open Source at more than 30 events around the world, we made amazing progress in our three focus areas: licensing and legal, policy and standards, and advocacy and outreach. A few highlights of our accomplishments:

- The License Review working group has continued to examine and improve the license review process and has created a systematic and well-ordered database of all the licenses that have been submitted to OSI for approval since the time of the organization’s founding.
- The Policy team organized a workshop tailored for the U.S. federal government in DC.
- The policy directors Deb Bryant and Simon Phipps have tracked policies affecting Open Source software across the U.S. and Europe and bringing different stakeholders together to voice their opinions. In particular, the Cyber Resilience Act in the European Union and the Securing Open Source Software Act in the U.S are still at the top of OSI’s policy work.
- The OSI joined the Digital Public Goods Alliance and launched the Open Source Alliance with 20 initial members.
- We hosted a global conversation via online and in-person activities as part of the Deep Dive AI, an open multi-stakeholder process to define Open Source AI.
- We launched Opensource.net as a new home for a community of writers and editors of the project formerly known as Opensource.com.

In 2024 we will focus on getting consensus on a definition of Open Source AI (drafts). We will also continue our support of other non-profits and small businesses in Europe to understand the Cyber Resilience Act and expand the Open Policy Alliance. We’ll continue our work to develop a better system to review licenses and expand the content and audience of OpenSource.net.

As usual, we have a very ambitious agenda for a very lean staff. We need to expand our team in order to accomplish our goals, but we can do so only with your financial support. Please consider joining the OSI as an individual member and/or as a sponsor.

Stefano Maffulli
Executive Director, OSI
Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Newsletter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![earth emoji] 🌍 ~2M visitors / year (stable YoY)</td>
<td>![heart emoji] ❤ ~2800 members (+136% YoY)</td>
<td>![email emoji] ✉ ~10100 subscribers (+25% YoY)</td>
</tr>
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The OSI’s website received around **2 million** unique visitors in 2023. We surpassed **2,500** members and **10,000** subscribers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Workshops</th>
<th>Keynotes</th>
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<td>![star emoji] 12</td>
<td>![microphone emoji] 24</td>
<td>![laptop emoji] 18</td>
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The OSI contributed to **36** events worldwide in 2023, holding **6** workshops, **12** keynotes, **24** talks, and **18** webinar sessions.
OSI's License Review Working Group has continued to examine and improve the license review process. The new submission process requires that the license submitter identify what projects are already using the license, describe what gap is not filled by currently existing licenses, and demonstrate that the license complies with the Open Source Definition. The OSI has also created a systematic and well-ordered database of all the licenses that have been submitted to OSI for approval since the time of the organization’s founding. We now have unified OSI-approved licenses with all related metadata to a consistent, reliable and easy-to-access format.

The OSI has also worked towards establishing an open governance model for ClearlyDefined, an open source project with a mission to create a global database of licensing metadata for every software component ever published. We saw greater collaboration between Microsoft, GitHub, SAP, and Bloomberg. Outstanding work from the community went towards optimizing ClearyDefined's back-end, resulting in a 10-fold decrease in terms of database size and costs. Additionally, improvements are being made to the documentation and process of running a local ClearlyDefined harvest and sharing the licensing metadata with other harvesters. This year, GitHub has added 17.5 million package licenses sourced from ClearlyDefined to their database, expanding the license coverage for packages that appear in dependency graph, dependency insights, dependency review, and a repository’s software bill of materials (SBOM).

**OSI Approved Licenses**

We provide a venue for the community to discuss Open Source licenses and we maintain the OSI Approved Licenses database.

**ClearlyDefined**

We aim to crowdsourced a global database of licensing metadata for every software component ever published for the benefit of all.

List of articles under “Legal”.
Policy and Standards

The OSI’s senior policy directors Deb Bryant and Simon Phipps have been busy keeping track of policies affecting Open Source software in the US and Europe, bringing different stakeholders together to voice their opinions as well as providing direct consultation to policy makers. In Europe a very full legislative agenda poised to impact the Open Source community included the Cyber Resilience Act and revisions to the Product Liability Act bringing software into scope. Both had significant impacts on Open Source that were initially underestimated by the legislators, but in collaboration with other community entities OSI was able to deliver actionable education to mitigate the impacts of the bills. In the US, we tracked the Securing Open Source Software Act as well as numerous Executive Orders related to Cybersecurity which call out Open Source’s vital role, and formally responded to public Requests for Information. In 2023, the OSI joined the Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA) and their mission in support of the United Nations Sustainability Goals. OSI’s contributions to the DPGA’s 2023 roadmap were published in their annual report. In the US the Open Policy Alliance was launched with 20 initial members, including the Apache Software Foundation, Eclipse Foundation, the Python Software Foundation, the FreeBSD Foundation and many more. The Alliance began public outreach and education at the All Things Open event. On the standards front, OSI continues as a member of European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and engages at other international standards bodies on behalf of its communities.

Open Policy Alliance

We are bringing non-profit organizations together to participate in educating and informing public policy decisions related to Open Source software, content, research, and education.

List of articles under “Policy”.
Advocacy and Outreach

The OSI has celebrated the 25th anniversary of Open Source in partnership with 36 conferences from around the world with a combined attendance of over 125,000 people. Throughout the year, our focus has shifted from reviewing the past of Free and Open Source software to exploring the future of Open Source in this new era of AI. We have organized several online and in-person activities as part of the Deep Dive AI, an open multi-stakeholder process to define Open Source AI. We have also organized License Clinic, a workshop tailored for the US federal government. Finally, we have launched Opensource.net as a new home for a community of writers and editors of the project formerly known as Opensource.com.

25 years of Open Source
We celebrated the 25th Anniversary by sharing the rich and interconnected history of the Free Software and Open Source movements and we explored the challenges and opportunities ahead, from AI to cybersecurity.

Deep Dive: Defining Open Source AI
We are bringing together global experts to establish a shared set of principles that can recreate the permissionless, pragmatic and simplified collaboration for AI practitioners.

Opensource.net
We gave a new home to the community of contributors from opensource.com. The new platform supports healthy dialog and informed education on Open Source software topics.

List of articles under “Advocacy”.
Press mentions

In 2023, the Open Source Initiative was cited 100 times in the press worldwide, educating and countering misinformation. Our work was featured at The Verge, TechCrunch, ZDNET, InfoWorld, Ars Technica, IEEE Spectrum, MIT Technology Review, among other top media outlets.

List of select articles under “Press mentions”:

- Applying the lessons of open source to generative AI (InfoWorld)
- What is the EU’s Cyber Resilience Act (CRA)? (ITPro)
- Open Source AI and the Llama 2 Kerfuffle (The New Stack)
- The future of open source is still very much in flux (MIT Technology Review)
- 7 Takeaways On The State And Future Of OSS Disruption (Forbes)
- Meta’s Llama 2 Elbows Into a Still-Open Field (IEEE Spectrum)
- Meta can call Llama 2 open source as much as it likes, but that doesn’t mean it is (The Register)
- So, that’s the end of OpenAI’s ChatGPT moat (Business Insider)
- The AI wars might have an armistice deal sooner than expected (The Verge)
- Open source licenses need to leave the 1980s and evolve to deal with AI (The Register)
- EU’s Cyber Resilience Act contains a poison pill for open source developers (The Register)
Events

The Open Source Initiative contributed with keynotes, panels, talks, and other activities at 36 events worldwide throughout 2023, including the top tech and open source conferences, with a combined attendance of over 125,000 people across 14 different countries.
List of events in 2023. Detailed information of activities is available for each event:

- EU Open Source Policy Summit – Brussels, Belgium – 3 February
- FOSDEM – Brussels, Belgium – 4-5 February
- State of Open Con – London, UK – 7-8 February
- SCALE 20x – Pasadena, USA – 9-12 March
- FOSS Backstage – Berlin, Germany – 13-14 March
- ORT Community Days – Berlin, Germany – 15-16 March
- Open Source License Clinic – Washington D.C., USA – 4 April
- FOSS North – Gothenburg, Sweden – 24-25 April
- Web Summit Rio – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – 1-4 May
- Open Source Summit NA – Vancouver, Canada – 10-13 May
- OpenInfra Summit – Vancouver, Canada – 13-14 June 2023
- Data + AI Summit – San Francisco, USA – 26-28 June
- FOSSY – Portland, USA – 13-15 July
- Campus Party Brazil – Sao Paulo, Brazil – 25-29 July
- Open Source Congress – Geneva, Switzerland – 27-28 July
- COSCUP – Taipei, Taiwan – 29-30 July
- North Bay Python – Petaluma, USA – 29-30 July
- Diana Initiative – Las Vegas, USA – 5 August
- Black Hat US – Las Vegas, USA – 5-9 August
- Ai4 – Las Vegas, USA – 6-8 August
- DEFCON – Las Vegas, USA – 10-13 August
- NextCloud Conference – Berlin, Germany – 16-17 September
- Open Source Summit EU – Bilbao, Spain – 19-21 September
- Nerdearl – Buenos Aires, Argentina – 26-30 September
- Deep Dive: AI Webinar Series – Online – September
- Community Leadership Summit – Raleigh, USA – 15 October
- All Things Open – Raleigh, USA – 16-17 October
- EclipseCon – Ludwigsburg, Germany – 16-18 October
- Latinoware – Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil – 18-20 October
- Linux Foundation Member Summit – Monterey, USA – 24-25 October
- Community over Code – Halifax, Canada – 26-28 October
- SFScon – Bolzano, Italy – 9-10 November
- Open Source Experience – Paris, France – 6-7 December
- AI.dev – Palo Alto, USA – 12-13 December
## Consolidated Financials

**Period:** 2022-2023 – ($ in thousands) – by Phyllis Dobbs, Controller

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Service Revenue</td>
<td>$244</td>
<td>$87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, Membership Dues, and Grants</td>
<td>$524</td>
<td>$477</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>$564</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Service Expenses</td>
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<td>$116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staffing</td>
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<td>$210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal &amp; Professional Fees</td>
<td>$69</td>
<td>$77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Technology Expenses</td>
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<td>$10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing and Promotion</td>
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<td>$56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$13</td>
<td>$9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
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<td>$13</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
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<td>$491</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>$73</td>
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# Consolidated Financials

*Period: 2022-2023 – ($ in thousands) – by Phyllis Dobbs, Controller*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable - Net</td>
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<td>$107</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$975</strong></td>
<td><strong>$878</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan - SBA</td>
<td>$145</td>
<td>$148</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$150</strong></td>
<td><strong>$152</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>$572</td>
<td>$407</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets With Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>$253</td>
<td>$319</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$825</strong></td>
<td><strong>$726</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></th>
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<td><strong>$975</strong></td>
<td><strong>$878</strong></td>
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Towards 2024

Our mission is to educate about and advocate for the benefits of open source and to build bridges among different constituencies in the open source community. In 2023, thanks to the commitment and donations from several individuals and organizations, we made substantial progress towards our mission. We hope to continue to evolve our programs in 2024, embracing the new challenges and opportunities ahead, from Artificial Intelligence to cybersecurity. Please consider joining the OSI as an individual member and/or as a sponsor or affiliate.

In alphabetical order and at the risk of missing some names of individuals who have contributed to the OSI in 2023, we would like to thank:
