

Module Guide

Open Source

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Open Source is not just open source. One can claim it's also a movement, but it's even more than that. It's a fresh mode of production. It's Kojin Karatani's mode of exchange D. It's anarchism's direct action. It's real world gift economy. It might even be a paradigm-shifting spark for the next phase of humanity's economic substratum. Let's make it so.

How do I take part in this module?

1. Open Source Club

This module's main activity is real world open source contribution.

At Open Source Club, we gather for a few hours every other Monday with the goal of having a useful and meaningful impact (large or small) to an open source project (ours or someone else's). See here for upcoming sessions: <https://chaitinschool.org/events>

There is a "cohort-based" schedule, with each cohort lasting for three sessions. Fellowship candidates interested in open source are encouraged to attend one or multiple cohorts. These sessions are open to anyone, including people not part of LCPT's Political Technology course.

2. Talk to me

What about?

- Let's talk about your software projects
- Let's talk about coding
- Let's talk about contributing to existing open source projects
 - Whether that's from coding perspective, or product design, or community management
 - Also see below "3. Lectures and Workshops" → Linux Kernel Development
- Let's talk about starting new open source projects. I'm excited about starting something new!
- Let's talk about product development or ideas. I like helping shape software products!

How / where?

- Find me IRL at Ration Club
- Talk to me online on a video call:
<https://cal.com/sirodoht/newspeak-house-office-hours>
- Join [Chaitin School](#), the software engineering community I am part of. There, you can meet people interested in coding, interested in getting better at it, and attending/organising further events around software making:
 - Discord: <https://discord.gg/bzjKNG4bUU>
- IM
 - Telegram: <https://t.me/sirodoht>
 - Whatsapp/Signal number etc on request
- Email: zf@sirodoht.com

3. Lectures and Workshops

If there is of interest, we could schedule the following:

- **Lecture: Why is open source important? A philosophical investigation**
 - This one will talk about the philosophical and societal implications of open source, its role in human history and especially its classification as a mode of exchange under Kojin Karatani's theory.
- **Workshop: Linux Kernel Development**
 - The linux kernel project has been one of the structural pylons of open source for three decades now, with thousands of developers contributing to it from a wide variety of organisations. This link is the introduction of its development process: <https://www.kernel.org/doc/html/latest/process/1.Intro.html>

- Linux is one of the most important software projects. I've never worked on a C codebase before so this one would be very challenging for me yet this might be a chance to dive deep into something ubiquitous. The form of this workshop could be a weekend that we spend full-time trying to learn how the internals of the linux kernel work as well as making a contribution to it.

4. Readings

We are here to build open source software — but here are some cool things to read if you're into that:

- <https://web.mit.edu/6.001/6.037/sicp.pdf>
 - *Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs* is one of the most important books in software engineering. It starts with the simplest concepts of computation and builds up from there all high level concepts that are common today. It's a book for people who don't know anything about coding/computation/computers, designed to help them build something as complex as a virtual machine and its programming language. For this reason, it takes immense effort to complete it, yet completing it is practically doable. I recommend David Beazley's course on it, which I have taken and is great: <https://www.dabeaz.com/sicp.html>
- <https://www.norvig.com/21-days.html>
 - Learning how to build high quality software takes much more time than it might seem once one learns how to code.
- <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7282>
 - This is a gem of democracy buried deep into the highly technical realm of engineering standard organisations.
- <https://laniakeabooks.org/books/letters-from-prison/part-2/#open-source-as-societal-theory>
 - This is an essay I have written about why I think open source is very important not just from a software perspective but also from a societal one.
- <http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/hacker-howto.html>
 - One of the old-world hacker links; in an attempt to evoke feelings of inspiration from its ethos.

5. Projects