



# Not Just Building Tools

Strategies for sustaining software and associated  
communities

# Your presenter

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# The Open Preservation Foundation

- International, not-for-profit membership organisation founded 2010
- Sustain the results of R&D projects
- Steward open-source digital preservation software
- Members & supporters are libraries, archives, universities, companies who provide digital preservation services



# OPF has a vested interest in FOSS

JHVE

pylyzer

veraPDF



# Sustainability through use

What makes software sustainable?

In a single word:

**USERS**

In another word:

**YOU**



# Sustainability through care

It's not even just users, it's care. FOSS users show they care by:

- Reporting bugs
- Submitting feature requests
- Contributing to documentation
- Helping other users through mailing lists, community sites



# It's not just good technical staff

Without users who care developers must guess:

- What to develop next
- What needs fixing
- Whether the software performs in the real world
- If the “developer centric” documentation they produced is adequate



# It's not always better technology

Been “technically” best doesn't equal more users





# It's not good support staff

Again support staff can't operate in isolation

- Good support staff need user interaction
- While they offer a non-dev perspective, by definition they're not users
- Better testing, a better website and better documentation doesn't mean sustainability



# But it's not just about users

What happens if all of these groups work together?

In a word:

**COMMUNITY**

In another word:

**US**



# Communities of care

When communities care anything is sustainable:



# What's worked? OPF war stories

JHVE

The logo for jpylyzer features the word "jpylyzer" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. A blue circle is positioned above the letter 'j'. A horizontal blue line runs underneath the letters 'p', 'y', and 'l'.

The logo for veraPDF consists of a red square on the left containing the word "vera" in white lowercase letters, and a white square on the right containing the word "PDF" in black uppercase letters.

