

ONOS Joins The Linux Foundation Summary & FAQ

Summary: ON.Lab and The Linux Foundation are pleased to announce their strategic partnership to create the most compelling open source SDN and NFV platforms, solutions and ecosystem to help service providers transform their infrastructure while helping vendors and service providers invent new business models. Together, ONOS and The Linux Foundation can significantly accelerate the virtuous cycle of developing platforms and use cases (e.g. ONOS, CORD) by enabling solutions that are enriched by community contributions and fed back to further improve and harden the platform.

ON.Lab's mission is to create open source SDN and NFV platforms and solutions to accelerate SDN and NFV adoption by service providers. The open source SDN Open Network Operating System (ONOS), ON.Lab's flagship platform, is designed to be the SDN control plane of service provider networks. ONOS provides scalability, high performance, high availability and system abstractions appropriate for mission critical networks. The ONOS project has done four open source releases of ONOS since December 2014 and demonstrated its architecture's features including scalability, high performance, high availability, modularity and the ability to support OpenFlow as well as NETCONF and other southbound protocols. The ONOS project has also demonstrated a number of service provider solutions enabled by ONOS such as CORD (Central Office Re-architected as Data Center), packet-optical convergence, SDN-IP peering, and others. ONOS already had a global footprint in Research and Education (R&E) networks and has a growing community around the globe.

The Linux Foundation is a nonprofit consortium dedicated to fostering the growth of Linux and collaborative software development. Founded in 2000, the organization sponsors the work of Linux creator Linus Torvalds and promotes, protects and advances the Linux operating system and collaborative software development by marshaling the resources of its members and the open source community. The Linux Foundation provides a neutral forum for collaboration and education by hosting Collaborative Projects, Linux conferences, including LinuxCon, and generating original research and content that advances the understanding of Linux and collaborative software development. More information can be found at www.linuxfoundation.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did the two organizations create a partnership?

It is a strategic partnership that is expected to have an enormous impact on the future of networking for service providers. The partnership combines the best of the two organizations' capabilities in support of a strategic vision to transform service provider infrastructure with open source SDN and NFV. The partnership will create a large collaborating community for ONOS and, together, will build best-in-class

open source platforms, solutions and ecosystem for service providers to monetize SDN/NFV while helping vendors and service providers invent new business models. The partnership will focus on creating disruptive SDN solutions featuring open source software platforms, white boxes, a range of network control and management applications and the ability to rapidly create and deploy innovative services.

The partnership will help ON.Lab/ONOS to realize its full potential as an open source SDN and NFV project for service providers. The partnership will leverage best practices in community engagement to grow, nurture and harness the power of the open source community and thus help ONOS and the solutions transition into wide scale production deployments. Together, ON.Lab and The Linux Foundation will realize the strategic vision of transforming service provider infrastructure with open source SDN and NFV. The partnership will also assist The Linux Foundation to impact another significant part of the global IT industry, thus strengthening its brand and value.

Why did the ONOS project join The Linux Foundation?

ON.Lab partnered with The Linux Foundation to leverage its unmatched track record and experience in shepherding open source projects and creating vibrant global open source communities. The partnership enables the ONOS project to grow and nurture a larger global community and thus enable developers and contributors to further accelerate the pace of innovation through feedback and contributions to its open source platforms and solutions. The Linux Foundation brand further enhances ONOS' reputation with the developer community and provides best practices for operating an open source project.

In short, the partnership with The Linux Foundation will help ON.Lab/ONOS realize its full potential as an open source SDN and NFV project for service providers and help transform their infrastructure to achieve high capex and opex efficiencies and to create new innovative services.

What benefits does The Linux Foundation offer to the ONOS community?

The Linux Foundation offers extensive knowledge and experience in building and maintaining vibrant open source communities. The Linux Foundation is a leading name for open source shepherding with a track record in community building and amazing reach, geographically and to various IT industry segments, with its open source infrastructure and processes leveraged across many open source projects.

The ONOS Project has created a solid platform, several compelling SDN/NFV solutions for service providers, has a global footprint in R&E networks and a growing community around the globe.

Why NOW?

The ONOS Project wanted to first build a strong core engineering team and create a solid platform and example solutions in close collaboration with its leading service

providers and vendor partners. The project has not only achieved this milestone but also created a global footprint of ONOS in R&E networks and has a rapidly growing community around the globe. The ONOS Project did not want to waste precious community resources on a platform that hasn't been proven to have the right foundation and the potential for real production use in service provider networks.

Now is the perfect time to partner with The Linux Foundation to: organize, grow, and harness the power of this global community; take the ONOS platform and solutions enabled by it to the next level of production readiness; get them widely deployed in production networks; and make them the default platforms and solutions for service providers.

What specifically will The Linux Foundation do for ONOS?

The Linux Foundation will assist the ONOS project with crucial administrative, technical and legal functions to: build and nurture a vibrant developer community for ONOS; market and promote ONOS as part of its portfolio of open source projects; help recruit new partners; and facilitate the cross-pollination of ONOS with other open source projects. The Linux Foundation provides not only a number of resources but also provides a measure of trust and sustainability through its well-built brand. The Linux Foundation offers critical services such as HR, finance, accounting, legal, Web, marketing, promotion, events, community management, open source development, security, intellectual property management; and the existing infrastructure to rapidly develop training programs, to support developer meetups, as well as to support developer and industry events.

What benefits and strengths does ONOS bring to The Linux Foundation?

ON.Lab has a well-established brand name and track record for leading the open source SDN movement and has built solid SDN and NFV software platforms and solutions for service providers, rapidly turning feedback from its community into new features and hardened software. ON.Lab provides a strong core engineering team to shepherd ONOS with focus and purpose, and deep engagement with service providers and vendors to create solutions that enable new business models. The ONOS platform and solutions are experiencing tremendous downloads, adoption and feedback from its rapidly growing community and has already developed the Central Office Re-architected as a Data Center (CORD) as one of the first killer apps of SDN and NFV for service providers, among others.

The partnership with ON.Lab will allow The Linux Foundation to create another global open source community and bring compelling open source solutions to service provider networks – one of the last IT sectors that still does not use open source but is ripe to transition to open source.

Does The Linux Foundation get a seat on the ONOS board and can we expect to see other changes?

No. ON.Lab and the ONOS project will continue with their respective boards and the existing governance structure.

What impact will this have on the ONOS community or mission?

ONOS' mission will remain the same and that is to accelerate the adoption of SDN and NFV in mission critical networks based on open source platforms and solutions. ON.Lab and the ONOS project will continue to operate the way they have in the past except in the area of building, nurturing and harnessing the power of a truly global open source community which will be fostered by The Linux Foundation. The Linux Foundation will provide a scalable and global forum for collaborative work with other open source projects that are complementary to the ONOS mission, such as the Open Platform for NFV Project (OPNFV) and others. Because a global collaborating open source community is essential for the ONOS project to achieve its mission, The Linux Foundation will play a very important role as the project moves forward.

Does this change the strategic direction of ONOS?

This decision significantly enhances the ONOS project's capabilities in a crucial strategic area of building and harnessing the power of a global open source community. The ONOS Project will also leverage The Linux Foundation's years of experience in open source processes and practices.

Will there be any changes to current ONOS licensing terms (Apache 2.0, CLA, etc.)?

No. Licensing terms of ONOS will remain the same as described at <http://onosproject.org/software/>.

ONOS has gained solid traction with global service providers. What's been the reaction of service providers to ONOS joining Linux Foundation?

Partnering with The Linux Foundation brings extended reach to collaborators and as such aids the acceleration of innovation on an even larger scale. ONOS partners (services providers, vendors, and researchers) welcome the partnership with The Linux Foundation and look forward to the benefits, scale, brand enhancement and sustainability it will provide to its community.

Will The Linux Foundation be actively promoting and advancing ONOS as a part of its marketing efforts?

Yes, of course. The Linux Foundation recognizes the potential impact the ONOS project will have on the service provider network infrastructure and will do its best to promote and advance ONOS to help the project achieve its potential. Both the ONOS project and The Linux Foundation will serve as a proxy between the community, industry and end users to ensure everyone's needs are best understood and that collaboration and solutions are optimized for the best result.

How will The Linux Foundation support ONOS and ODL – two competing open source SDN platform projects?

Projects and communities with alternative approaches often overlap and eventually find common “undifferentiated plumbing” to work on together. Though ONOS and

the OpenDaylight Project (ODL) are sometimes considered competitors, each has its own unique mission, target market, system architecture and technical and open source approach.

ONOS upholds its mission, target space, open source model, community, service provider space, white boxes, a strong architecture and engineering team driving the platform and solutions in close collaboration with partners. It will stay focused on its core mission, target market space, and its community.

Having ONOS, ODL and OPNFV all as Linux Foundation Collaborative Projects enables a path to future collaboration across communities and increases the ability to enlarge the potential ONOS developer ecosystem.

Finally, The Linux Foundation has a successful track record of hosting competitive projects such as the Xen Project and KVM, as well as IoTivity and the AllSeen Alliance. The Linux Foundation's approach is to foster collaboration and choice.

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