

Community Specifications: Open Source Meets Due Process

Community Specifications are how we incubate new project ideas, introduce new participants to standards development, and open pathways to greater collaboration.

- Anyone can use this framework (not just us)
- Designed for technical communities who are already using git-based version control systems.
- Designed to grow with the community: projects can move to more formal organizations if/when ready.

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Three key insights driving this program:

- *There are hundreds of thousands of software developers.*
 - > **Let's meet them where they are.**
- *Software workflows feel routine, standards workflows feel opaque.*
 - > **Let's make it easier to follow the rules.**
- *Developers aren't sure how they can make a difference.*
 - > **Let's show clear paths and outcomes for advocates.**

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What it is:

- **A safe container for spec development.** We provide template files in a repo that a community modifies to fit (scope, notices, contributing).
- **A set of simplified governance rules.** We use the language of open source development to describe important standards processes.
- **A spec license and a software license.** A simple spec license coupled with an OSI-approved software license makes it easier to contribute to or consume.
- **A way to track provenance and document consensus.** Git-based tools and contributions automatically generate history (and it's all machine readable by default).