What comes after world domination?

April 14,

Daniel

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wolfSSL

https://daniel.haxx.se

curl://

Just ask!

Software eats the world

everything is *smart* now

Phones, cars, busses, trains, television sets, toothbrushes, stoves, refrigerators, washing machines, kitchen devices, medical equipment, bus stops, vacuum cleaners, lawn mowers, locks, fire alarms, thermostats, lamps, tools, bathroom scales, facets, toys, flower pots, doors, cameras, bicycles, pet equipment, and much much more

smart = runs software

Open Source eats software

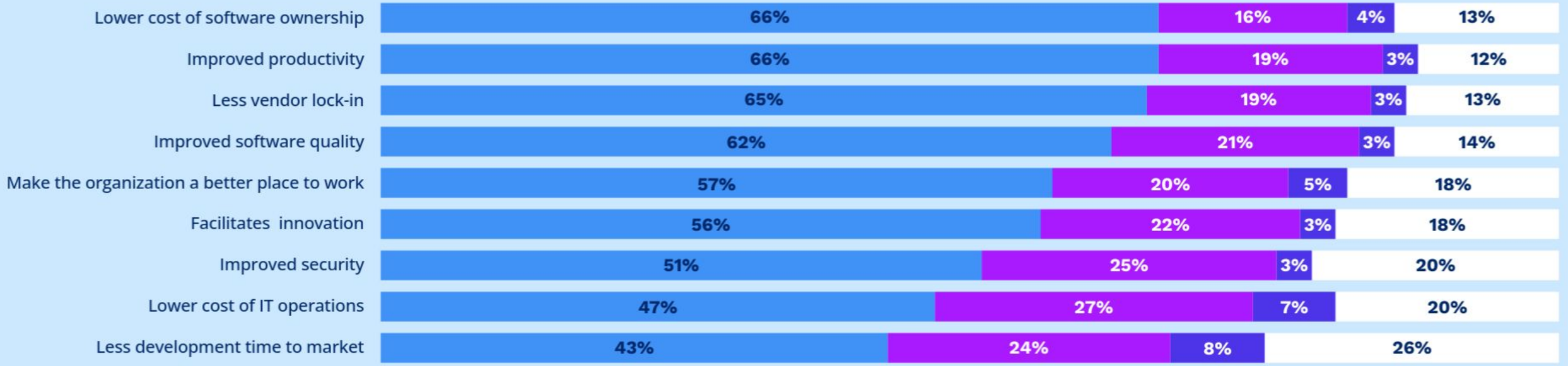
96% of commercial code contains Open Source

All software uses Open Source

including Free Software

Why

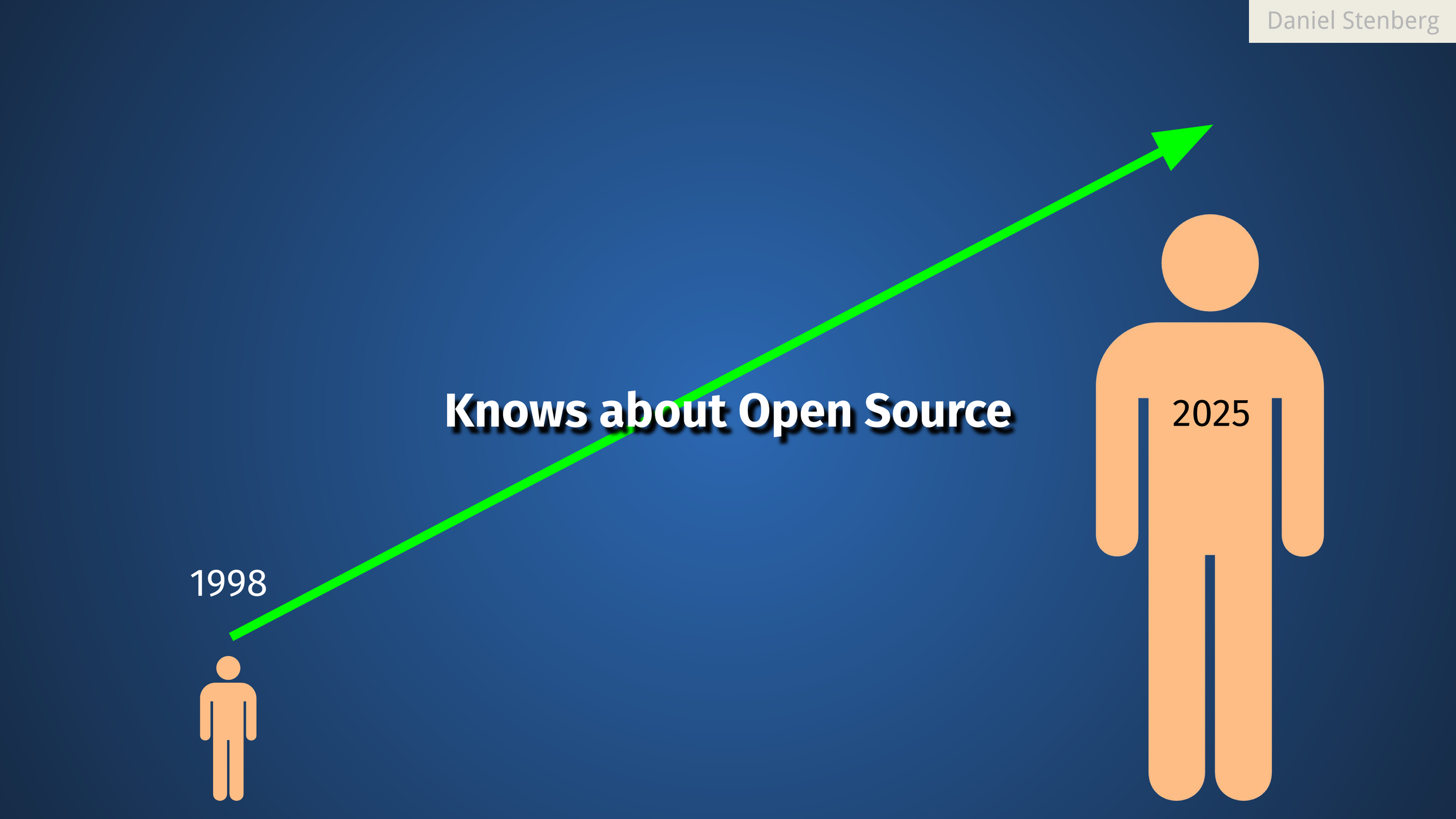
How often does using OSS deliver the following benefits in your organisation? (select one response per row)

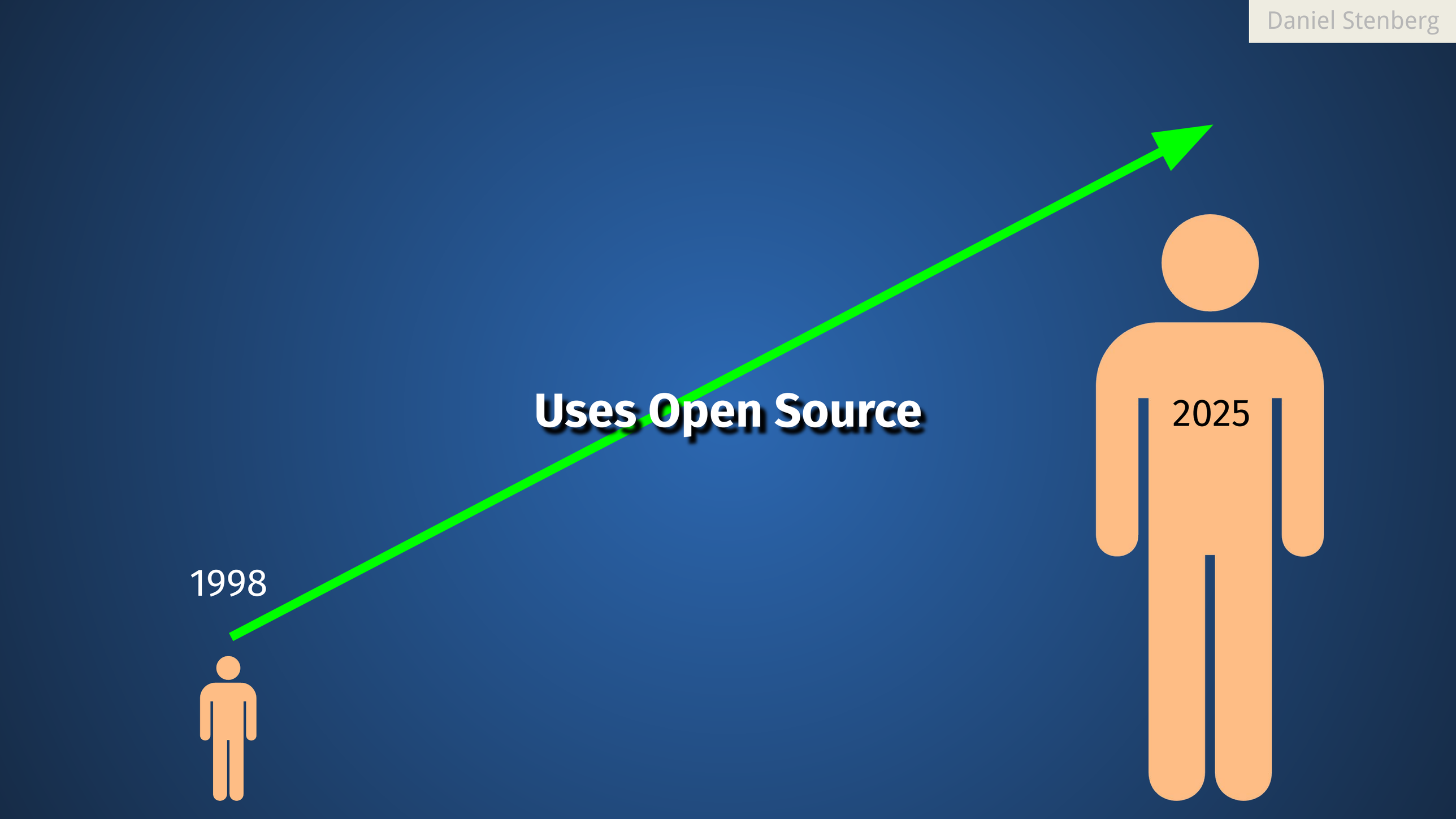


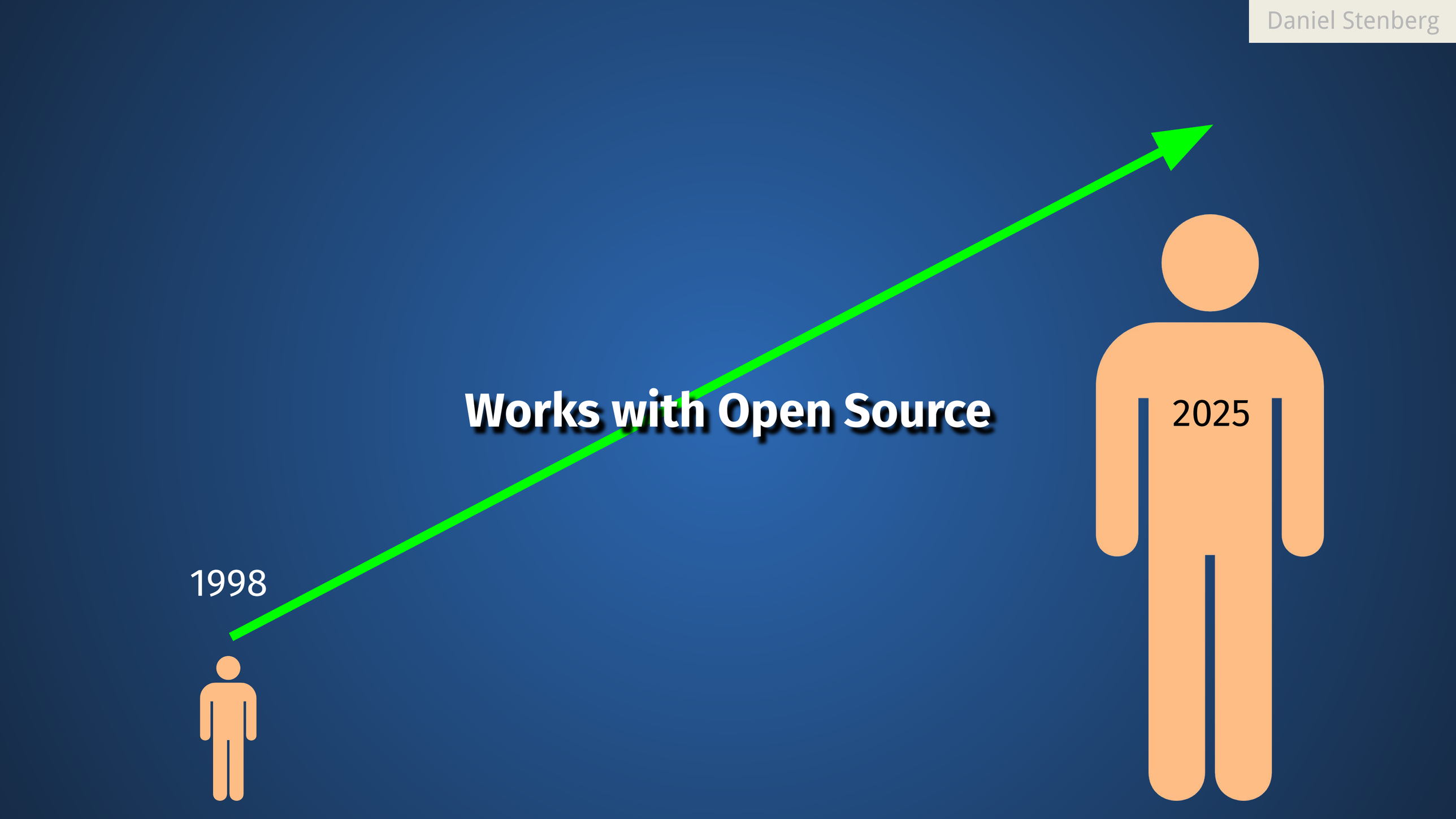
2023 World of Open Source Survey (Europe), Q34, Sample Size = 209, (respondents who answered 'Extremely or Very influential')

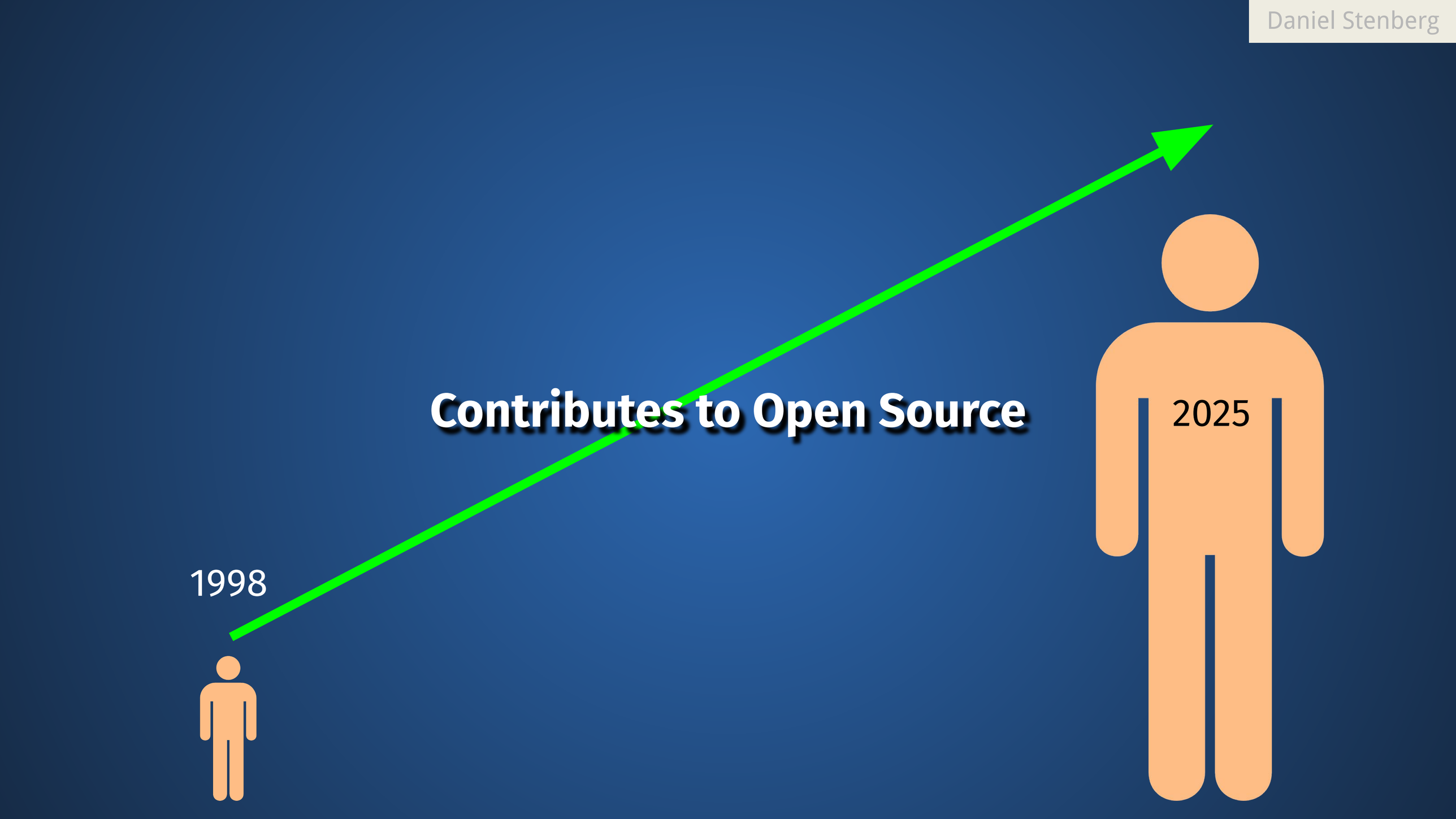
2024 World of Open Source Survey (Europe), Q47, Sample Size = 180, (answered by those who actively participate in OSS projects in Q44)

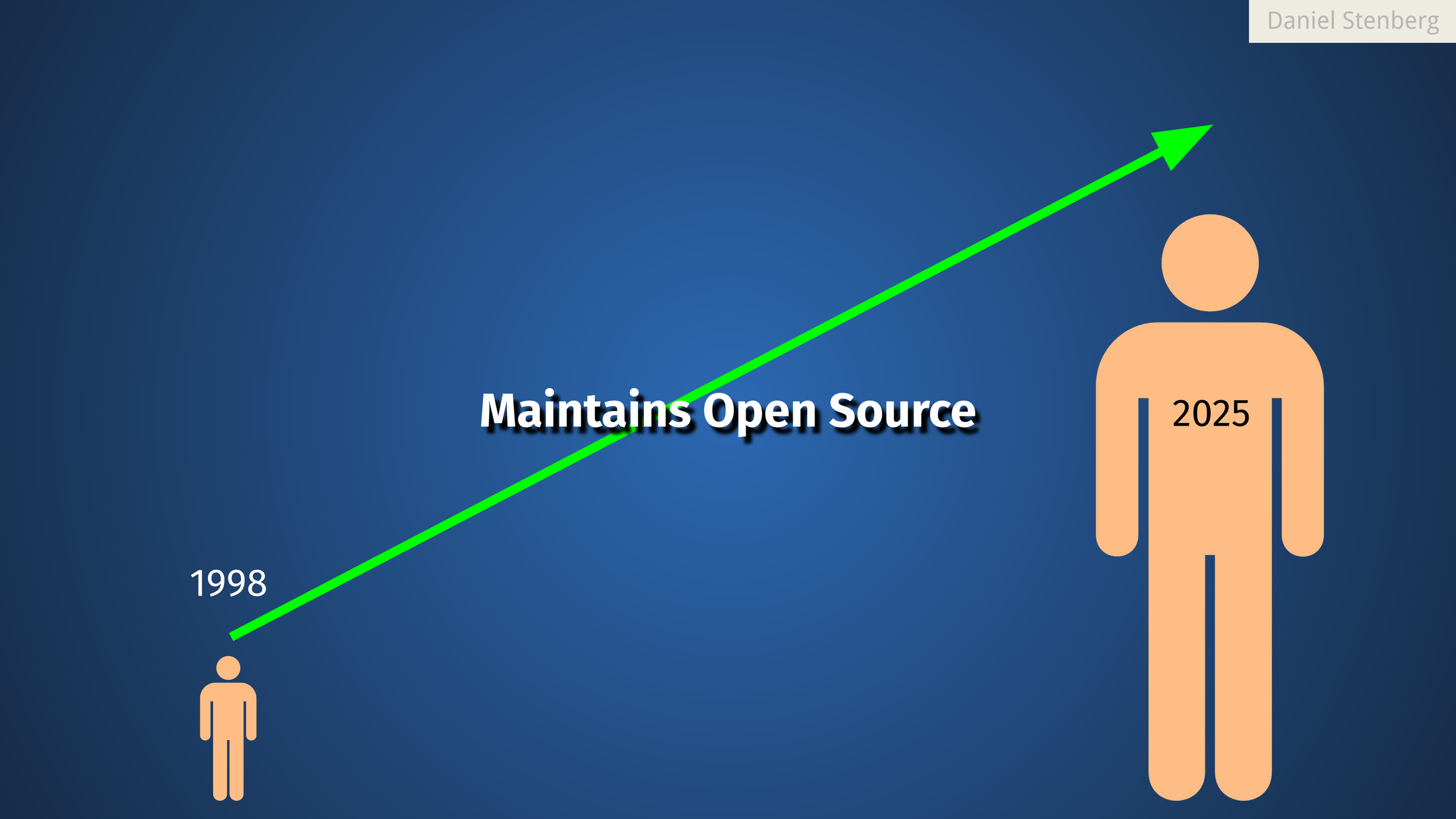
Often · Sometimes · Rarely · Dont know or not sure


Knows about Open Source
1998
2025

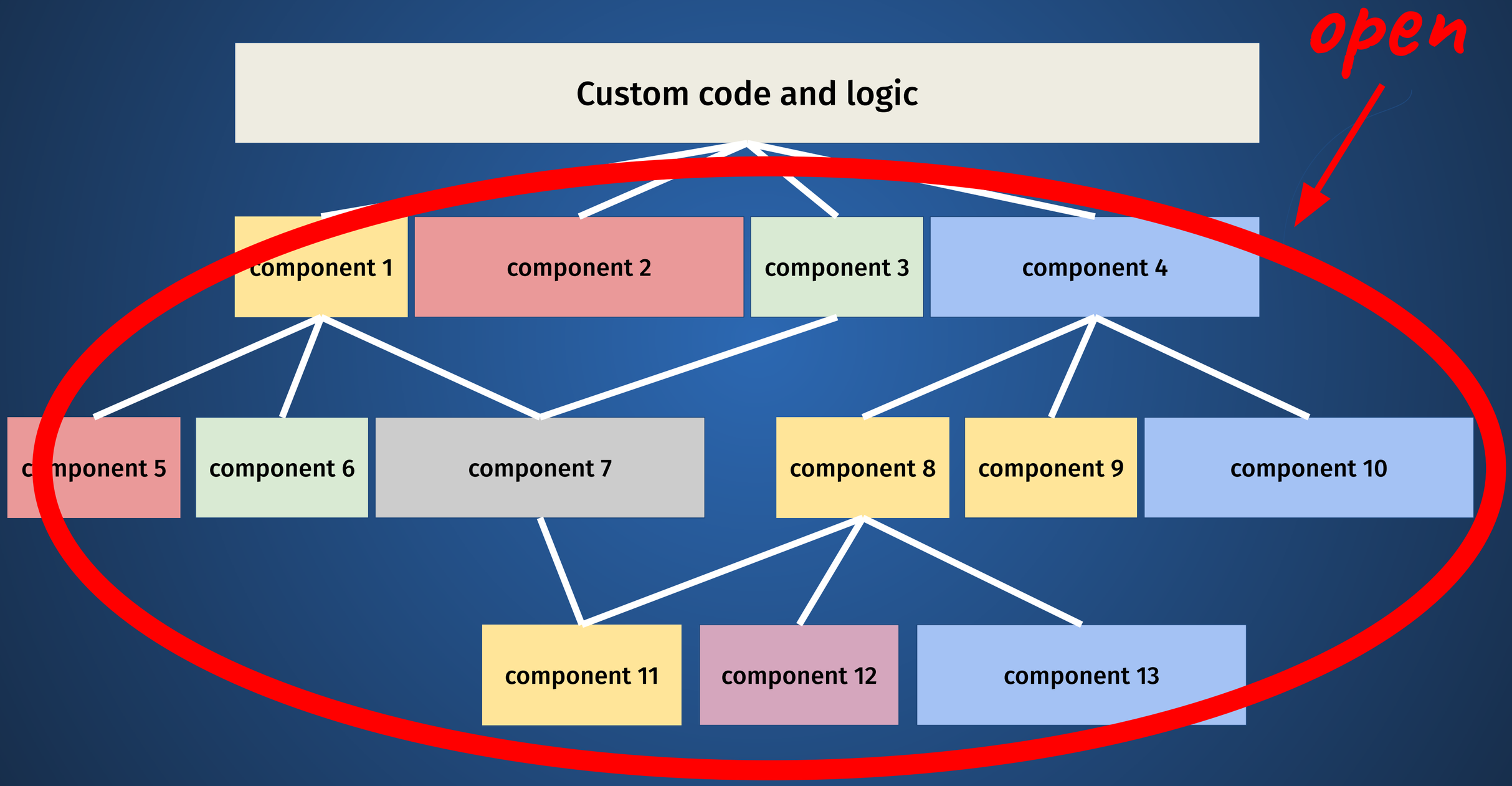

Uses Open Source
1998
2025


Works with Open Source
1998
2025


Contributes to Open Source
1998
2025


Maintains Open Source
1998
2025

All modern software

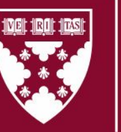


open

Windows 10
iOS
FORTNITE
RŌBLOX
chromeOS
NETFLIX
open source is everywhere
PLAYERUNKNOWN'S
SPIDER-MAN
Roku
Roku Ultra

We estimate the value of OSS at $8.8 trillion USD

Firms would need to spend 3.5 times more on software than they currently do if OSS did not exist



Harvard Business School

We estimate the value of OSS at $8.8 trillion USD

Harvard
Business
School

10.7 million Packages
230 million Repositories
1.6 million Developers

license/editor/distro wars

open is often default

Even lots of Hardware is open

We can even get awards

Heterogeneous

Not done by foundations

We are all different

Open Source

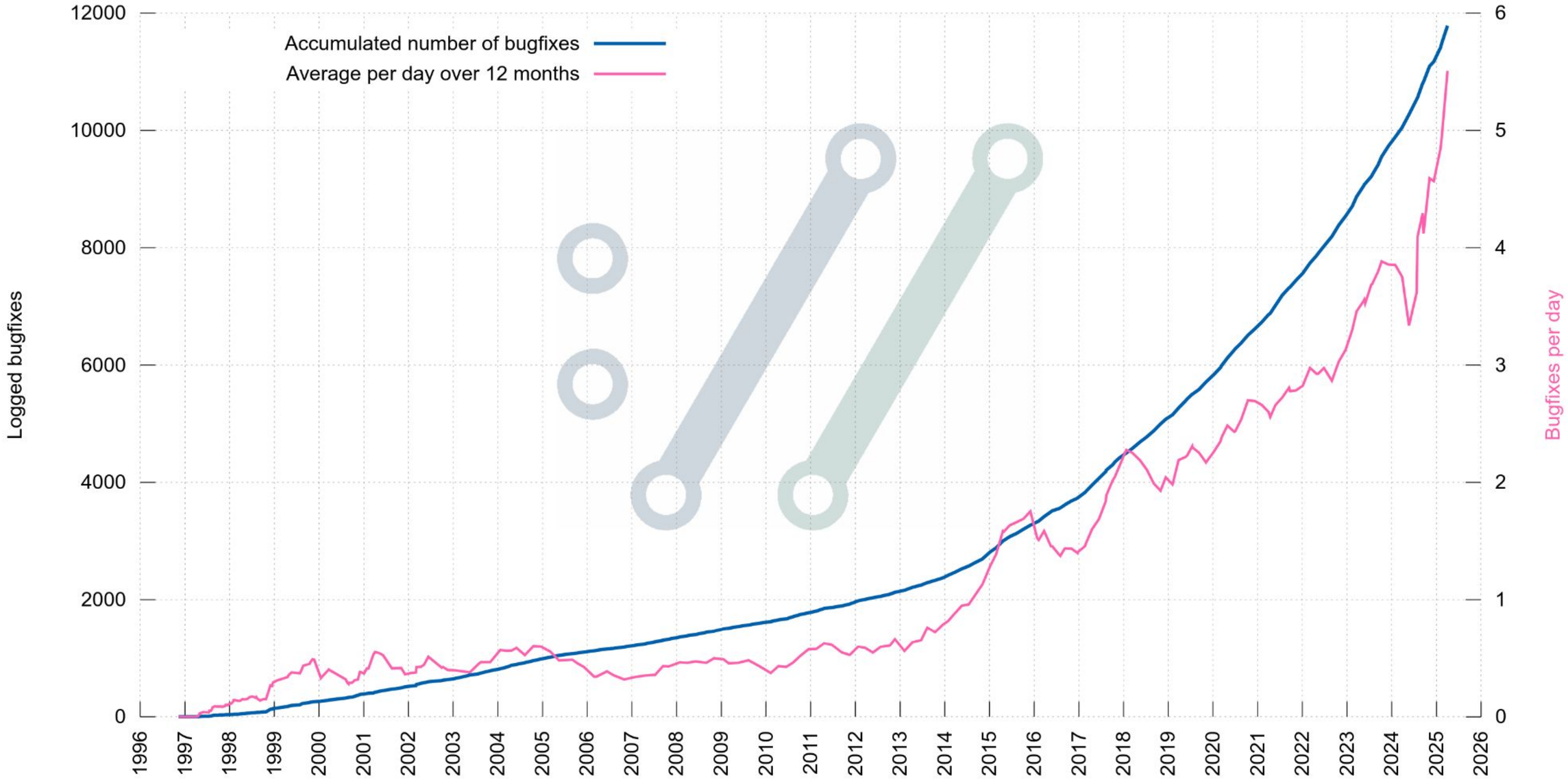
We are all different

Did we really win?

What’s next?

Everything can be improved

Bugfixes


Accumulated number of bugfixes
Average per day over 12 months
Logged bugfixes
Bugfixes per day
0
2000
4000
6000
8000
10000
12000
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
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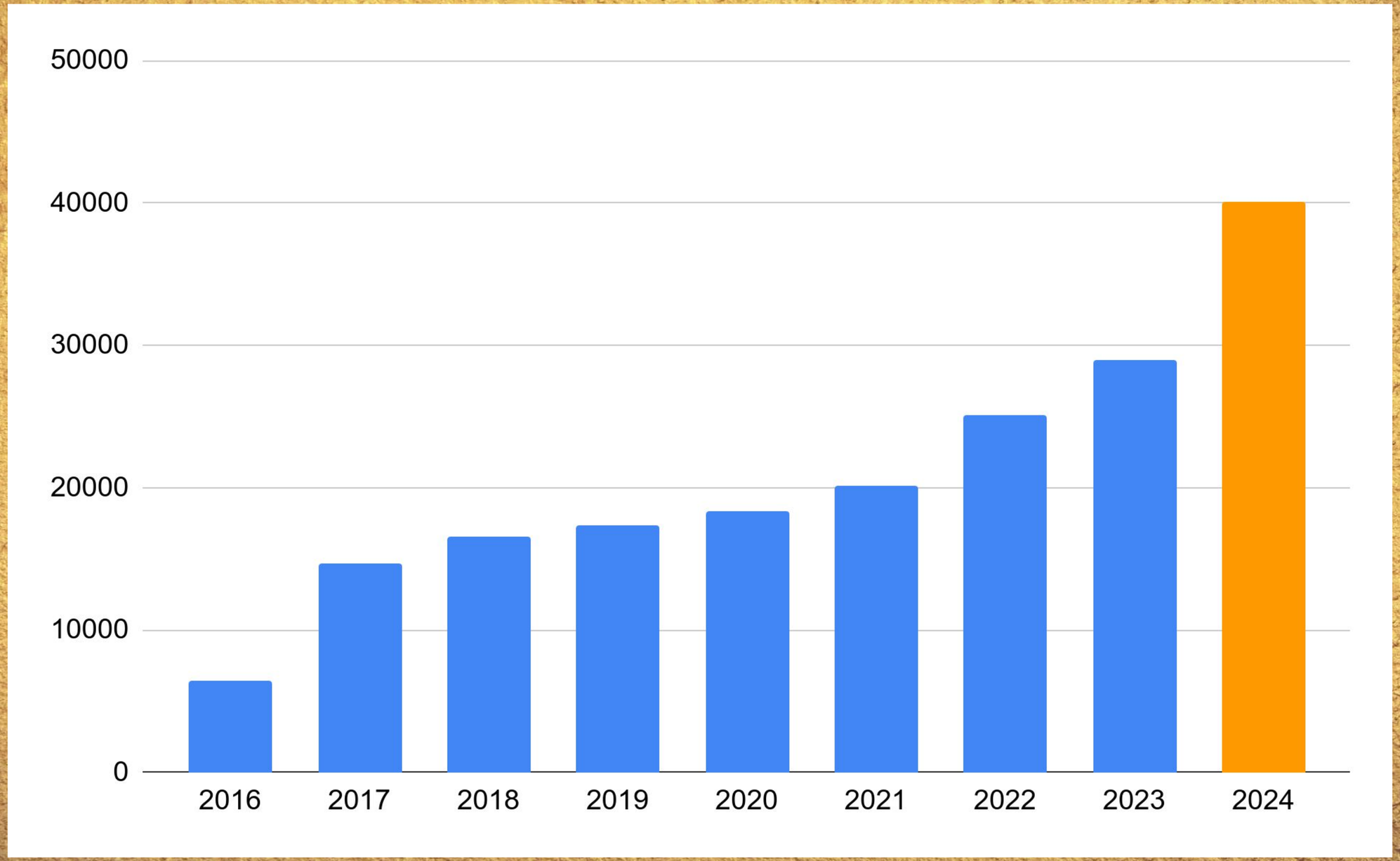
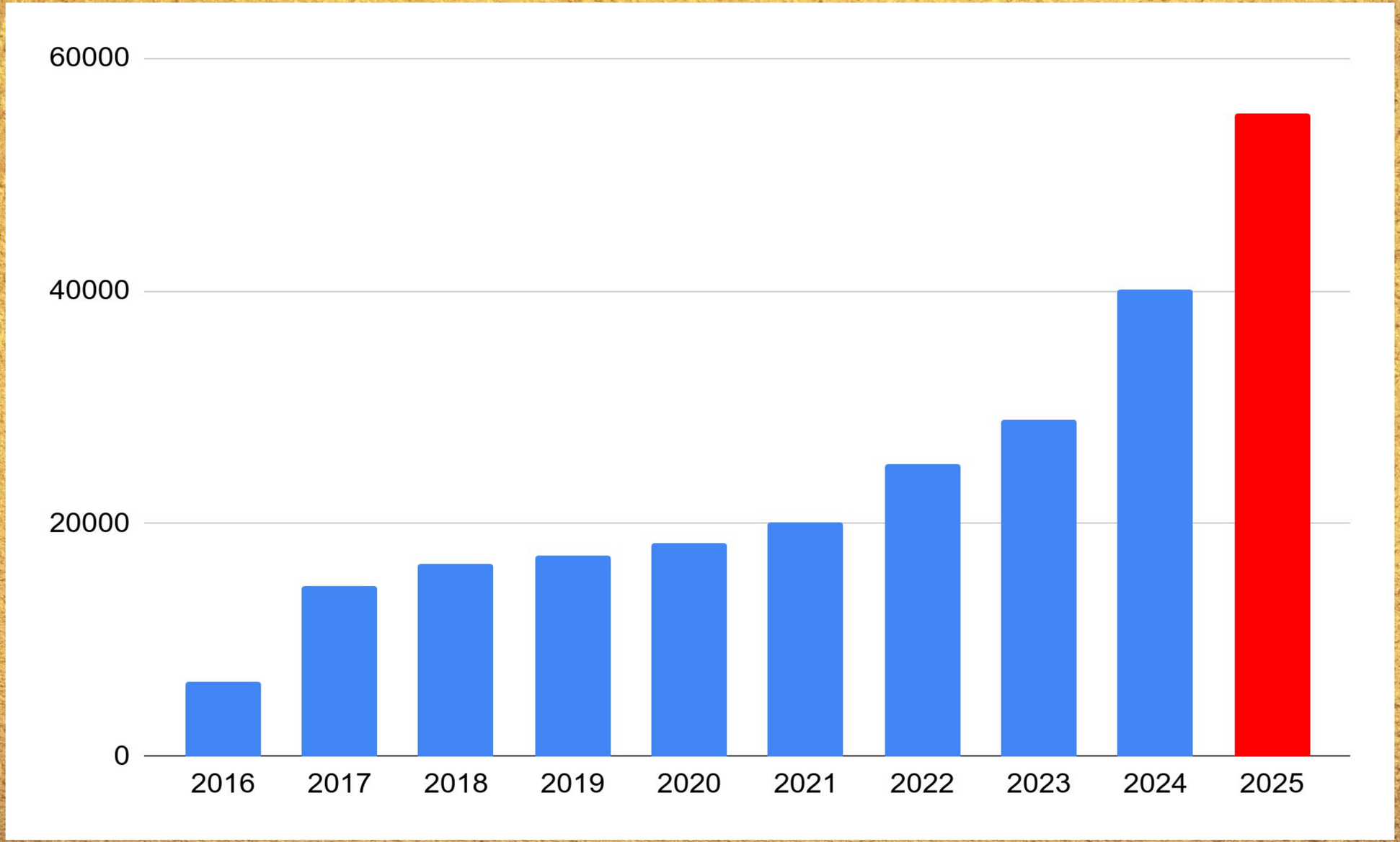
2024
2025
2026

Security

Reported vulnerabilities



Reported vulnerabilities maybe



Daniel Stenberg

“Given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow”

Memory-safe languages?

CRA

Taking responsibility

Sustainable finances

Sustainability through maintainers

xz utils

can you handle Jia Tan in your project?

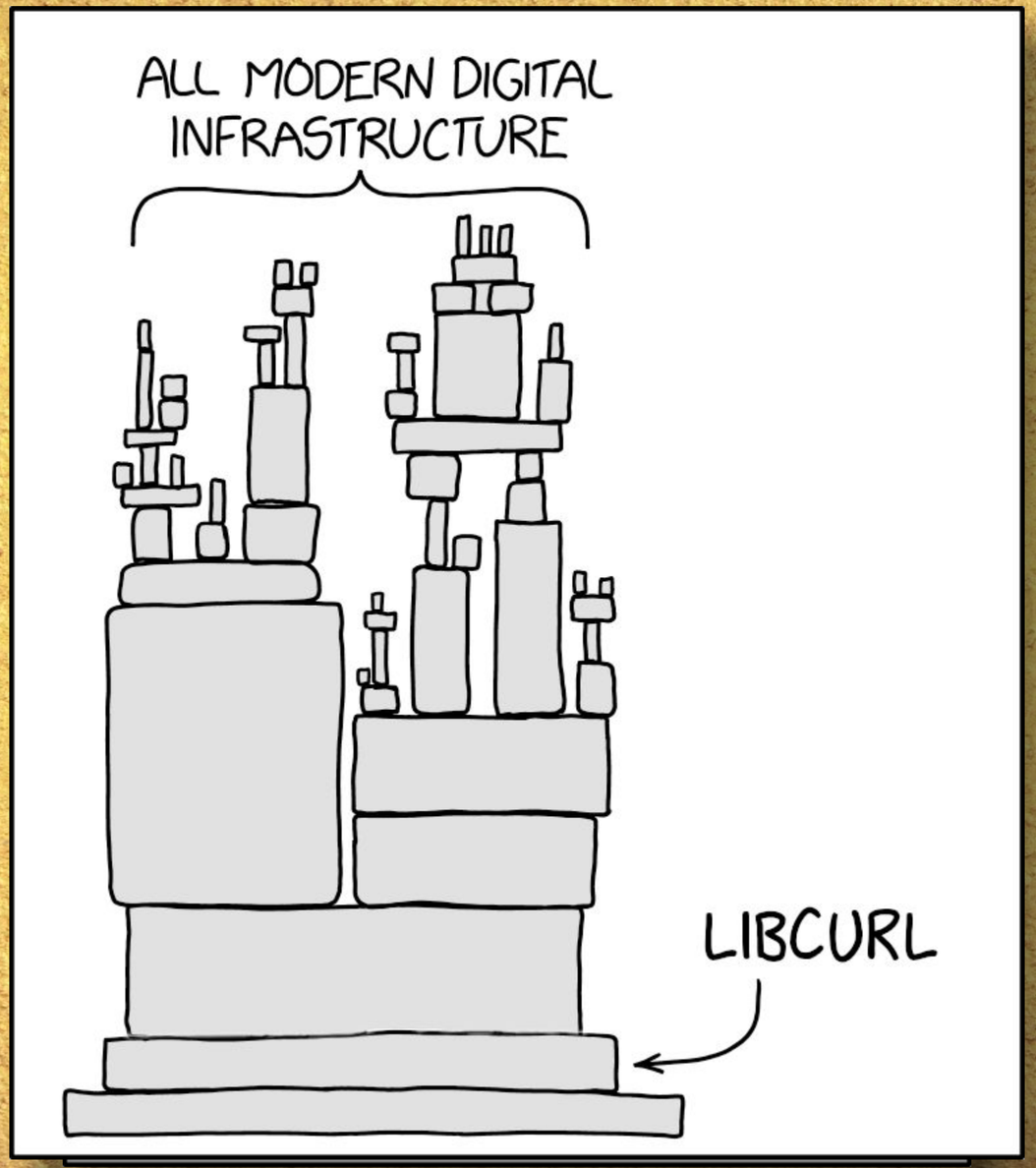
Daniel Stenberg

“96% of the value is created by only 5% of OSS developers”

Harvard
Business
School

The median number of maintainers in an Open Source project

1


ALL MODERN DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE
LIBCURL

Where are the younglings and minorities

Sustainability without former friends?

Where is the hosting?

Where is the infrastructure?

Where are the foundations?

Where are our contributors?

AI

Is AI use in Open Source okay?

Can we handle the AI scraper-bot load?

Does AI reduce the value of contributions?

Does AI make us lazy and dumb?

source code hosting monoculture

hampers innovation

problematic for some nationals

not Open Source

package manager resilience?

browser monoculture

future

more Open Source
done resilient
more diverse
better funded

106 million USD value per top-5% OSS developer

Hi Daniel,

I've written a web fuzzer in C using your library libcurl. I want to thank you for writing a this easy to use, fast and good library. I'm 11 years old and I don't have much experience but your library made it possible.

let's make the future bright

2025

QUESTIONS?

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What comes after world domination?

Open Source has in many ways already won. It is used in every product by every company, to a very a large degree. But we are not done. We can improve: we can take this further, we can make our projects better, we can enhance our communities and make sure it is done sustainably. The future is ours.

Daniel Stenberg, April 14 2025 @ foss-north