New Frontiers in Community-Led API Development

A Case Study on the OSF

Gretchen Gueguen gretchen@cos.io

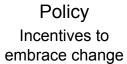




Center for Open Science

COS Mission: to increase openness, integrity, and reproducibility of research







Research Evidence of change



Infrastructure
Technology to
enable change

















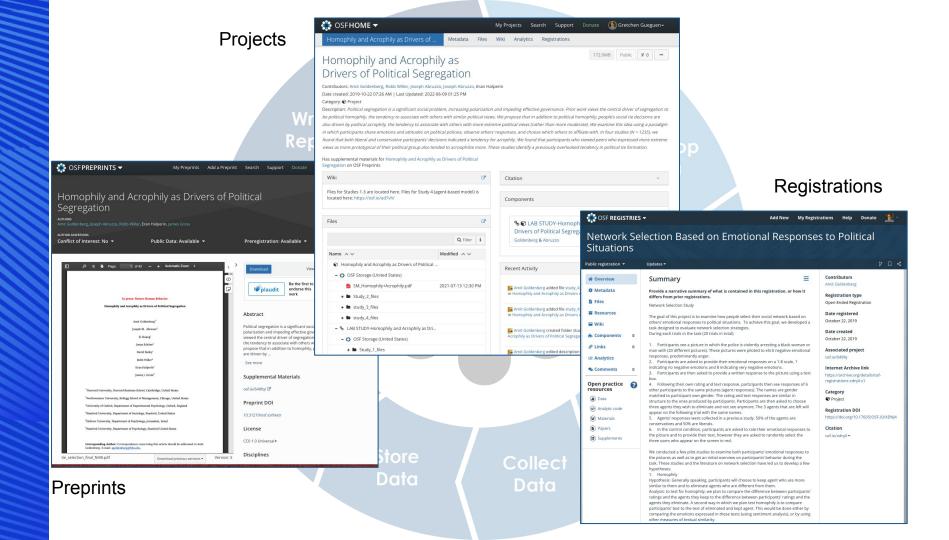




Open Science Framework (OSF)

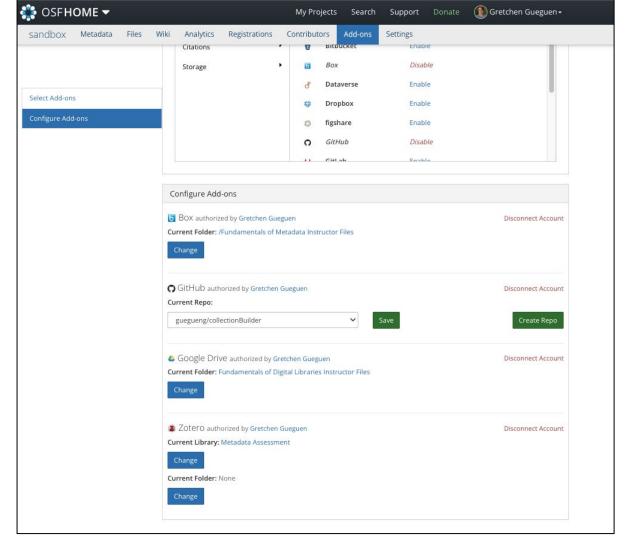
A free, open source online research platform, designed to support researchers to openly, and transparently share their work at all stages of the research lifecycle.





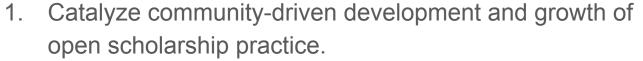
OSF: part of an integrated workflow





Background: NSF POSE Program

Supports the facilitation, creation and growth of open-source ecosystems for the creation of new technology solutions.



- 2. Connect digital repositories, tools, and other services across the research lifecycle via the open-source OSF
- 3. Improve workflows that enable open scholarship across a range of research goals, methodologies, processes, and outputs.
- 4. Harness shared investment in public goods.



Phase II projects are for open-source research products with a small community of external users and external content developers.

Technical Development Roadmap

- **Initial phase (pre-grant):** design and develop a generic infrastructure/API for creating new OSF integrations.
- Second phase: Create and test documentation for new API and develop workflow for community governance, support and contribution.
- **Third phase:** Small awards to groups interested in developing an add-on to test using the new API and framework.
- **Fourth phase:** Open marketplace to create and find new add-ons for OSF.

Community Building Roadmap

- Reach out to existing | previous | potential developers to ascertain barriers to contribution through focus groups.
- Establish a framework for community contribution, governance, and support.
- Test framework through small awards for developers to test and create new add-ons.
- Build community based on this experience.

Project Outputs

- API for integrating addons w/ OSF
- Documentation and resources for working w/ OSF addon code
- Testing framework for integration code
- Webpage and community Slack
- Steering Committee
- Community Developer grantees
- Annual Hackathon
- Community of OSF developers

New Community-Developed Integrations w/ OSF





Road Closed: OSF Add-on infrastructure

Each integration built individually: complex, not enough support/documentation

Various interactions for authentication process/various types of credentials

- OAUTH
- Access / Secret Key
- Username / Password
- Access token

Basic file management / CRUD functions vary by service

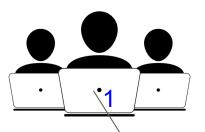
- View files
- add/update files
- Delete files
- Log changes to files in OSF
- Versioning support

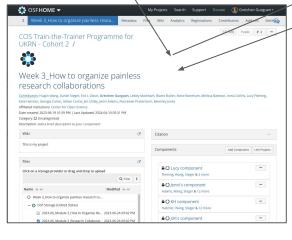
Internal OSF storage handled differently

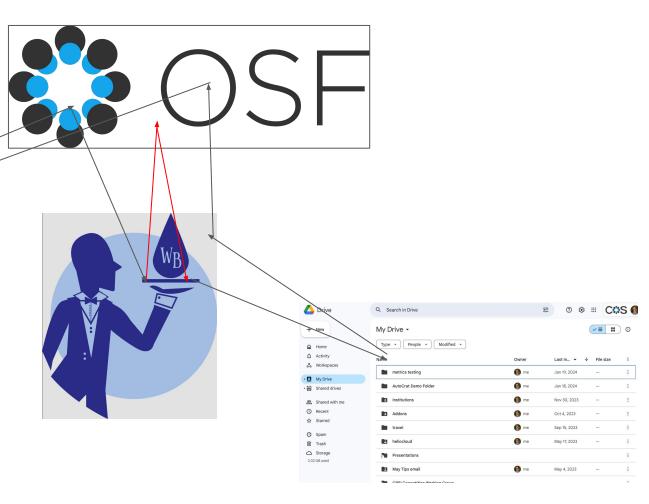
- More robust versioning
- Storage limits
- Download stats
- Checkouts











New ETA: Revised Add-on Service

New API

- Standardized requests and responses based on category of function
 - Based on current storage, citation, and cloud computing add-ons
- Community Developers can create a new add-on using the



New ETA: More standardized API functionality, but with specific categories of types of tools (archiving, DMP creation/management)

Revised Route: New Technical Development Roadmap



- New Second phase: Create generic API for interactions between OSF and external service. Develop specific services for existing add-on type (storage, citation, cloud computing)
- **2.5 phase:** Create documentation for new API and develop workflow for basic support and community contribution. Migrate existing add-ons to new infrastructure.
- New Third phase: Develop specific services for other types of add-ons (data repository/archiving, scheduling, messaging, lab notebook integration, extensions of cloud computing)
- Fourth phase: Open marketplace to create and find new add-ons for OSF of those types

Scenic Byway: New Addon Types

- Existing Addon migrations
- New Categories Requirements Groups
 - Data Repositories/Archiving
 - OSF Institutional Members
 - Repository Community
 - Preservation Consortium
 - Cloud Computing
 - NASA
 - European Space Agency (PolarView)



Construction Delays: I-CORPS

- Required training program for grantees
- 4 Week course focused on market research of a new technology
- Learning management software with pre class readings/and mandatory videos and assignments
- Mandatory lectures on Business Model development
- Conduct 60 interviews in the 4 week span of time
- Analysing data to develop our Business & Community Engagement Model



Pedestrian Crossing: Key Customer Segments

Customer Segments

Early career developers

Research PIs with development skills/resources

Institutional contacts with development resources

General research support staff

Contributing developers

Leaders of OS communities

Developers with domain or product interest

Keep: Maintain relationships with community members who have participated with us in the past and continue to contribute to community initiatives.

Rekindle: Providing structure and demonstrate stronger community focused mission, priorities, and acknowledgement.

Ignite: Develop relationships with other OS community or organizations with aligned values, goals, or capabilities.

Rest Stop: Documentation Review Group



- Documentation complete early Summer
- Review group 5-6 members from various communities

"We believe that OSF platform and the open-source code are very *useful* for scholarly communities. At the same time we understand that the code is only as *usable* as the access and documentation enables it to be. This group will feature developers who have previously created integrations with the OSF or have made similar contributions to open-source tools and communities."

Roadside Attraction: Governance and Support - Focus Group

- Beginning May 2024
- 10 members from various stakeholder groups

"We recognize that requesting members of our communities to contribute to the future of the OSF platform comes with expectations of communication, transparency, and support. This focus group will include organizers of successful open-source communities and discuss feedback on:

- Onboarding, supporting, and acknowledging contributors
- Leadership, ownership, and decision-making processes
- Code and test management
- Regular/frequent communication and coordination
- And more!"



Community Trait	The situation today (COS)	Future Ideal (OSE)
Community type	Owned	Shared
Governance Model	COS organizational board	Volunteer based to start, moving to an elected community steering group
Who makes the decisions?	COS product steering group	Community steering group
How are maintainers added?	Ad hoc per project	Onboarding process formalized through governance model
Who owns how the build system works?	COS	For OSF contributions, COS. There could be parallel builds with integrations that may be governed otherwise.
Does your current community know how your governance structure work?	Yes. But are not involved in structure or decisions.	Yes. The focus group will react to current proposals before governance is published. Positions will be elected.
Is your governance model hindering your sustainability?	Yes. There needs to be more ways for partner communities to be part of decision-making at COS.	No.

ROAD TRIP!! Work with Us!

Join one of our teams!

Develop an add-on!

Use OSF!



Thanks!



Gretchen Gueguen

Member Experience Manager



0000-0002-7804-9942

gretchen@cos.io



https://osf.io / https://cos.io

ROR XX https://ror.org/05d5mza29

Current github repo: https://github.com/CenterForOpenScience/osf.io

Slides available at: https://osf.io/ZVP8K