

Downstream Dependents Interview Questions:

Introduction Question:

- Could you briefly tell me about your project *INSERT PROJECT* and your role?

Dependency Death Management:

- Have any of your project's open source dependencies ever become no longer maintained, no longer updated, or abandoned?
 - How did the project find out that the dependency was no longer maintained?
 - Did this have an affect/impact on your project? If so, how?
 - Do you consider this a cause for concern?
 - What language and/or ecosystem was the dependency part of?
 - What did your project do to deal with this, if anything?
 - Did you consider taking over the dependency?
 - Did you replace the dependency?
 - How did you find the replacement?
 - Were there additional considerations when selecting the replacement?
- Are there strategies for dealing with dependencies that are no longer maintained or abandoned that you felt were successful?
- Are there community-specific ways of dealing with unmaintained dependencies you know of?
- Are there tools/interventions you wished existed to help with these types of situations?
- After experiencing this situation, were there changes to the decision-making process when deciding on adding new dependencies?
- When considering adopting a dependency, do you consider or evaluate the risk of it being no longer maintained or abandoned?
- How do you decide which dependencies you can rely on and trust?
- Do you check on the maintenance status and health of your dependencies?
- Do you assess the risk of your dependencies being abandoned or no longer maintained?
 - What do you do to assess the risk of abandonment?
 - When do you assess the risk? Do you only do it at one point (e.g., when adopting the package), or do you do it repeatedly?
 - What research do you do to assess the risk of abandonment or the health of the project?
- Do you do anything proactively to prepare for the risk of your dependencies becoming abandoned, no longer maintained, or no longer updated?
 - How do you prepare for this risk?
 - Do you prepare for this risk for all your dependencies or only particular ones? How do you decide which ones to prepare for?

Beliefs about responsibility for maintenance effort:

- Do you believe you have responsibilities in terms of the ongoing maintenance of the projects you maintain? If so, what do you believe they are?
 - What if you lose interest or don't have time to maintain the project?
 - For how long do you feel responsible for the maintenance of your project?
 - Does this sense of responsibility impact how much OSS you release, considering you feel responsible for the ongoing maintenance?
- Do you think your beliefs surrounding your responsibilities align with the expectations of the users of your project?

- How do you think this alignment or lack thereof has affected you and your project?
- What do you think about the quote, “An open source maintainer [...] is expected to maintain the code they publish for as long as people use it”?
 - Do you agree or disagree with it?
 - How do you think this general expectation affects you as an open source maintainer?
How do you think it affects your project?