

# 10 secrets to sustainable in open source communities

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Elizabeth Leddy gave the next talk I attended entitled, Wish I Knew How to Quit You: 10 Secrets to Sustainable Open Source Communities. Elizabeth works with Plone but wasn't really involved in open source until about five years ago. With open source we often start by working at a company that supports a specific open source application and there are two paths we can take. One path is that you start to get annoyed with the way things are going and so you jump to another open source project. Or you can get involved in the open source community so thoroughly that you can move from one related company to another (this is what I have been doing with Koha so I totally understand this path).

The goal of Elizabeth's talk was to make sure we all create loving communities like the one around Plone. When picking your community you should think about what you want to get out of it and what you want to contribute. Open source isn't just about code. The people in your open source community (if you're like Elizabeth or me) are the first people you say good morning to?you wake up and get on IRC and say "Hi" to your family. Elizabeth said that she sometimes wakes up and feels like she has 400 brothers... I totally agree... but I'd change that to ?siblings?

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