

Reinventing the open source wheel

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One of the greatest strengths of open source software development has been the notion that as an OSS developer, you can pretty much just pick and choose from the thousands of OSS projects out there to enrich your own project.

But anecdotal evidence in the open source community seems to be demonstrating that the very opposite is occurring: new projects are often reinventing the wheel in their code, rather than partnering with someone else's project.

I was chatting online with an acquaintance recently, a gentleman who works for a successful vendor in the Linux ecosystem. He was lamenting the fact that within the halls of his company, he was continually running up against the "not invented here" problem. This problem was simple enough to describe: when engineers in his company put their own projects together, they were much happier reinventing technology that had already been done rather than tap into projects that were already done, were brilliantly made, and had no problems with any sort of license compatibility.

[This was frustrating](#) [2]

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