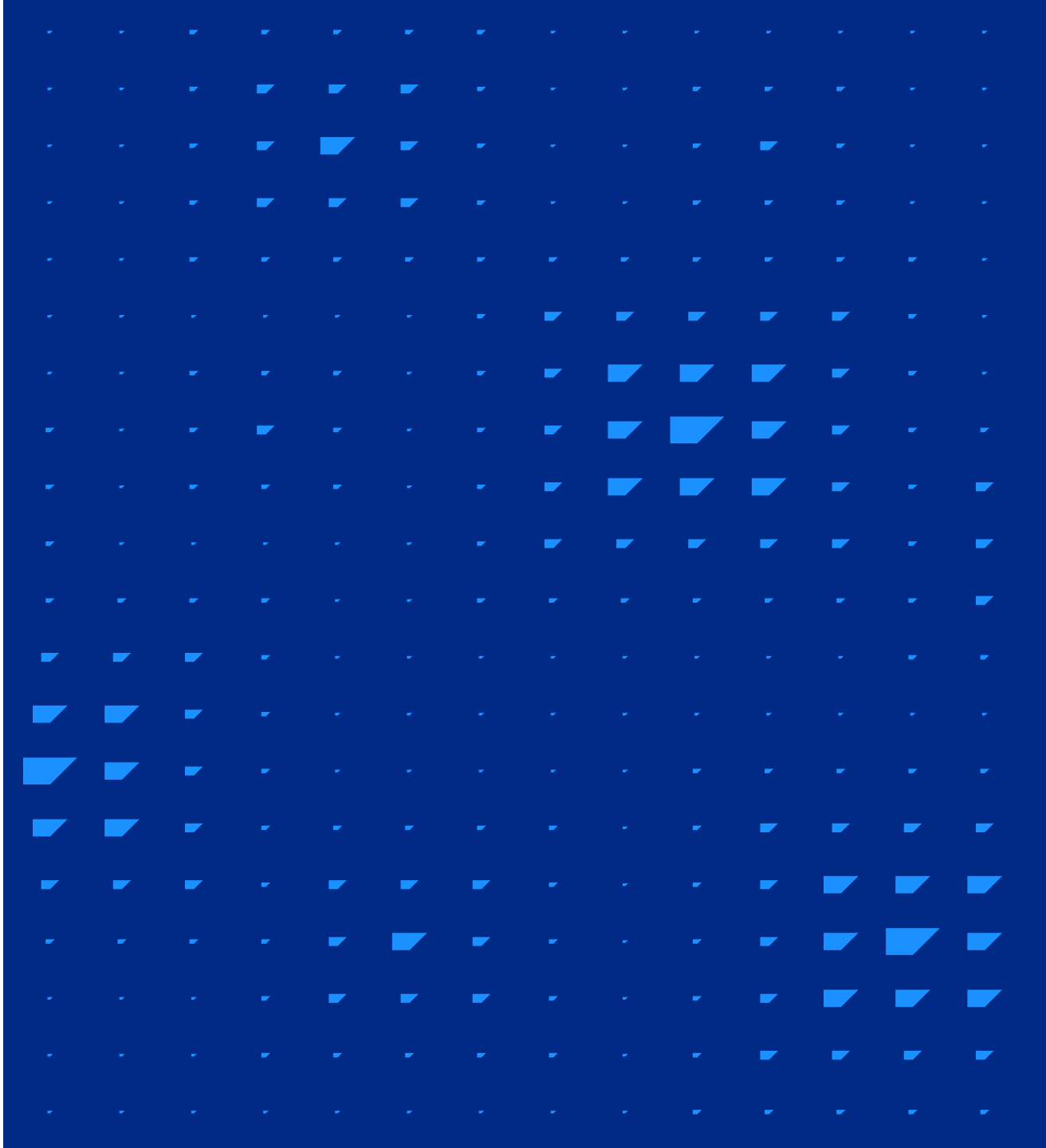




Open Source Funding: How to get Started?

Tobias Gabriel, SAP Open Source Program Office
May 20th 2026, Open Source @ Siemens, Zug



Open Source Sponsoring as Code

```
1 projects:
2   nkdocs-material:
3     url: https://github.com/squidfunk/nkdocs-material
4     why: This framework is used as a direct dependency
5         of the Siemens docs theme which is the foundation
6         of many documentation websites maintained and
7         published on code.siemens.com. Sponsoring this
8         project is highly relevant for software developers
9         and will help keep our project's documentation
10        stack up-to-date and get new features.
11   indicators:
12     complexity: high
13     criticality: high
14     activity: high
15     fundraising: high
16
17   maintainers:
18     squidfunk:
19       url: https://github.com/sponsors/squidfunk
20       projects: [nkdocs-material]
21
22   payments:
23     # This is not the actual payment :)
24     - date: "1847-10-01"
25     approvers:
26       - wezner.von.siemens@siemens.com
27       - johann.georg.halske@siemens.com
28     amounts:
29       squidfunk: 1847
```

Source: <https://blog.siemens.com/2023/09/how-siemens-supports-open-source-development/>

Special thanks to Florian, Marion, Alex (Finance) and compliance officers!

- It took us quite a while to set up, but now we are ready and compliant!
- First batch of sponsoring performed and well received by the communities.
- Next sponsoring batch is in preparation.

Siemens folks, here is the repository:
<https://code.siemens.com/code-ops/opensource>

🍷 Probably the most innovative topic and process I've ever seen at Siemens from a Compliance perspective!



Agenda

01 What is the problem?

02 How can we help?

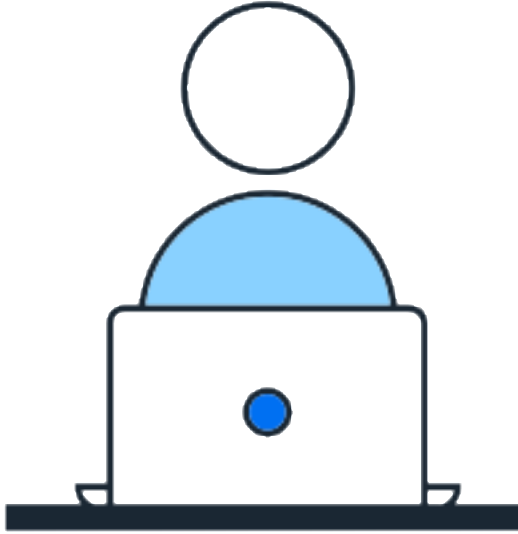
03 How can we make it work?

04 How to select projects?

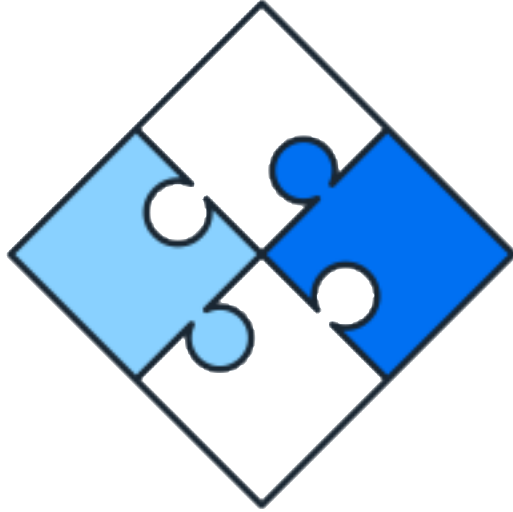
05 What did we learned?



Who is SAP?



>35,000 R&D colleagues

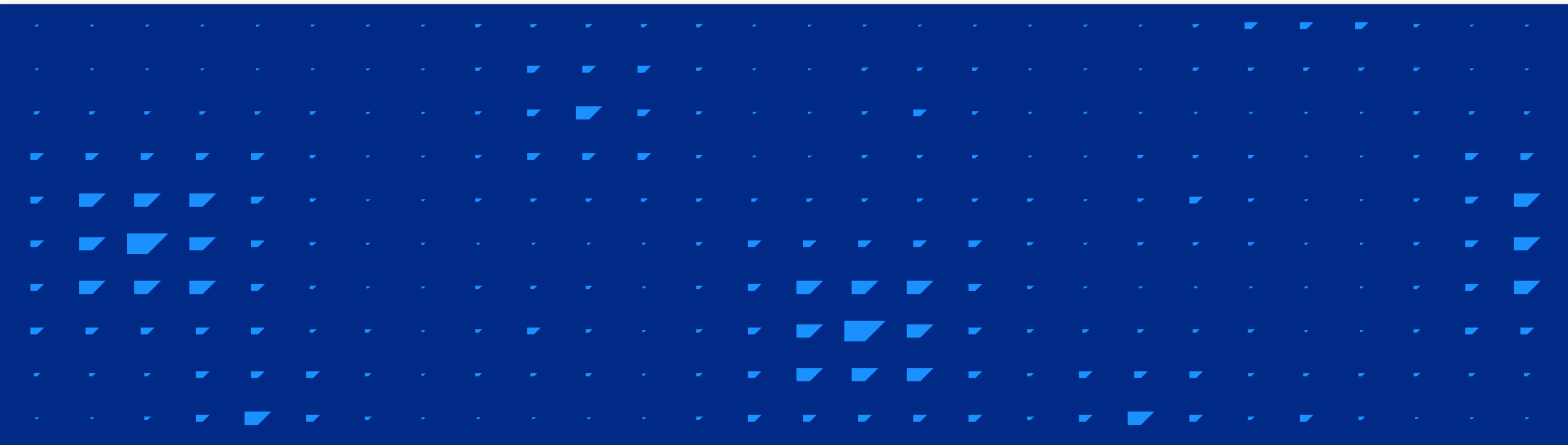


>100 different enterprise software solutions



>xx,000 open source dependencies

What is the problem?



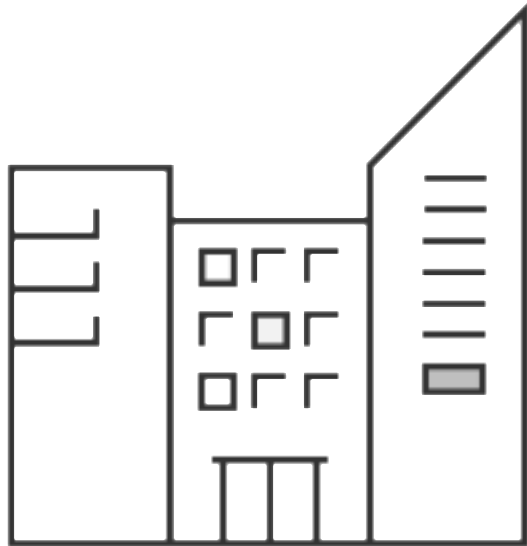
An iceberg floating in the ocean. The tip of the iceberg, which is above the water line, is labeled 'Own Code'. The much larger part of the iceberg, which is submerged below the water line, is labeled 'Open Source Dependencies'. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is overcast with grey clouds.

Own Code

Open Source Dependencies

Who drives Open Source

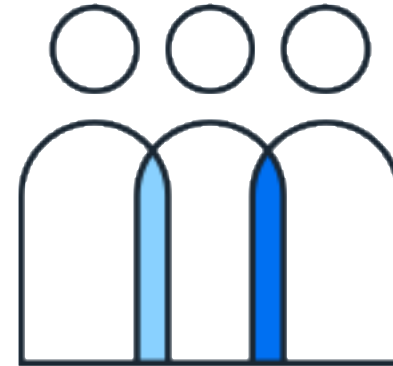
Company driven



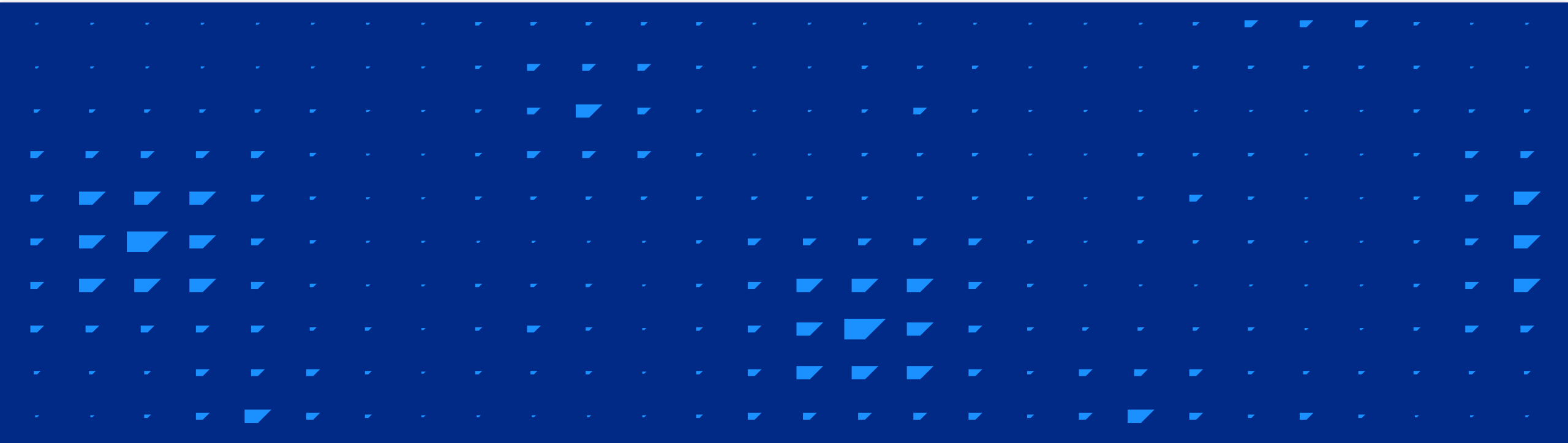
Individual driven



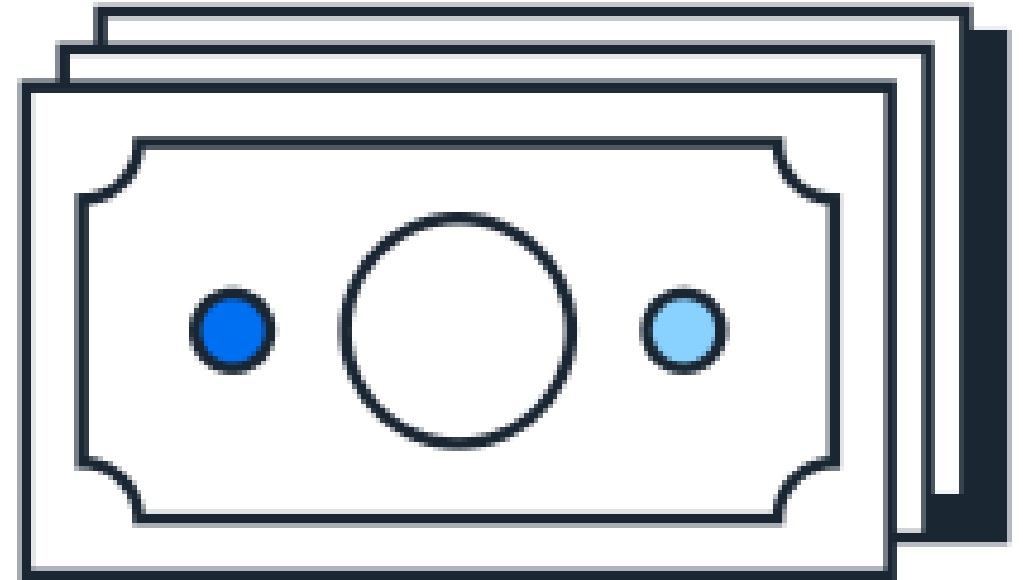
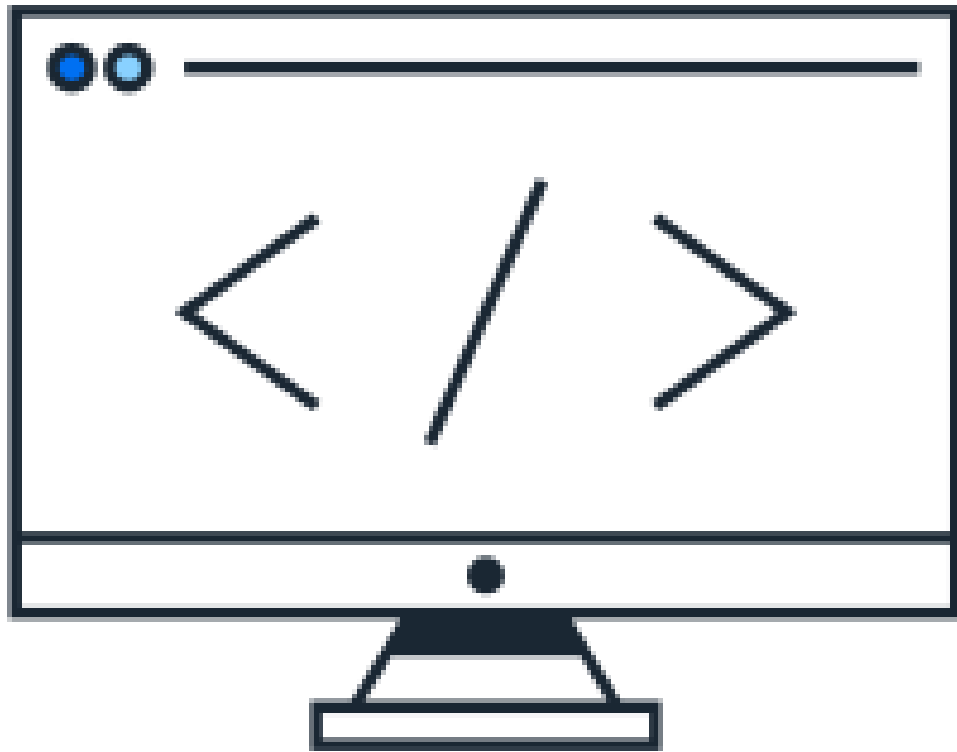
Foundation driven



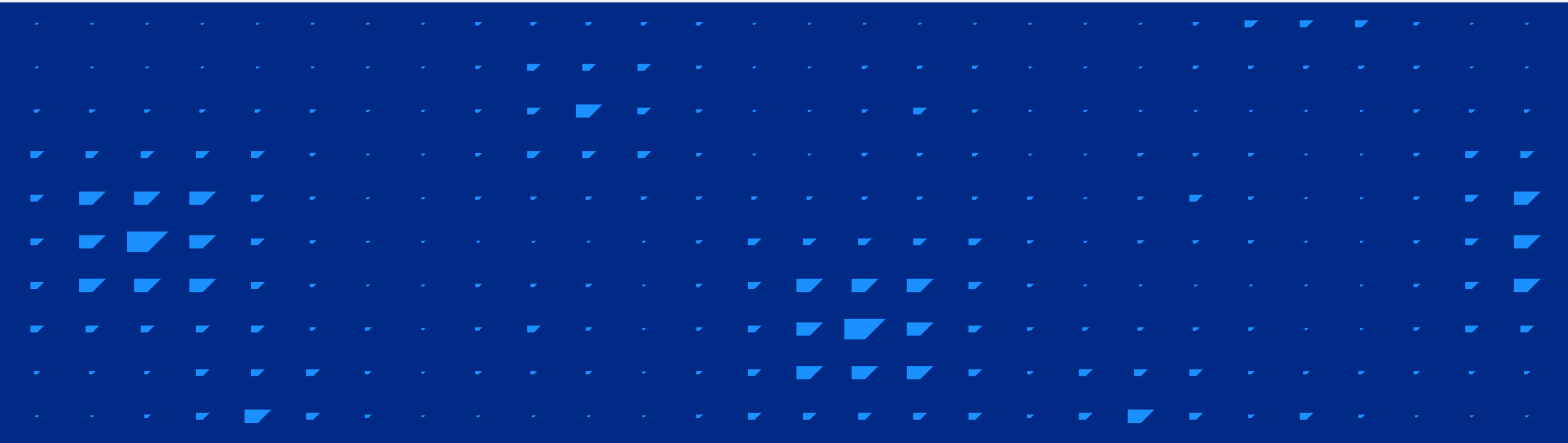
How can we help?



Supporting independent open source projects



How can we make it work?



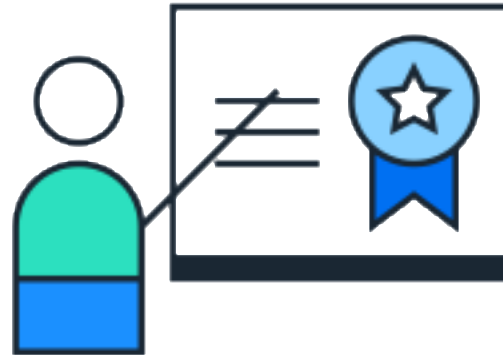
Internal Processes



Purchasing

- What is this even?
- Can we pay via invoice?

→ Platforms are helpful intermediary



Compliance

- Who can we give money to?
- What other rules are there?



Budget

- Who pays for this?
- How to allocate?

Funding Amount?

Keep it Simple

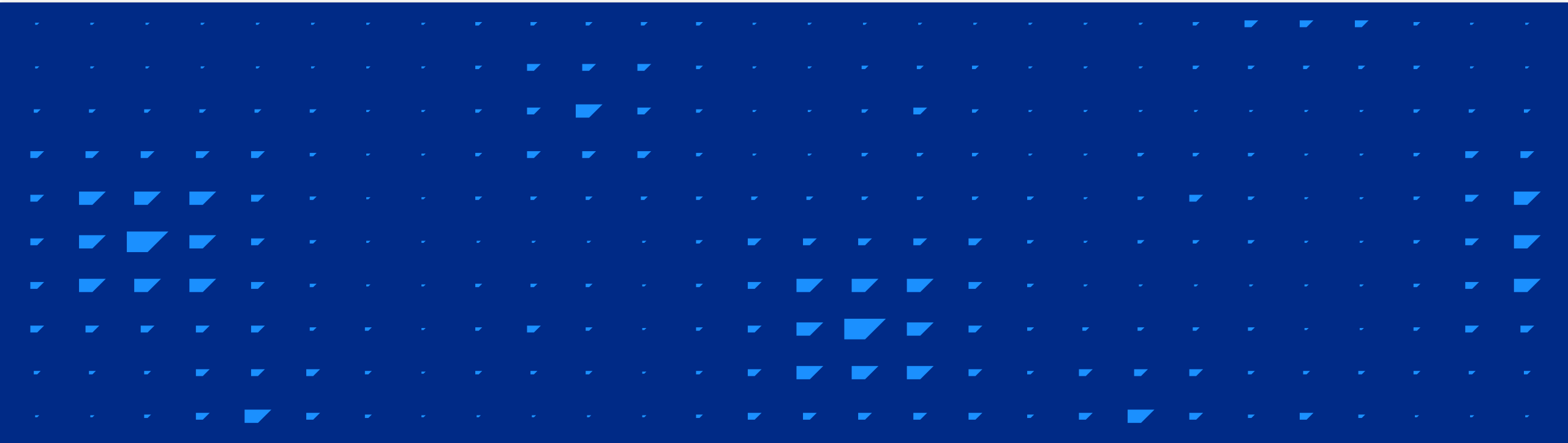
\$ 250

per month &
maintainer/project

12

months

How to select Projects & Maintainers?



How to select projects & maintainers?



Thousands of possibilities



What's the goal?

Internal Voting

Developers vote for the projects they want to fund

Checklist (to be filled out by the Open Source Program Office)

- ✓ Project is open source and has [OSI-approved license](#) (e.g., MIT, Apache 2.0, GPL, etc.).
- ✓ The project must be approved for usage at SAP, either for internal use ([SRI](#)) or for product use ([open source tools](#)).
- ✓ The project or developer must not be associated with or employed by SAP.
- ✓ The project or developer must accept funding via [GitHub Sponsors](#). If they do not currently accept funding via GitHub Sponsors, you can still propose the project and we will reach out to them to set it up.
- ✓ A second team from a distinct unit has commented on the nomination to express support and note the benefits they receive from the project.
- ✓ The nominator is eligible to nominate projects for funding through doing a contribution to a non-SAP open source project in 2025.

+ High probability of identifying critical projects for a few products

- Will most likely return very well-known projects

Central Selection

Data-Driven project selection

Funding decisions based on metrics like

- Internal Usage
- Project Activity
- External Scores (like OpenSSF Scorecard)
- "Bus-Factor"

+ No inherent bias towards well known projects

- Is not a perfect science -> manual vetting required

Funded Projects

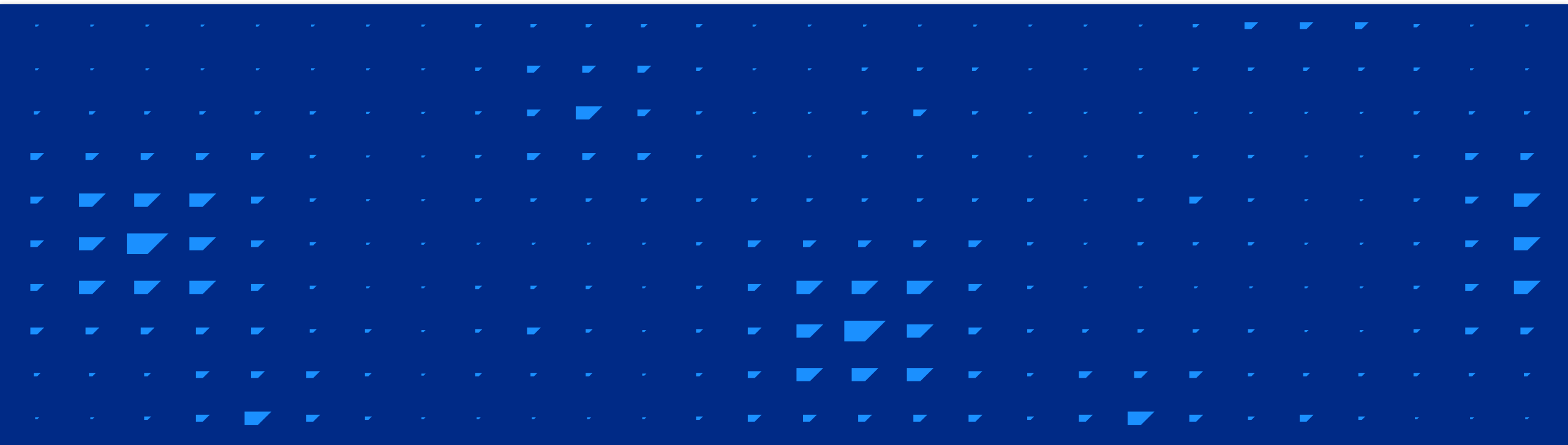
Project (funded Maintainer)	Repository URL	GitHub Sponsor URL	Funding Amount	Funding Timeframe	Funding Initiative	Funding Issue
MkDocs	mkdocs/mkdocs	mkdocs	\$3250 (13x\$250)	03/2025 - 04/2026	Initial Pilot Fund	#2
Kubelogin (Hidetake Iwata)	int128/kubelogin	int128	\$3250 (13x\$250)	03/2025 - 04/2026	Initial Pilot Fund	#3
GoReleaser (Carlos Alexandro Becker)	goreleaser/goreleaser	caarlos0	\$3250 (13x\$250)	03/2025 - 04/2026	Initial Pilot Fund	#4
OpenSSL	openssl/openssl	openssl	\$3000 (12x\$250)	08/2025 - 08/2026	2025 SAP Open Source Fund - Central Selection	#35
zxing-cpp (Axel Waggershauser)	zxing-cpp/zxing-cpp	axxel	\$3000 (12x\$250)	08/2025 - 08/2026	2025 SAP Open Source Fund - Central Selection	#33

- vuejs (Evan You)
- axios
- Bootstrap
- Selenium
- Homebrew
- Concourse (Taylor Silva)
- Renovate (Michael Kriese)
- ESLint
- golangci-lint
- Eclipse JGit (Thomas Wolf)
- Gerrit Code Review (Patrick Mulhall)
- OAuth2 Proxy (Jan Larwig)

- mold (Rui Ueyama)
- NixOS
- webdriver.io
- Typst
- sudo
- External Secrets Operator (Moritz Johner & Gustavo Fernandes de Carvalho)
- k9s (Fernand Galiana)
- QEMU
- Ratatui (Orhun Parmaksiz)
- Litellm
- Insta, Similar (Armin Ronacher)

See all at <https://github.com/orgs/SAP/sponsoring>

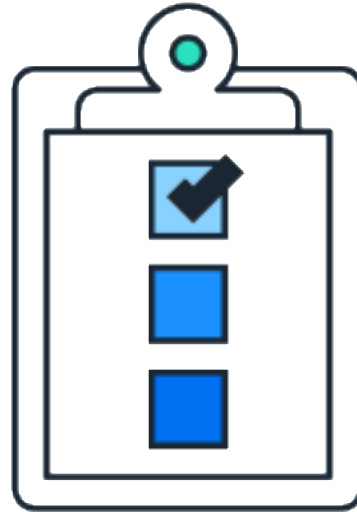
What did we learn?



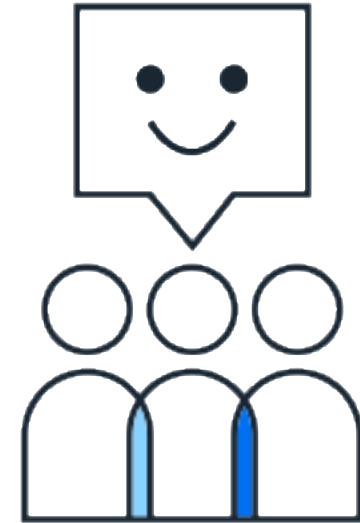
What did we learn?



Start Small



Keep it simple

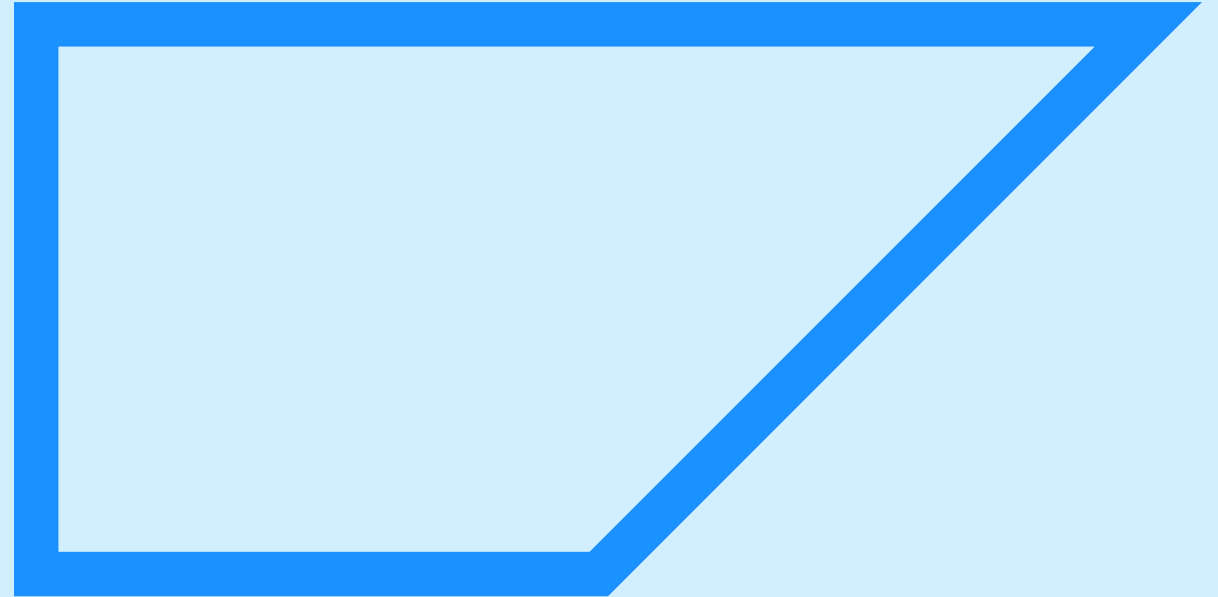


Ask others &
share experiences

Your perspective matters

Join the conversation

Share your experience or ask questions



Thank you.

Tobias Gabriel

SAP Open Source Program Office

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opensource.sap.com

 **Bring out your best.**