

From: Adam Stacoviak adam@changelog.com
Subject: 🗣️ Zed Shaw - Twitter Thread
Date: April 8, 2018 at 2:48 PM
To: Jerod Santo jerod@changelog.com



Read from the bottom up. Could be a fun show to walk through all his points. Maybe a two parter.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/4/18, 12:48 AM

Addendum: If you imagine that OSS is your key to a job without any icky scary whiteboard interviews you're sadly mistaken. Thanks to the hordes of Empathy Freaks not only will you have to interview, but you'll have to empathically do drugs with them to get the job.

Tajadas Ogre 🇻🇪 (@jobliz)

4/3/18, 9:18 PM

@zedshaw Thank you for this thread, Zed. It sort of reminds me of the python data science folk complaining about people/corporations earning lots of money with their tools and not giving back to the developers. Seems like I'll need to think more about what to do with my OSS idea.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 9:10 PM

In the end, open source is now the domain of corporations using code to illegally collude under the guise of peace and love hippie software projects. If you plan on releasing software, AGPL it and simply do it for self expression. Save your real efforts for a real job.

James Britt 🎧 music.jamesbritt.com (@jamesbritt)

4/3/18, 9:01 PM

@zedshaw What about gitlab? I wasn't able to find anything in their TOS about donations or accepting payments.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 9:00 PM

So you think you're going to make some fantastic open source project that takes on a group of companies that illegally collude on faux-pen source projects and refuse to let you in on any standardization efforts and prevent you from being hired or getting VC money. Riiiiight.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:58 PM

You want to make a web browser? You are competing with Google, Microsoft, Apple, and Firefox. That's probably 2 trillion dollars of muscle ready to wipe you out for not doing what they say. What about a Kubernetes competitor? Same group. Docker? Same.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:57 PM

Finally, what is your project competing with? It used to be you and your pals competed with crap private software from Microsoft so it was easy in many ways. Now you're competing with TRILLION dollar open source projects. Yes, TRILLION dollar projects.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:56 PM

What about VC money? Well first off, that's just a loan so it's not really your money, but you do realize that if a VC gives you money then you'll start charging that VCs portfolio companies money and it'll cost them more money. If you aren't *MASSIVE* then good luck with that.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:54 PM

But hold up: If your code is open source then.....why does *any* blockchain based licensing system, sponsorship, or similar company even need you? They just copy your code, slap on some minor "add on service" and fuck you my friend, they make the cash.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:53 PM

Anyone offering to give you some form of advertising trade, sponsorship, or "blockchain licensing scheme" is most likely just trying to do very little to get the most out of what you have, AND you have to convince your potential customers to use their service.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:52 PM

And finally, so maybe you'll use something that connects to github? Nope, they are so against you making money github actively hunts down payment methods and rips them down. There's no way you'll get that to work. What about a "sponsorship" model? More

rent seeking.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:50 PM

Ok so maybe you'll put up a donation page on Patreon right? You know that unless you're a non-profit you can't really account for "donations" easily, and you can be suspected of money laundering? And again, why would anyone pay you? You're right on github for everyone to see.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:49 PM

I wrote a web server with millions of downloads, but rather than hire me they just bombarded me with tech support over IRC and slandered me. The new norm is you have to be professional even to unprofessional Capitalist Commies, and they don't need to hire you anyway.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:47 PM

So maybe you'll make money by getting a job because some company uses your software? AWS was started by a simply taking an OSS project run by a couple dudes and never talking to them. Nobody needs to hire you now that github gives everyone direct access to your free time.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:45 PM

So the only way you can make money through the community is to be one of the leaders. Open source projects like Python are essentially attention based ponzi schemes that do nothing but try to funnel your work through the hands of the people in charge like panning for scrap gold.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:44 PM

Think about it this way: You typically need to be different to have something to sell, BUT if most open source communities end up turning on anyone who dares to differentiate then you can't do that. You know why? Because differentiation siphons money away from leadership.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:42 PM

Maybe you think you'll go and create the next big thing in Python? Remember how I wrote one post about my objections to Python 3 and the entire PSF went ape shit and two dudes tried to blacklist me? That could happen to you too so how will you differentiate yourself?

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:39 PM

There's other companies worth hundreds of billions of dollars that buy one copy of my book then host it on their internal networks for all 20k employees, and my books are totally copyright. If they won't pay me for a book how will they ever buy a license to your free code?

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:37 PM

Even then, with all that motivation, all the marketing PR, all the leadership behind open source, all that CRAZY money, still, the best they're out begging for pull requests and free labor. And, it's not like I'm some loser with no credibility so how are you going to get paid?

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:35 PM

Think about that for a minute. This is a company that claims to be totally supporting open source, has a ton of resources, hires plenty of open source people, and posts everything they can now to github. They even run Linux on Windows. MS is apparently very pro-FLOSS now.

Zed (@zedshaw)

4/3/18, 8:33 PM

You think you'll make money in open source right? Maybe more than me? You know how Microsoft is soon to be worth a TRILLION dollars? [businessinsider.com/morgan-stanley...](https://www.businessinsider.com/morgan-stanley...) Even with a TRILLION dollars they are still begging for pull requests from people to get free labor. pic.twitter.com/LQMIpZzj1D

Sent from my iPhone