# The case for managed open source

WHAT IS MANAGED OPEN SOURCE?

Managed open source is a practical model that gives development teams using open source components a way to develop faster and reduce open source-related risk by outsourcing professional maintenance of those components to the people who built them.
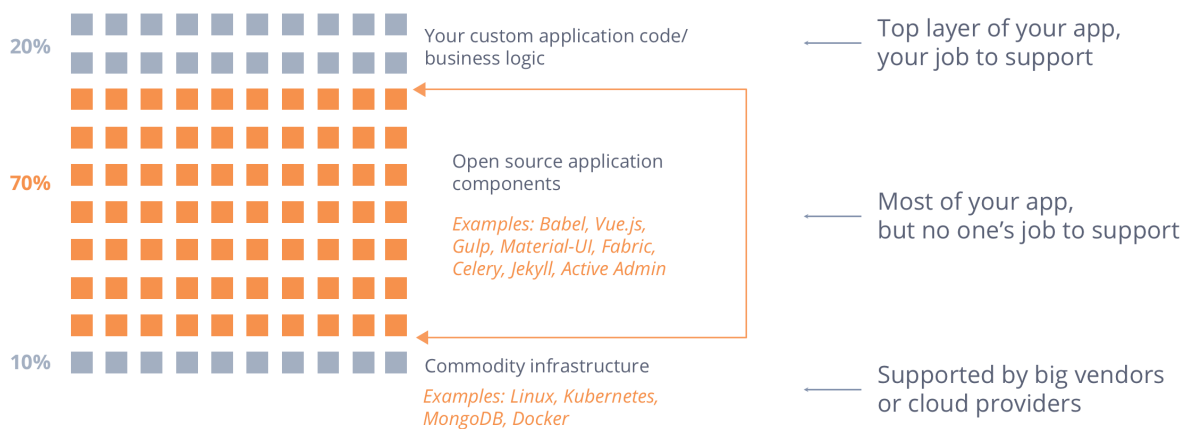
Open source is the modern development platform, essential to building today's applications. In fact, a recent study found that 92% of applications—almost all of them—contain open source components. Open source is a blessing because of the productivity boost it gives us, and a curse because of the maintenance headaches it creates.

Managed open source provides a way to get back the time you spend on open source maintenance. It means less time grappling with esoteric open source trivia, and more time building your own applications—and your business.

92%
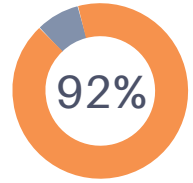
of professional
applications contain
open source components

MOST APPLICATIONS ARE BUILT ON TOP OF A FOUNDATION OF 70% OR MORE OPEN SOURCE CODE

20% Your custom application code/business logic

Top layer of your app, your job to support

70% Open source application components

Examples: Babel, Vue.js, Gulp, Material-UI, Fabric, Celery, Jekyll, Active Admin

Most of your app, but no one's job to support

10% Commodity infrastructure

Examples: Linux, Kubernetes, MongoDB, Docker

Supported by big vendors or cloud providers

OPEN SOURCE IS FREE—IF YOUR TIME IS WORTH NOTHING

If 70% or more of your app is built using open source application components, who's ensuring that code is well maintained? The sad truth is that in many cases, it is no one's job to support that code—or it falls to your team to handle it yourself. In fact, recent research shows that up to 20% of the open source packages used in the average application are completely unmaintained.

The impact on developer productivity can be severe, including wasted resources on maintenance headaches like dependency hell, and security and intellectual property-related fire drills. Another recent study found that the average developer spends 30% of their time on maintenance, with 25% of this time directly related to the open source packages they use.

YOU PROBABLY OUTSOURCE YOUR WEB HOSTING TO CLOUD PROVIDERS, SO WHY DO YOU STILL HANDLE OPEN SOURCE MAINTENANCE YOURSELVES?

Fifteen years ago if you were launching a new SaaS app, you would rent space from a hosting provider, buy and install servers, configure the software on those servers, etc. When something went physically wrong, you'd drive or fly to your hosting facility, swap out a faulty server, install software updates....

Today, you just press a few buttons, and let one of the cloud providers take care of all of that for you. But when it comes to the ongoing maintenance of the software that makes up 70% or more of your application, you still do a lot of the heavy lifting yourself. Why?

On the next page, we'll show you how to implement a managed open source strategy with the Tidelift Subscription.

The Tidelift Subscription

A managed open source subscription backed by creators and maintainers. Giving you the flexibility to build with open source and the confidence of commercial-grade software.

THE TIDELIFT SUBSCRIPTION MANAGES YOUR DEPENDENCIES FOR YOU

UNDERSTAND AND MONITOR YOUR OPEN SOURCE USAGE

MEASURE AND IMPROVE DEPENDENCY HEALTH

GET COMMERCIAL ASSURANCES OPEN SOURCE DOESN'T NORMALLY HAVE

PAY THE MAINTAINERS OF THE PACKAGES YOU USE, TO ENSURE THEY MEET YOUR STANDARDS

### PROACTIVELY ADDRESS ISSUES WITH YOUR DEPENDENCIES

BOTTOM LINE: YOU HELP OPEN SOURCE GET BETTER, AND YOUR APPS GET BETTER TOO

1 You purchase a managed open source subscription from Tidelift

2 Maintainers of the packages you use get paid and spend more time making their packages better
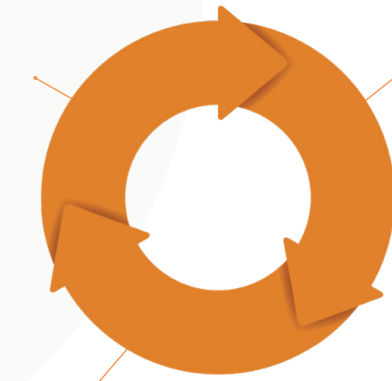
3 Which makes your apps perform better, while becoming more secure and reliable
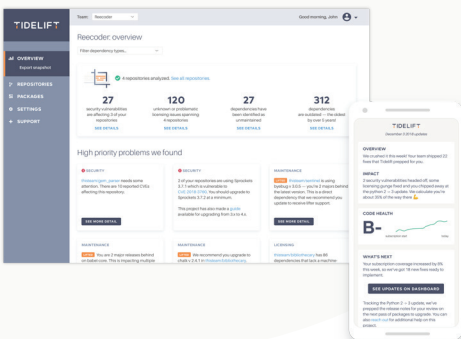
"This model helps us move closer to a future where many more maintainers like me can afford to work on their projects full time."

—Evan You, founder of Vue

TIDELIFT