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Odyssée
Some economical concepts
related to open-source

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TBA

At first, we will explain why Open source
and Venture capitalism are opposite economical models.

However Odyssee is a funded project and we experienced
that funds raising is sometimes very different,
but sometimes very similar in both worlds.

We will have a quick (and informal) look at these topics.

Venture capital...

Based on the fact that in order to really make money, good project must be rocket–propelled

It works in the USA, since the market is wide enough and people are innovation hungry.
So the rocket-propelled project can find a long and good quality lane to take off

Open source...

In many countries, the market is not wide enough
and people are not innovation hungry.
So the rocket-propelled project get a short and
poor quality lane... so instead of taking off, they realize
that walls have not been built to move themselves

But in these countries, building collective framework still means something
And the collectivity is used to paying for public goods

Opposite paradigms

Venture capital is based on the armoured ship paradigm
You must have patents to protect your investment
Technology costs a lot, so you have to move as slow
as possible but take as much space as possible

Open source is based on the destroyer paradigm
You always have to move
(since you are paid for what you build and not for what has already been built)
Alone you are very weak, in group you are strong

But they have in common...

You need money

You have to be considered as serious guys
You must have a business plan – not just dreams

You must use a part of this money to "buy" others

In the venture capital realm, the reason is that
« fat is beautiful », so you have to eat others
especially the smarts and fast
In the open source realm, the greatest danger is
the entropy : a man – a project, so you must
provide others with gas to have them join the group.
In both domains, size matters

But they have in common...

The harder moment is to get out of the egg
In the VC world, you can perfectly raise money
without ever building a product ; comfortable but
dangerous (Middleware – Software – Noware)
In the open source world, you have hard time evolving
from the initial team to a genuine wide collaboration

The more the success, the less the control
In the VC world, you are diluted each time you
raise funds – but you become rich
In the open source world, to need to really open
the sources and try to remain the manager anyway

As a conclusion

Open source is an economical paradigm
Even if it is far different from venture capital,
both can be compared

You must have a strategy
Even if it can be country related, I think that
the concepts I described are valid everywhere

Anyway it's an adventure worth living