40 new ways the CRA can accidentally harm open source

Tobie Langel, UnlockOpen

"Open Source In The European Legislative Landscape" devroom FOSDEM 2024

😅

The CRA has landed.
It could have been catastrophic. It isn't.

🧑‍💻 Open source community rose to the occasion

🗳️ Policymakers paid attention & considered community input

❌ Avoided harming open source

🇪🇺 Avoided harming EU's ability to leverage open source

🕶️

We now have *(a lot more)* **clarity***

✅ Responsibility falls where it rightfully belongs: with the entities monetizing the software (*manufacturers*)

👉 Interesting new role: *open source stewards*

(smart alignment with EU ambitions to leverage open source to regain tech sovereignty)

🌊

Industry & ecosystem–wide impact

🏭 Companies will be more cautious

⇒ projects move to foundations (the *stewards*)

⛓️ Conformance requirements move up dependency trees

⇒ ecosystem–wide impact

💰 Who's going to bare the cost of this overhead?

🔌

40+ harmonized standards

2 options to meet the requirements of the CRA:
🕵️ Demonstrate conformity (burden of proof is on you)
☑️ **Follow a set of standards** (provides *presumption of conformity*)

👉 Standards become *de facto* way the CRA impacts open source

🤕

40+ way things can go wrong

😱 40+ standards = 40+ ways things can go wrong

📋 Notoriously opaque standardization processes

💰 Open source adoption requires open & royalty free standards

🎭 Huge diversity of open source stakeholders (*stewards, hobbyist, COSS, EU SME ecosystem, etc.*)

🤝 Interop with other jurisdictions

🙏

Thank you!

Tobie Langel, UnlockOpen

**"Open Source In The European
Legislative Landscape" devroom
FOSDEM 2024**