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A Resource-Based View of Project Teams

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HOW THE FOUNDERS' SOCIAL CAPITAL AFFECTS THE SUCCESS OF OPEN-SOURCE PROJECTS: A RESOURCE-BASED VIEW OF PROJECT TEAMS

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ABSTRACT

The open-source paradigm has transformed business markets by providing a viable alternative to the traditional firm-based product development model. Under this paradigm, volunteers organize themselves and coordinate their efforts through the Internet to produce new products and services. We use data collected from an *open-source software* (OSS) development community to identify the role of the founders' social capital in team resource acquisition and utilization, and clarify its inconsistent effects on innovation performance. From a resource-based view, we identify that team size (a manifestation of human resources) and team brokerage (a manifestation of organizational resources) are determined by the social capital of the project founders, and, in turn, have significant effects on innovation performance. However, team size and team brokerage contribute differently to innovation performance. The findings enrich our understanding on the impact of founders' social capital in OSS communities and provide OSS project leaders and managers of firms with guidelines on boosting their chances for successful projects.

Keywords: Innovation; open source; product development; resource-based view; social capital

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