

THE LINUX FOUNDATION

THE NETDEV FOUNDATION Directed Fund Participation Agreement

Thank you for your interest in joining the Netdev Foundation (the “Directed Fund”), a directed fund project of The Linux Foundation (the “LF”). The purpose of the Directed Fund is to raise, budget and spend funds in support of testing and development of Linux networking, including testing of current and LTS kernel releases on heterogeneous hardware to enable uniform system behavior across vendor platforms. The governance for the Directed Fund will operate pursuant to the Directed Fund Charter (the “Charter”), set forth as Exhibit B, and as amended in the future by the Directed Fund’s Governing Board with the approval of the LF. **Please note** that you must be a member of the LF to be eligible to participate as a member of the Directed Fund. For further information, visit the [Corporate Membership](#) page at the LF web site.

Participants will enjoy the privileges and undertake the obligations described in the Charter and will comply with all such policies as the LF Board of Directors and/or the Directed Fund’s Governing Board may from time to time adopt with notice to members. The LF reserves the right to refuse any Participation Agreement submitted by a member who has payment obligations outstanding to the LF or to any other LF directed funds.

Please have this Participation Agreement (the “Agreement”) executed by an authorized representative of the member company named below (“Member”) and send a copy in PDF form by email to membership@linuxfoundation.org. A countersigned copy will be returned to you by email for your records when your eligibility for membership has been confirmed and an invoice will be emailed to you for payment of applicable membership fees. Note that this is not an indication of interest; execution of this Agreement creates an irrevocable, binding obligation for the member company to make the payments provided for and to otherwise perform in accordance with its terms.

Contact Information: If you are an existing LF Member, all legal, billing and financial notices from the LF relating to your participation will be sent to the individuals already on file with the LF under those categories unless you designate a different individual in Exhibit A.

Membership Term:

Membership requires an initial two-year membership commitment. One year’s fees are due on acceptance as a member, and the second year’s fees are due at the first anniversary of membership. At the second anniversary of membership, if membership is not canceled at least thirty days prior to the second anniversary of membership, a prorated amount of the applicable fees for the remainder of that calendar year (a “stub period”) will be invoiced (and membership will proceed on a calendar-year based renewal cycle thereafter).

Membership Terms:

For membership, an initial full year's payment of fees is due upon receipt and acceptance of an executed membership agreement and payable within thirty days of the date of invoice from the LF. Agreements signed before the 15th of the month will be invoiced as if active on the first of the month of signature. Agreements signed on or after the 15th will be invoiced as if active on the 1st of the following month. All fee amounts are irrevocable and non-refundable commitments based in US Dollars. We reserve the right to refuse your Participation Agreement if you have outstanding obligations to the LF or any other LF projects. In no event will fees be refunded, upon a Member's resignation or otherwise.

Each Member acknowledges that the LF and other members of the Directed Fund depend upon reliable participation renewal information to budget effectively, and that the LF's ability to provide services to the Directed Fund would suffer in the event of nonpayment of participation fees. Each Member acknowledges The Linux Foundation's Good Standing Policy, available at <https://www.linuxfoundation.org/good-standing-policy>.

Notice of any increase in participation fees for the following calendar year will be given on or before October 15 in the current calendar year. Member's participation for each calendar year and any stub period, and its obligation to pay participation fees for the following calendar year or stub period, as applicable, will renew annually for successive one-year terms, unless the applicant delivers written notice of non-renewal to the LF on or before December 1 of the current membership year.

[REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

Name of Member Company: _____

Membership Level (*see Exhibit C*): _____

Consolidated Employees (*if applicable*): _____

PR/Logo Usage: Do we have your permission to:

...display your logo on the Directed Fund's website (*Yes or No*)? _____

...announce your participation via press release (*Yes or No*)? _____

Preferred method(s) for receiving invoices (*PDF or Hard Copy*): _____

Is a Purchase Order (PO) required (*Yes or No*)? _____

If Yes, please provide the following details:

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

By signing below, the Member acknowledges and agrees that, when signed and accepted by the LF, this Agreement represents a binding contract between the parties and commits the applicant to these terms and obligations:

Authorized Representative of Member:

Accepted:

THE LINUX FOUNDATION

(Print Member Name)

Signature

Name

Title

Date

Signature

Name

Title

Date

Exhibit A

Primary Project Contact

(for all notices, including voting)

Name: _____
Title: _____
Phone No: _____
E-mail: _____

Billing Address

Billing Contact

(All invoices will be sent to this e-mail address unless the Member directs otherwise)

Name: _____
Title: _____
Phone No: _____
E-mail: _____

Exhibit B

The Netdev Foundation Charter

The Linux Foundation
Effective January 8, 2025

1) Mission and Scope of the Netdev Foundation.

- a) The purpose of the Netdev Foundation (the “Directed Fund”) is to raise, budget and spend funds in support of the testing and development of Linux networking, including testing of current and LTS kernel releases on heterogeneous hardware to enable uniform system behavior across vendor platforms in accordance with the provisions of this Charter.
- b) The Directed Fund operates under the guidance of the Governing Board of the Directed Fund (the “Governing Board”) and The Linux Foundation (the “LF”) as may be consistent with The Linux Foundation’s tax-exempt status.
- c) The Governing Board manages the Directed Fund. The Directed Fund will also have such working groups, councils, committees and similar bodies (collectively, “Committees”) that may be established by the Governing Board. These committees report to the Governing Board.

2) Membership.

- a) The Directed Fund will be composed of Members (each, a “Member” and, collectively, the “Members”) in Good Standing. All Members must be current corporate members of the LF (at any level) to participate in the Directed Fund as a member. All participants in the Directed Fund, enjoy the privileges and undertake the obligations described in this Charter, as from time to time amended. During the term of their membership, all members will comply with all such policies as the LF Board of Directors and/or the Directed Fund may adopt with notice to members.
- b) Members will be entitled to appoint a representative to the Governing Board and any Committee.
- c) Members will be entitled to:
 - i) participate in Directed Fund general meetings, initiatives, events and any other activities; and
 - ii) identify themselves as members of the Netdev Foundation supporting the Netdev Foundation community.

3) Governing Board

- a) The Governing Board voting members will consist of one representative appointed by each Member.
- b) Conduct of Meetings
 - i) Governing Board meetings will be limited to the Governing Board representatives, invited guests and LF staff.
 - ii) Governing Board meetings follow the requirements for quorum and voting outlined in this Charter. The Governing Board may decide whether to allow named representatives (one per Member per Governing Board and per Committee) to attend as an alternate.
 - iii) The Governing Board meetings will be private unless decided otherwise by the Governing Board. The Governing Board may invite guests to participate in consideration of specific Governing Board topics (but such guest may not participate in any vote on any matter before the Governing Board).
- c) Officers
 - i) The officer (“Officers”) of the Directed Fund as of the first meeting of the Governing Board will be a Chairperson (“Chair”). Additional Officer positions may be created by the Governing Board.
 - ii) The Chair will preside over meetings of the Governing Board, manage any day-to-day operational decisions, and will submit minutes for Governing Board approval. The Chair must be a voting member of the Governing Board.
- d) The Governing Board will be responsible for overall management of the Directed Fund, including:
 - i) approve a budget directing the use of funds raised by the Directed Fund from all sources of revenue within the scope of the Development Projects (as defined below) approved by the TSC (as defined below) or with respect to general operation of the Directed Fund (such as the G&A fee discussed in Section 11);
 - ii) nominate and elect Officers of the Directed Fund;
 - iii) oversee all Directed Fund business and community outreach matters and work with the LF on any legal matters that arise;
 - iv) adopt and maintain policies or rules and procedures for the Directed Fund (subject to LF approval);
 - v) establish advisory bodies, committees, programs or councils to resolve any particular matter or in support of the mission of the Directed Fund;

- vi) establish any conformance programs and solicit input (including testing tools) for defining and administering any programs related to conformance (each, a “Conformance Program”);
- vii) publish use cases, user stories, websites and priorities to help inform the ecosystem and technical community;
- viii) approve procedures for the nomination and selection of any Officer or other positions created by the Governing Board; and
- ix) vote on all decisions or matters coming before the Governing Board.

4) Technical Steering Committee

a) The Technical Steering Committee (“TSC”) consists of the maintainers of the Netdev project, as listed in the NETWORKING [GENERAL] and NETWORKING DRIVERS sections of the Linux kernel MAINTAINERS file. Maintainers may appoint additional project members to join the TSC. Appointment of an additional TSC member must be confirmed by a unanimous vote of the TSC, appointment of an additional TSC member may be rescinded at any time with a simple majority vote within the TSC. All maintainers must be present for a vote on additional members to be valid.

b) The TSC is responsible for approving development projects that should receive funding by the Directed Fund (such projects, “Dev Projects”) and will make recommendations to the Governing Board as to target or estimated funding requirements for such Dev Projects.

5) Voting

- a) Quorum for Governing Board and Committee meetings will require at least fifty percent of the voting representatives. If advance notice of the meeting has been given per normal means and timing, the Governing Board may continue to meet even if quorum is not met, but will be prevented from making any decisions at the meeting.
- b) Ideally decisions will be made based on consensus. If, however, any decision requires a vote to move forward, the representatives of the Governing Board or Committee, as applicable, will vote on a one vote per voting representative basis.
- c) Except as provided in Section 13.a. or elsewhere in this Charter, decisions by vote at a meeting will require a simple majority vote, provided quorum is met. Except as provided in Section 13.a. or elsewhere in this Charter, decisions by electronic vote without a meeting will require a majority of all voting representatives.
- d) In the event of a tied vote with respect to an action that cannot be resolved by the Governing Board, the Chair may refer the matter to the LF for assistance in reaching a decision. If there is a tied vote in any Committee that cannot be resolved, the matter may be referred to the Governing Board.

6) Subsidiaries and Related Companies

a) Definitions:

- i) “Subsidiaries” means any entity in which a Member owns, directly or indirectly, more than fifty percent of the voting securities or membership interests of the entity in question;
 - ii) “Related Company” means any entity which controls or is controlled by a Member or which, together with a Member, is under the common control of a third party, in each case where such control results from ownership, either directly or indirectly, of more than fifty percent of the voting securities or membership interests of the entity in question; and
 - iii) “Related Companies” are entities that are each a Related Company of a Member.
- b) Only the legal entity which has executed a Participation Agreement and its Subsidiaries will be entitled to enjoy the rights and privileges of such Membership; provided, however, that such Member and its Subsidiaries will be treated together as a single Member.
- c) If a Member is itself a foundation, association, consortium, open source project, membership organization, user group or other entity that has members or sponsors, then the rights and privileges granted to such Member will extend only to the employee-representatives of such Member, and not to its members or sponsors, unless otherwise approved by the Governing Board in a specific case.
- d) Directed Fund Membership is non-transferable, non-salable and non-assignable, except a Member may transfer its current Membership benefits and obligations to a successor of substantially all of its business or assets, whether by merger, sale or otherwise; provided that the transferee agrees to be bound by this Charter and the Bylaws and policies required by LF membership.

7) Good Standing

- a) The Linux Foundation’s Good Standing Policy is available at <https://www.linuxfoundation.org/good-standing-policy> and will apply to Members of this Directed Fund.

8) Trademarks

- a) Any trademarks relating to the Directed Fund, including without limitation any mark relating to any Conformance Program, must be transferred to and held by LF Projects, LLC or the Linux Foundation and available for use pursuant to LF Projects, LLC’s trademark usage policy, available at www.lfprojects.org/trademarks/.

9) Antitrust Guidelines

- a) All Members must abide by The Linux Foundation's Antitrust Policy available at <http://www.linuxfoundation.org/antitrust-policy>.
- b) All Members must encourage open participation from any organization able to meet the membership requirements, regardless of competitive interests. Put another way, the Governing Board will not seek to exclude any member based on any criteria, requirements or reasons other than those that are reasonable and applied on a non-discriminatory basis to all members.

10) Budget

- a) The Governing Board will approve an annual budget and never commit to spend in excess of funds raised. The budget and the purposes to which it is applied must be consistent with both the non-profit and tax-exempt mission of The Linux Foundation.
- b) The Linux Foundation will provide the Governing Board with regular reports of spend levels against the budget. Under no circumstances will The Linux Foundation have any expectation or obligation to undertake an action on behalf of the Directed Fund or otherwise related to the Directed Fund that is not covered in full by funds raised by the Directed Fund.
- c) In the event an unbudgeted or otherwise unfunded obligation arises related to the Directed Fund, The Linux Foundation will coordinate with the Governing Board to address gap funding requirements.

11) General & Administrative Expenses

- a) The Linux Foundation will have custody of and final authority over the usage of any fees, funds and other cash receipts.
- b) A General & Administrative (G&A) fee will be applied by The Linux Foundation to funds raised to cover membership records, finance, accounting, and human resources operations. The G&A fee will be 9% of the Directed Fund's first \$1,000,000 of gross receipts each year and 6% of the Directed Fund's gross receipts each year over \$1,000,000.

12) General Rules and Operations. The Directed Fund activities must:

- a) engage in the work of the project in a professional manner consistent with maintaining a cohesive community, while also maintaining the goodwill and esteem of The Linux Foundation in the open source community;
- b) respect the rights of all trademark owners, including any branding and usage guidelines;
- c) engage or coordinate with The Linux Foundation on all outreach, website and marketing activities regarding the Directed Fund; and
- d) operate under such rules and procedures as may be approved by the Governing Board and

confirmed by The Linux Foundation.

13) Amendments

- a) This Charter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire Governing Board (and, in the case of an amendment of Section 4, two-thirds vote of the entire TSC), subject to approval by The Linux Foundation.

Non Executable

Exhibit C

The membership levels and associated fees are listed below.

Membership Class	Annual Membership Fees
Member	\$25,000

Linux Foundation Membership Information. Your organization will need to be a current member of the LF. If your organization is already a member of the LF, there is no need to do anything. If you are not a member of the LF, there are three tiers of LF membership available. The fees associated with each level of LF membership are included below for non-members to easily reference. Please visit the Corporate Membership page at the LF web site for full details:

- LF Platinum: \$500,000
- LF Gold: \$100,000
- LF Silver: Under 100 employees: \$5,000; 100-499 employees: \$10,000; 500-4,999 employees: \$15,000; 5,000 or more employees: \$20,000.
- LF Associate membership is available for non-profit, open source, and government entities at no cost.