Art of the Fork: Reclaiming Community Trust

- **Speaker**: Edward Ly
  * **Room**: 332
  * **Time**: Friday, Oct 23rd 14:00 – 14:20
- **Format**: Talk (20 min)
  * **Difficulty**: Beginner - Moderate
- **Track**: Community
- **Additional Tags**: Open Source, Project Governance, Software Forking, AGPLv3, Corporate Stewardship
  * **Presenter Location**:
  * **Experience**: Software engineer at Nextcloud with a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering; experienced speaker at FOSDEM, LinuxFest Northwest, and SeaGL.

Description:

On March 27th, 2026, a coalition of European companies including IONOS and Nextcloud announced “Euro-Office,” an AGPLv3-licensed fork of OnlyOffice. While public discourse has rightly focused on the legal nuances of the AGPLv3 license, this talk will rather focus on one of the project's other key objectives: liberating the codebase from a vendor accused of “open-washing.”

Using Euro-Office and other high-profile forks as case studies, we will examine the critical role forks play when corporate stewardship fails and trust breaks down. We will move beyond the headlines to dissect the distinct factors that determine whether a fork thrives or withers, revealing that community cohesion and governance are often more decisive than code quality alone. Finally, we will provide a practical framework for developers considering a fork, drawing on historical precedents to outline the risks, benefits, and essential strategies for building a sustainable community.

Target Audience:

- Open source maintainers and developers
  * Community leaders in FOSS projects
  * Those interested in software governance and ethical AI/software solutions

From:
https://wiki.livingcartoon.org/ - **Living Cartoon Company**

Permanent link:
https://wiki.livingcartoon.org/events/seagl_2026_art_of_fork

Last update: **2026/10/01 22:52**