ActiveState

Open Source Language Checklist

As a manager, you likely count on your stakeholders in InfoSec, GRC, Engineering, IT, etc to help you deal with the security, compliance and risk of open source language use in your organization. But what happens when each of those stakeholders have differing opinions?

You may have heard engineers say they're comfortable using open source Python, for example, but InfoSec says they require vendor support and security assurances before they'll deploy it in production, while GRC say they need to review the licenses for every third-party package before developers can even work with them.

Addressing all these needs can potentially handcuff your developers and significantly delay time to market. For example, consider the following teams and their needs:

Governance, Risk & Compliance (GRC)

- [ ] **License Compliance.** How do you know whether your applications violate license agreements associated with the third-party code they incorporate?

Developers

- [ ] **Multiple Toolchains.** How do your teams manage complexity if they build software for more than one operating system (OS)?

- [ ] **Dependency Hell.** How do your developers manage conflicting software dependencies?

- [ ] **Environment Reproduction.** Do your developers spend more time recreating the environment in which a bug was found than resolving the bug?

- [ ] **Works On My Machine.** Do your teams have issues with code that works only on one developer's machine?

InfoSec

- [ ] **Security.** How do your InfoSec teams track vulnerabilities in applications that are both under development and deployed?

- [ ] **Commercial Support.** Do your InfoSec teams have a safety net when local expertise and community forums can't solve an open source language issue?

- [ ] **MTTR.** Is updating open source language environments a bottleneck in decreasing Mean Time To Resolution of issues?

DevOps

- [ ] **Slow CI/CD Cycles.** Do your DevOps teams wish their CI/CD runs could be executed quicker?

- [ ] **Custom Runtimes.** Do your DevOps teams have issues setting up their CI/CD to work with their non-standard language environments?

- [ ] **Synchronization Issues.** Do your DevOps teams have issues keeping CI/CD and development systems in sync?

The ActiveState Platform can help address many of the issues faced by your key stakeholders by ensuring that the Python, Perl and Tcl language environments they interact with are secure and comply with licensing criteria, while eliminating many of the time wasting tasks that limit developer productivity.

For GRC teams:

- ☑ Reduces license compliance risk by allowing you to create and use language environments from only known, good third-party code.

- ☑ Reduces legal exposure by providing indemnification for all third-party code incorporated in your open source language environments.
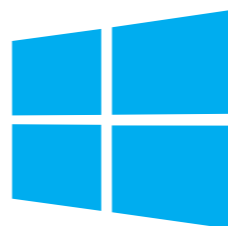
For developers:

- ☑ Eliminates the need for multiple build environments (one per OS) by providing a single, cloud-based toolchain that supports Python, Perl and Tcl on Windows, Mac and Linux.

- ☑ Automatically resolves dependencies, or suggests a solution when a conflict can't be automatically resolved.

- ☑ Eliminates "works on my machine" issues and simplifies troubleshooting by providing a single, central "source of truth" for the programming language environment used by all development, test and even production systems.

For InfoSec teams:

- ☑ Shows which language environments have which security defects, and can be used to track if the environment has been deployed to developers, test systems or into production.

- ☑ Offers open source language expertise via SLA-backed chat, email and phone support.

- ☑ Decreases MTTR by allowing for automated updating and rebuilding of language environments on demand, resolving vulnerabilities.

For DevOps:

- ☑ Simplifies and speeds up CI/CD by eliminating the need to rebuild the language environment--even custom environments--every run.

- ☑ Ensures that all environments remain in sync with each other by implementing a single, standard, pre-built language environment for both developer and DevOps teams.

ActiveState is the de-facto standard for millions of developers around the world who have been using our commercially-backed, secure open source language distributions for over 20 years. With the ActiveState Platform, developers can now automatically build their own Python, Perl or Tcl environments for Windows, Linux or Mac—all without requiring language or operating system expertise.

ActiveState®

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The ActiveState Platform is available as a monthly subscription. Try it for free by signing up for an account at platform.activestate.com