

ASU Center for Organization Research and Design Arizona State University

A presentation by:



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Abstract

Contribution Matrix: a method to analyze individual participation in complex exploratory projects. An application on the case of the UPSat satellite.

This study exploits the openness of both the process and the outcomes of the development of the UPSat, the first satellite developed in Greece, to tackle the contemporary issue of acknowledging individual contribution in collective exploratory projects. While collaboration is the norm on how scientific and technological developments are achieved today, we lack instruments to analyze and attribute the credit of personal contribution in a collective achievement. The Contribution Matrix (CM) is a method introduced here to analyze individual engagement in complex technological projects, such as the development of a satellite, identifying “who did what”. Applied in the field of the UPSat during its final development phase, the CM reveals original patterns of participation, compared with what we already know about open source platforms. In addition, provided the large diffusion of collaborative platforms such as GitHub, the CM opens a new field on the analysis of data coming from the traces of online collaboration.