

Luca Marzo

2024-2025 Manifesto

Secretary - Open Source Matters, Inc.

Who am I

I am an IT professional with 17 year's experience in Open Source and the Web.

- My career started in 2006 as a software developer, producing old-style computer games inspired by the classics like Pac-Man, Arkanoid and many others, as well as some small utilities. Some friends joined my adventure as an Independent Software Developer and we quickly started designing and distributing computer fonts, releasing more than 70 fonts in a decade.
- In 2007 I discovered Joomla and my professional profile transformed into a webmaster and website integrator. In ten years I built more than 150 websites and managed around 300 domain names for customers as a consultant for companies and the Italian Public Administration.
- In 2015 I developed a Joomla website for a food delivery startup, making Joomla the core of their systems (from the shop to the delivery management).
- In 2017 I joined IBM (International Business Machines Corp.) as a Contract Management Specialist and soon became a Contract Commercial Manager, having the chance to work with big clients of the world's largest strategic outsourcing in the IT sector.
- In 2018 I moved back to Italy, joining a leading web hosting company as Community Manager. There I had the chance to be closer to the Italian Joomla Community and I organized two editions of the Italian JoomlaDay. In 2019 I was appointed Customer Service Manager in the same company.
- In 2023, I published a book for Packt Publishing Ltd. called "*Joomla! 4 Masterclass*" to introduce the new features of Joomla 4.
- In 2023, I joined the largest company in Financial Services in Italy, where I serve as Cloud Engineer.

My Joomla story

- I started contributing to Joomla in 2009, trying to help in the Italian Joomla Forum, where I became a moderator and then, a few years later, a global moderator.
- During these years, I joined the OpenTranslators Project on Transifex, where I translated a lot of Joomla extensions into Italian.

- My adventure in the global Joomla Community began in 2015 when I joined the Joomla Extensions Directory as a Listing Specialist.
- A few months later I joined the Trademark Team and Certification Team, where I tried to contribute as much as I could to get things done.
- This period led to being awarded the JET (Joomla Events Traveller Program) to attend JandBeyond 2016 in Barcelona, Spain. It was my first international Joomla event and it has been simply amazing. There I met a lot of Joomlaers and started matching faces to voices and names I always only met online before: Rowan, Ruth, Robert, David, Chris, Jaz, Djamel, Hugh, Alison, Chiara, Sarah, Sam, Stephanie, Patrick and many others.
- JaB ended with me being appointed as Assistant for the Production Leadership Team for nearly 8 months, in which we completed the Transition.
- After that, in 2017, during the Officer elections, I was elected Secretary of Open Source Matters, member of the Board of the unique and reformed organization that governs the Joomla Project.
- The rest is history and well documented in the Board meeting minutes and the reports published in the past 6 years that I have been holding this role.

My vision for the Project

- At the Forum for the Future and online I saw and heard several visions and directions for the Joomla Project: someone who wants to give Joomla a more **professional** direction, someone who wants to focus on the **Community**, etc.
- Whatever the view that ends up driving the Project, we should take into account that Joomla, as a Project and as a Community, has a **Responsibility** for keeping 3% of the entire Web functioning.
- We, the Joomla Community, made something that nobody has done before or since. We should be very proud of this. We are a 18 years old project that produces an **Open Source Content Management System** used by millions of Websites. Furthermore, despite the fact that we lack the resources (manpower, money, influence) of our main perceived competitors, we created a miracle, ensuring a stable, modern and powerful platform that people from all over the world can freely build their websites with, year on year!
- We should remind ourselves that the decisions we take for the Project have an **impact on hundreds of thousands** of users and websites globally.
- We should keep doing the good work that we have done so far, releasing a **stable**, extensible, **powerful** and **secure** Content Management System.
- We, as a **community**, should work also on ourselves, trying to be more **inclusive** and **welcoming**, more **friendly**, **supportive** and above all polite and kind.
- We should be proud of the values that we represent and we should live them fully too.
- Personally, I am proud to be a Joomlaer. Joomla changed my life and has offered me a lot of opportunities, which is why I am happy to **contribute** and **give back** to the Project and its amazing Community.

- I would be honored to **serve** for another term as Secretary and Board Member.
- This would enable me to finish the work started on the Joomla Foundation, to increase financial sustainability of the Project.
- I would also like to continue to improve transparency in leadership throughout the project, breaking down barriers, cracking open siloes and encouraging healthy, honest communication throughout the entire organization from contributor to board level and beyond.
- I would like to "**be there**" for another year, serving the community and the volunteers that look for someone to speak with at any time.

Continue the work started

My overall vision did not change throughout the years and my manifesto is pretty much the same as the previous years.

I would like to serve as a historical knowledge source for the Board members, especially newcomers, and bring them to "full speed", as I've done throughout my terms.

I'd also like to start working on my succession plans in the leadership, hopefully mentoring someone who is willing to take over my role, at the next election cycle.

We have some challenges ahead of us to increase the stability of the organization and build the next generation of leaders for the project.

Thank you for trusting me during all these years, I am at your service.

Luca Marzo