



# Sebastian Crane

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 **Email**  
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 **Nationality**  
British Citizen

Open source ecosystem expert, specializing in standardization, compliance and governance.

## Selected experience and achievements

- **Chairman, F-Droid Board of Directors (2024 - present)**

Leading the F-Droid Board of Directors as the elected Chairman, with the ongoing projects of establishing formal legal and fiscal structures for the charity, improving stakeholder representation and inclusivity as well as analysing opportunities and threats relating to new national and international legislation.

Priorities for the Board include ensuring that F-Droid is well-placed to effectively respond to the European Union Digital Markets Act (DMA) in securing the growth of Free and Open Source Software applications and proactively analysing opportunities for F-Droid's ability to provide reliable alternatives to the 'gatekeeper' services regulated by the DMA.

Actively collaborating partners include the Free Software Foundation Europe with the Upcycling Android initiative, aimed at reducing electronic waste, and the Guardian Project, which seeks to safeguard digital rights including press freedom.

As head of the Board of Directors' Governance Committee, currently planning a large organizational restructure involving the formation of a new legal entity for F-Droid in order to promote financial independence and organizational agility.

Personally engaged with a consultation conducted by the UK's telecommunications regulator Ofcom relating to compliance with the Online Safety Act 2023, and am exploring strategies on my own initiative for managing the risk to open source organizations as a result of the Act's introduction of requirements such as mandatory age verification.

- **Invited Expert to the Verifiable Credentials Working Group, RDF Canonicalization & Hashing Working Group and Security Interest Group, W3C (2022 - present)**

Spearheaded the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Verifiable Credentials Working Group's response to a liaison request from the GSM Association on developing privacy-protecting functionality for implementations of the Digital Identity Wallet in conformance to European Union Regulation 2024/1183.

Directly participated in technical development of advanced encryption and data integrity technology for the aforementioned Digital Identity systems, including architectural compatibility with future quantum-safe cryptography.

- **Outreach Team Lead and Steering Committee member, SPDX (2021 - 2023)**

Was nominated and appointed to the Steering Committee of the Systems Package Data Exchange (SPDX) project to further the project's governance and strategic direction amidst increased demand for software supply chain security and compliance from national regulators such as the USA's NTIA and CISA.

Coordinated the strategic management of a major release of the SPDX ISO standard for Software Bill of Materials, involving collaboration with over fifty active working group members including engineers from stakeholders such as Microsoft, ARM and Siemens.

Developed ongoing relationships with diverse stakeholder groups as part of the role of Outreach Team Lead, with SPDX's membership growing by an additional 65% during my tenure.

Formed two Special Interest Groups within SPDX, the Canonicalisation Committee and the Serialisation Focus Group, facilitating meetings and leading development of supplementary technical specifications. Created educational resources and undertook research to ensure strategic and procedural alignment across the three principle divisions in SPDX (Legal, Tech and Outreach) and their subcommittees, which helped to obtain the necessary community consensus for industry support and ISO standardization.

- **Conference presentations**

Delivered several presentations at international technology conferences including FOSDEM on topics such as Software Bill of Materials and data integrity. My most recent talk was attended by an in-person audience of approx. 150, with additional viewers online, and raised awareness of the new RDF Dataset Canonicalization standards for data security.

## Technical skills

- Extensive expertise in free and open source licences and their implications with regard to copyright, trademarks and patents.
- Accomplished in several programming languages, from high-level languages including Clojure to embedded and systems languages such as Go and C.
- Comprehensive understanding of standards and standardization processes across the W3C, IETF and ISO.
- Practical knowledge of containerization technologies, with competence using Podman/Docker, Kubernetes and Flatpak.
- Deep understanding of software build system and package management technologies, including Bazel, Meson, Nix and those of many Linux distributions.
- Considerable experience with multiple CI/CD platforms, including GitHub Actions and Woodpecker CI.