

Remember

It's easier to answer concrete questions and dealing with facts than sentiments

Questions

What are your biggest concerns or questions about ROS?

I'd like to address these one by one

What exactly qualifies a framework as a big boy framework?

Is it:

Is it the level of use?

Scale of deployment?

Number of products sold using it? Companies using it?

Specific development processes or standards used?

Having gone through specific types of audits or certification?

Can you share some use-cases or edge-cases that you feel are still not satisfied?

Do you have the impression that ROS is a monolith?

Are we concerned with time to market and future flexibility?

I've seen a number of orgs attempt to replicate open source solutions because of quality concerns, only to get mired in years of development. Writing anything from scratch is only a worthwhile endeavor if you value your time at zero and aren't concerned with time to market.

Practical Points

The things we do as robotocists are hard.

They require research, hypothesis testing, and iteration. That's what ROS allows to happen quickly.

You can't iterate if you are stuck building infrastructure.

Misconceptions

There is still a mindset, based in ROS's history, where people believe it is an academic enterprise

That this isn't the case. If companies like Amazon, Toyota, Ford, Fraunhofer, the US Government, and Bosch, being active ROS contributors doesn't convince you I don't know what will.

Authority

Have you taken a look at the size of the community and backing of Companies?

If companies like Amazon, Toyota, Ford, Fraunhofer, the US Government, and Bosch, being active ROS contributors doesn't convince you I don't know what will.

Keep in mind who your main stakeholders are

Future users developers. If these guys can't do their job better and faster then we might as well not try.

Like Python there are a lot of ROS packages out there

Some of them written by the smartest people I know, and some of them written by people just starting their software journey.

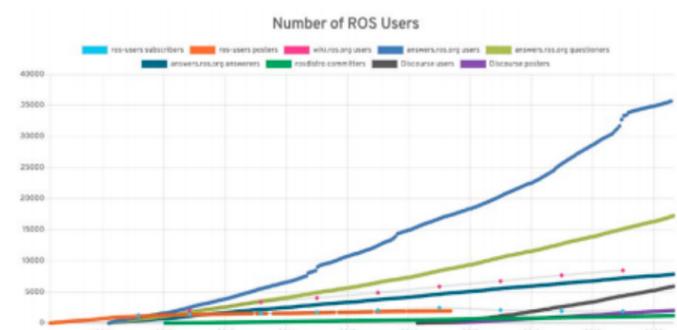
If you judge a federated project by its least skilled contributors you're doomed to throw the baby out with the bath water. We're aware of this issue and most of the community is working to address it and make those distinctions clearer.



<https://rosindustrial.org/ric/current-members>

As of June 2020

- **260+** companies use ROS including multiple Fortune 500 companies and multiple government agencies
- **437,687** monthly unique visitors
- **Over 20 million** packages downloaded per month
- **35,000** Users on our questions and answers website
- **5000** Forum Users
- **3700+** Github Repositories
- **200k** Wiki Visits / Month
- **~500k** Distro Downloads / Month
- **7000+** Research Citations
- **875** attendees at ROSCon events in 2019
- **264 million** ROS binary packages downloaded in 2019



<https://metrics.ros.org/>