



Fintech
Open Source
Foundation

**OUR VISION
FOR OPEN
SOURCE IN
FINANCIAL
SERVICES IN
2025**

As the Executive Director of FINOS (Fintech Open Source Foundation), I am thrilled to share our vision for the future of open source in financial services as we look ahead to 2025 and beyond. The past few years have seen tremendous growth and evolution in our industry's adoption of open source technologies and practices. As we stand at this pivotal moment, it's clear that open source has moved from being merely a cost-saving measure to a strategic imperative for financial institutions of all sizes.

Our journey at FINOS has been nothing short of remarkable. We've surpassed 100 members, bringing together a diverse ecosystem of buy-side and sell-side firms, technology and cloud service providers, and other key stakeholders. This growth is not just about numbers - it represents a fundamental shift in how the financial services industry approaches technology development and collaboration. We're seeing unprecedented levels of cooperation on pre-competitive technologies and standards, driving innovation and efficiency across the sector.

[Learn more about our achievements in 2024.](#)

The Evolving Landscape of Open Source in Finance

Growing Recognition of Business Value

One of the most significant trends we've observed is the increasing recognition of the business value that open source brings to financial institutions. Our [2024 State of Open Source in Financial Services Report](#) highlighted that 84% of respondents agree that using open source software (OSS) delivers business value to their organizations. This shift in perception goes far beyond the traditional view of open source as merely a cost-cutting tool.

Financial institutions are now leveraging open source to:

- 1. Accelerate innovation and time-to-market:** By tapping into a global pool of talent and pre-existing solutions, firms can develop new products and services faster than ever before.
- 2. Improve software quality and security:** The collaborative nature of open source development leads to more robust, well-tested code that can withstand the rigorous demands of the financial sector.
- 3. Enhance talent attraction and retention:** Top developers are increasingly drawn to organizations that embrace open source principles, giving firms that actively participate in the open source community a significant advantage in the war for talent.
- 4. Foster greater collaboration and interoperability:** Open standards and shared platforms are breaking down silos within and between organizations, leading to more efficient operations and better customer experiences.

This recognition is driving increased investment in open source initiatives across the industry. We're seeing more firms establish Open Source Program Offices (OSPOs), develop clear open source strategies, and allocate resources to contribute back to the open source community. This virtuous cycle of consumption and contribution is accelerating innovation across the entire financial services ecosystem.

Industry-Wide Collaboration as an Accelerator

Perhaps the most exciting development we've witnessed is the power of industry-wide collaboration to drive innovation and solve common challenges. What started as an initiative led by the largest tier 1 investment banks in the world has now turned into a truly bigger tent including all constituencies of the ecosystem, from buy-side to intermediaries like clearinghouses and exchanges, from the top cloud service providers to long established trade associations. The financial sector has realized that open source is a positive sum game, whereby working together on non-differentiating technologies they can create more value for everyone while freeing up resources to focus on their unique competitive advantages.

At FINOS, we've been at the forefront of fostering this collaboration through several key initiatives:



FDC3 (Financial Desktop Connectivity and Collaboration Consortium):

This open standard for application interoperability has seen tremendous adoption across the industry. In 2024, we saw major public adoption and conformance statements from industry leaders like BlackRock, Morgan Stanley, LSEG, FactSet, and State Street. FDC3 is transforming the financial desktop, enabling seamless data sharing and workflow integration between applications from different vendors.



Common Domain Model (CDM): In partnership with ISDA and other industry bodies, we've continued to advance the CDM as a standardized representation of trade events and actions. This is proving invaluable for regulatory reporting, risk management, and operational efficiency.



Open RegTech: Our initiatives in this space are helping firms navigate the complex and ever-changing regulatory landscape more efficiently. By collaborating on open source solutions for regulatory compliance, we're reducing duplication of effort and improving consistency across the industry.

These collaborative efforts are not just theoretical - they're delivering real-world benefits. For example, the widespread adoption of FDC3 is enabling firms to create more integrated, efficient workflows for traders and other financial professionals. The CDM is helping to streamline regulatory reporting processes, reducing costs and improving accuracy. And our Open RegTech initiatives are helping firms adapt more quickly to new regulations while ensuring consistency and best practices across the industry.

Adoption Trends Shaping the Industry

As we look at how financial institutions are adopting open source, several key trends emerge:

Regulatory Compliance: The financial services industry faces an ever-growing wave of regulations. Open source initiatives like OpenRegTech and the Common Domain Model are helping firms navigate this complex landscape more efficiently. By collaborating on open source solutions for regulatory compliance, firms can reduce costs, improve consistency, and adapt more quickly to new requirements.

Industry Connectivity: Standards like FDC3 are fostering greater interoperability and data sharing within the financial ecosystem. This is breaking down silos between applications and departments, leading to more streamlined workflows and better decision-making.

Sustainability-Aligned Investing: Climate considerations are becoming increasingly important for investors and regulators alike. Open source projects like OS-Climate, which recently merged with FINOS, are providing crucial data and tools to support climate-aligned investing and risk management. This trend reflects the growing importance of sustainability in the financial sector and the power of open source to drive positive change.

Cloud and Supply Chain Security: As financial institutions increase their reliance on open source software, securing the supply chain has become a whole new game. Organizations are investing in robust open source management practices, including rigorous selection criteria for components, continuous monitoring and security audits, and active engagement with the open source community to address vulnerabilities.

Adoption driving Contribution: As adoption grows, it's only natural to see contributions from financial services professionals increase significantly - our GitHub annual report shows a 26% increase over the past year. Still the industry lags behind others, and particularly big tech, in open source strategic engagement. This gap represents both a challenge and an opportunity. By increasing their contributions, financial institutions can still exercise a first mover advantage in shaping the direction of critical technologies, reduce their technical debt, and build stronger relationships with the broader tech community.

Major Trends Shaping Open Source

When I look beyond financial services, with the unique vantage point not just of my FINOS role but with my broader remit as GM of Linux Foundation Europe, the picture gets even more exciting. As I said earlier this year, not only **open source is serious business** but it's a truly pivotal moment for Open Source. Several macro trends are shaping the evolution of open source software across industries:

The Rise of Open Source AI

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning continue to be major drivers of innovation in financial services. Our **2024 State of Open Source in Financial Services report** shows that 45% of respondents consider AI/ML the most valuable open source technology for the future of the industry, up from 35% in 2023.

The rise of generative AI and large language models (LLMs) has sparked intense interest and investment in open source AI solutions. However, the lack of a universally accepted definition of “open source AI” and the regulatory complexities surrounding its use pose challenges for financial institutions.

At FINOS, we’re playing a key role in addressing these challenges. Our **AI Readiness Special Interest Group (SIG)** has been working tirelessly to develop governance frameworks and best practices for the responsible adoption of AI in financial services. In 2024, we released version 0.1 of our **AI Governance Framework**, which provides a structured approach for financial institutions to evaluate and implement AI solutions while addressing ethical, regulatory, and operational considerations.

Looking ahead, we see enormous potential for open source AI to transform various aspects of financial services, from risk management and fraud detection to personalized customer experiences and algorithmic trading. By fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing in this rapidly evolving field, we aim to accelerate the responsible adoption of AI across the industry.

Expansion of Open Banking and Open Finance

The implementation of regulations like the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Rule 1033 in the United States is accelerating the adoption of open banking principles. This trend is driving the need for secure data sharing between banks, fintechs, and third-party providers.

Open source technologies can play a crucial role in enabling this transformation. From API standards to security protocols, open source solutions are helping to create a more interconnected and innovative financial ecosystem. At FINOS, we’re actively exploring how we can support this trend through new projects and collaborations.

Tech Regulation Landscape Evolution

The regulatory environment for technology, and therefore open source, continues to evolve rapidly, with new regulations such as the EU’s Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA) and Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) reshaping the landscape. These regulations are placing increased emphasis on operational resilience, cybersecurity, and third-party risk management - all areas where open source can play a crucial role.

Our **Open RegTech initiatives** are at the forefront of helping firms adapt to these changes. By developing open source tools and frameworks for regulatory compliance, we’re enabling firms to implement new requirements more efficiently and consistently. Moreover, our collaborative approach allows for the rapid dissemination of best practices and interpretations across the industry.

The New Era of Regulated Open Source

The increasing use of open source software in critical infrastructure and sensitive industries has led to greater regulatory scrutiny. Regulations such as the EU’s Cyber Resilience Act and the impact of US OFAC sanctions are impacting open source development and use, highlighting the need for greater compliance and security measures.

At FINOS, we're actively working to help our members navigate these evolving regulations. Our **Open Source Readiness initiative** provides training, best practices, and tools to ensure the secure and compliant use of open source software in financial services. We're also engaging with regulators and policymakers to advocate for balanced approaches that preserve the benefits of open source while addressing legitimate security and compliance concerns.



Vertical Industries Learning from Big Tech

The success of open source in big tech companies has inspired other industries, including financial services, to embrace open source principles more fully. We're seeing a growing recognition that open source is not just about using free software, but about adopting a collaborative approach to solving industry-wide challenges.

FINOS, along with other industry-specific foundations like LF Energy and Automotive Grade Linux, is at the forefront of this trend. We're fostering collaboration on industry-specific solutions that address the unique needs and regulatory requirements of financial services. This approach is leading to the creation of specialized open source solutions that are tailored to the complexities of our industry, making open source very much a pillar of digital transformation alongside cloud and AI.

FINOS' Roadmap for 2025 and Beyond

As we look to the future, FINOS is committed to leading the way in open source innovation for financial services. Our vision for 2025 and beyond focuses on several key areas:

Fostering Innovation Through Collaboration

We will continue to expand our membership and project portfolio, bringing together an even more diverse ecosystem of financial institutions, technology providers, and other stakeholders. Our goal is to create a truly inclusive community that represents all aspects of the financial services industry.

To drive this vision forward, we've recently **hired Olivier Poupeney as Field CTO dedicated to promoting open source adoption across the industry**. This role will be crucial in helping organizations grow the business and strategic value of open source and grow production adoption of our projects in mission critical workloads..

As we see the interest of the investment community in open fintech grow organically, we'll also be working to nurture a vibrant ecosystem of open-core fintech startups and industry utilities. By leveraging the power of venture capital, private equity, and strategic investments, we aim to accelerate innovation and create new opportunities for collaboration between established institutions and emerging players.

Addressing Systemic Industry Challenges

FINOS is uniquely positioned to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing the financial services industry. We're focusing our efforts on several critical areas:

Identity management: As financial services become increasingly digital, robust and interoperable identity management solutions are crucial. We're exploring open source approaches to identity and access management that can enhance security while improving the user experience.

Open data standards: Data is the lifeblood of modern finance, but inconsistent data formats and definitions continue to create friction. We're working on developing open data standards that can facilitate more efficient data sharing and analysis across the industry.

Regulatory compliance: The regulatory burden on financial institutions continues to grow. Our Open RegTech initiatives are focused on developing open source solutions that can help firms comply with regulations more efficiently and consistently.

Climate and sustainability-aligned investing: Following [our merger with OS-Climate](#), we're doubling down on our efforts to provide open source tools and data for climate risk assessment and sustainable investing. One of the most promising projects here is [Physical Risk and Resilience](#) which is increasingly getting adopted and will enable institutions to get ahead of what is effectively a highly predictable (and preventable) market shift. No need to wait for the ["Big Green Short."](#)

Enhancing Open Source Maturity in Financial Services

While we've seen significant progress in open source adoption, there's still work to be done to enhance the overall maturity and global engagement of financial services in open source. Our efforts in this area include:

Developing training and certification programs: Our [Open Source Readiness initiative](#) continues to expand, offering comprehensive [training and certification programs](#) to help financial services professionals develop the skills they need to effectively work with open source technologies. The [CDM training](#) is just our most recent effort in this area.

Deepening global south engagement: We recognize the importance of diversity and inclusion in the open source community. We're actively working to engage developers and institutions from the global south, as evidenced by the success of our recent [Citi India hackathon](#), a true win-win that has greatly contributed to accelerating projects like [FDC3](#) and [Git-Proxy](#) while making so many developers first class citizens of our community.

Understanding the ROI of Open Source: We've launched a multi-year project to quantify the return on investment (ROI) of open source in financial services. This research will focus on measuring risk reduction, revenue attribution, cost savings, and resource contribution, providing concrete evidence of the value of open source to financial institutions.

Key FINOS Initiatives for 2025

As we move into 2025, several key initiatives will be at the forefront of our efforts:

Open Source AI in Financial Services

AI and machine learning are transforming every aspect of financial services, from customer interactions to risk management and regulatory compliance. FINOS is committed to establishing itself as the hub for “true” open source financial AI and LLMs. Our efforts in this area include:

Addressing unique FSI challenges in AI adoption: We’re working to develop best practices and governance frameworks that address the specific regulatory, ethical, and operational challenges of AI in financial services.

Accelerating development via an AI Fund: We’re exploring the creation of a dedicated fund to support the development of open source AI tools and models specifically tailored for financial services use cases.

Fostering collaboration on financial AI: Through our AI Readiness SIG and other initiatives, we’re creating forums for financial institutions, technology providers, and regulators to collaborate on the responsible development and deployment of AI in finance.

Open RegTech

Regulatory compliance remains a significant challenge for financial institutions and a huge opportunity for mutualization. Our **Open RegTech initiatives** are focused on leveraging open source to make compliance more efficient and effective. Key focus areas include:

Advancing the Common Domain Model (CDM): We’re continuing to expand and refine the **CDM**, working closely with ISDA and other industry bodies to ensure it meets the evolving needs of the industry.

Adopting Open Climate Tools

By providing open source data and analytical tools, we enable financial institutions to strategically integrate climate and sustainability factors into their core business decisions. Our goal is to foster the development of widely accessible tooling that helps stakeholders interpret, anticipate, and address the financial and operational implications of climate change.

Enhancing pre-trade and post-trade reporting: We’re exploring open source solutions to streamline and standardize trade reporting processes, reducing costs and improving accuracy across the industry.

FINOS Common Cloud Controls (CCC)

Cloud adoption in financial services continues to accelerate, but concerns around security, compliance, and vendor lock-in remain. Our Common Cloud Controls initiative aims to address these challenges by:

Expanding working groups and industry participation: We're bringing together cloud service providers, financial institutions, and regulators to develop common standards and best practices for secure cloud adoption in financial services.

Collaborating with external standards bodies: We're working closely with organizations like NIST and ISO to ensure our cloud controls align with broader industry standards.

Developing open source tools for cloud governance: We're exploring the creation of open source tools that can help financial institutions implement and manage cloud controls consistently across different providers.

Conclusion: Shaping the Future of Finance Through Open Source

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, it's clear that open source will play an increasingly central role in shaping the future of finance. The collaborative power of open source is enabling us to tackle industry-wide challenges, accelerate innovation, and create a more efficient, secure, and resilient financial ecosystem.

At FINOS, we're committed to leading this transformation. By fostering collaboration, driving innovation, and promoting open source best practices, we're helping to create a financial services industry that is more open, innovative, and responsive to the needs of customers and society as a whole.

The journey ahead will not be without its challenges. We must continue to address concerns around security, compliance, and governance. We must work to increase contributions from financial institutions and bridge the gap with other industries. We must navigate an increasingly complex regulatory landscape while preserving the core values of openness and collaboration that make open source so powerful.

But the potential rewards are immense. By embracing open source, we can create a financial services industry that is more innovative, more efficient, and better equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century. From AI and machine learning to cloud computing and sustainable finance, open source technologies and practices will be at the heart of the next wave of financial innovation.

As we move forward, we invite all stakeholders in the financial services ecosystem - from global banks and asset managers to fintech startups and regulators - to join us in this journey. Together, we can harness the power of open source to create a better future for finance, and for the world.

The future of finance is open, and at FINOS, we're excited to be playing a key role.

Gabriele Columbro
Executive Director
FINOS



Learn More About FINOS

FINOS is a nonprofit whose mission is to foster the adoption of open source, open standards and collaborative software development practices in financial services. It is the center for open source developers and the financial services industry to build new technology projects that have a lasting impact on business operations. FINOS is part of the Linux Foundation, the largest shared technology organization in the world.

Get involved and **join FINOS** as a Member. To stay up to date on FINOS news, events, podcasts, blogs, and more, **sign up here**.

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