

# Modularity survey results

## Introduction

The purpose of this survey is to get feedback on Modularity. The survey was published on public fedora-devel and an internal Red Hat mailing lists in April 3, 2020, and also shared on Fedora devel-announce and epel-devel mailing lists. We received 193 responses in 3 weeks.

The survey consisted from 4 sections:

- Information about the respondent (optional)
- Modularity & the respondent
- Problems with Modularity that the respondent may have experienced
- Glossary review - what does the respondent think the terms mean

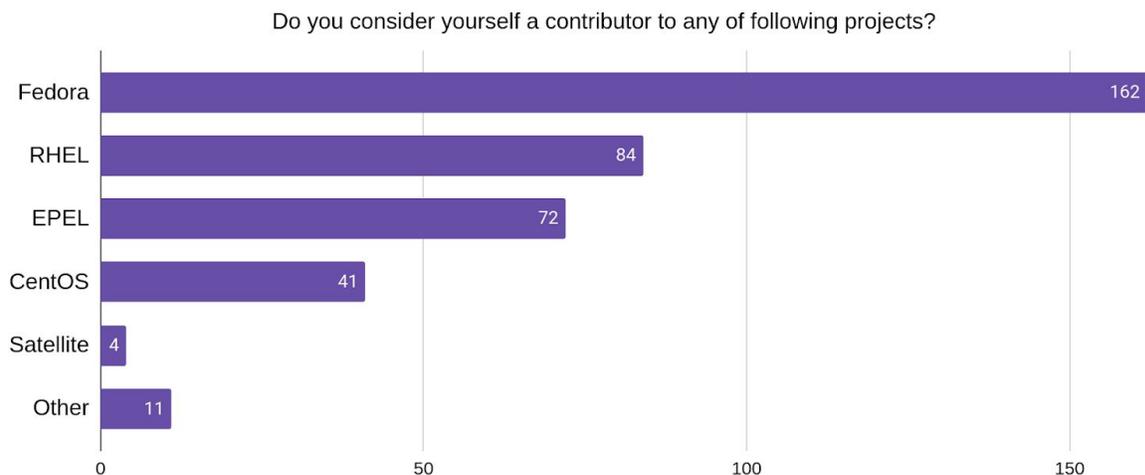
The survey follows privacy / GDPR rules:

- The raw data incl. any personal information provided, were shared only with Red Hat's Modularity team (approx. 10 people) to evaluate the survey
- The raw data are not be provided to anyone else at Red Hat or any 3rd parties
- Only aggregated (anonymous) results of the survey are published

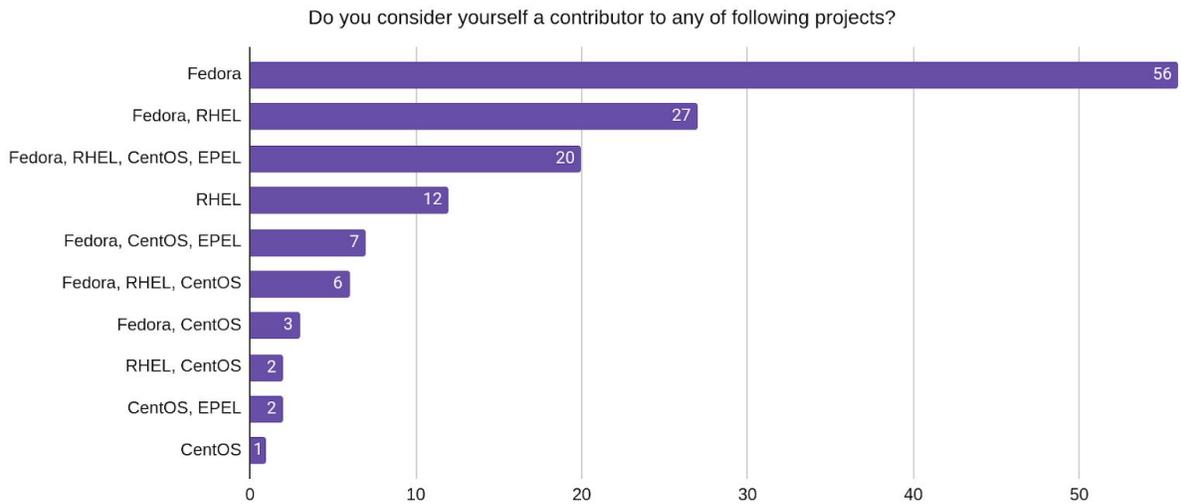
## Structure of respondents

21.9% respondents shared their email address from redhat.com domain, 22.9% from other domains and 55.2% were anonymous.

## Contribution to projects



Statistics of a contribution to each project



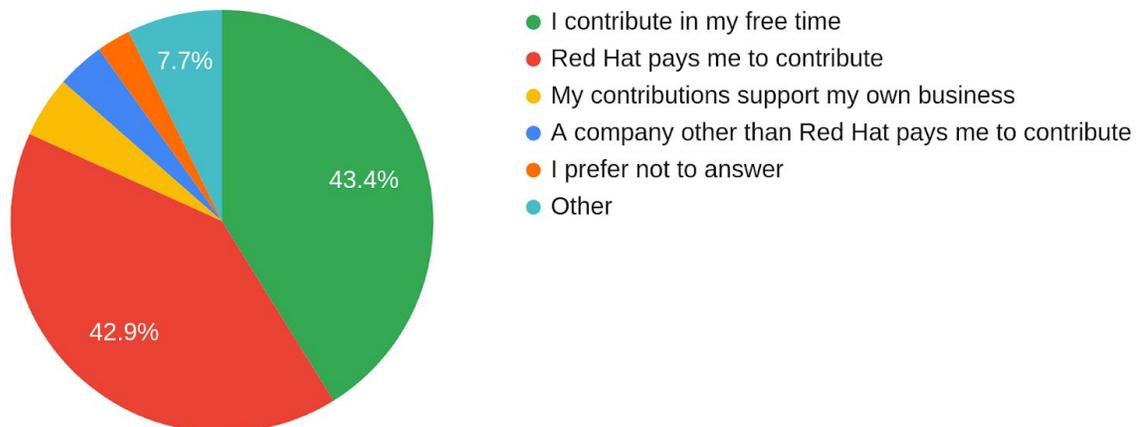
Statistics of a contribution to more projects by one contributor

## Roles of respondents

33.5% of respondents answered that their primary role is developer, 32.5% packager, 11.5% system administrator and 7.9% power user (can use shell, has some admin skills). The remaining part was fragmented in other various roles. Because the survey was published on fedora-devel and rhel-devel mailing lists, the developers are mostly system components developers. Many of developers/packers cover a packager/developer role as the secondary one. It means that the survey did not cover developers of end user applications.

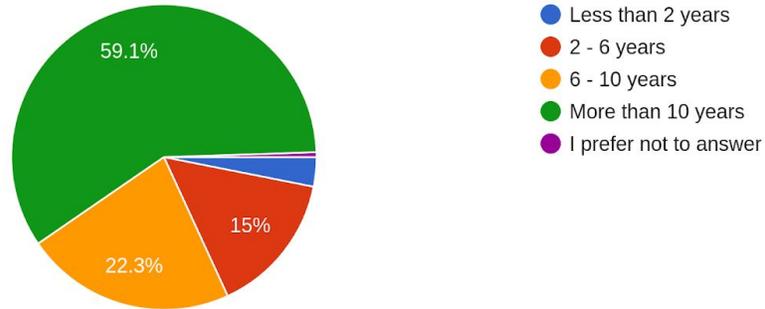
What is the primary goal of your contributions in Fedora?

182 responses

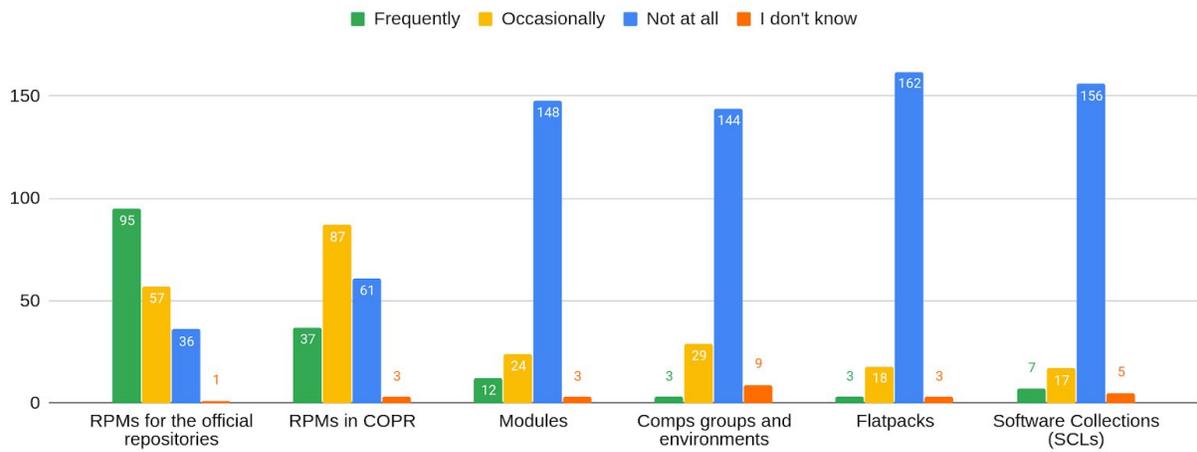


## How long have you been using Fedora/RHEL/CentOS?

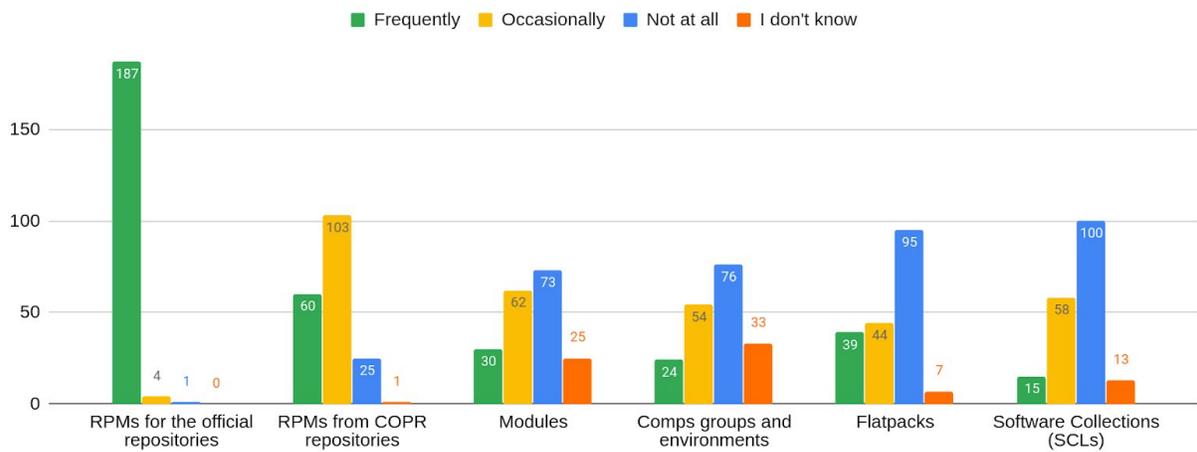
193 responses



## How frequently do you BUILD (create or adapt) following content types?



## How frequently do you USE following content types?

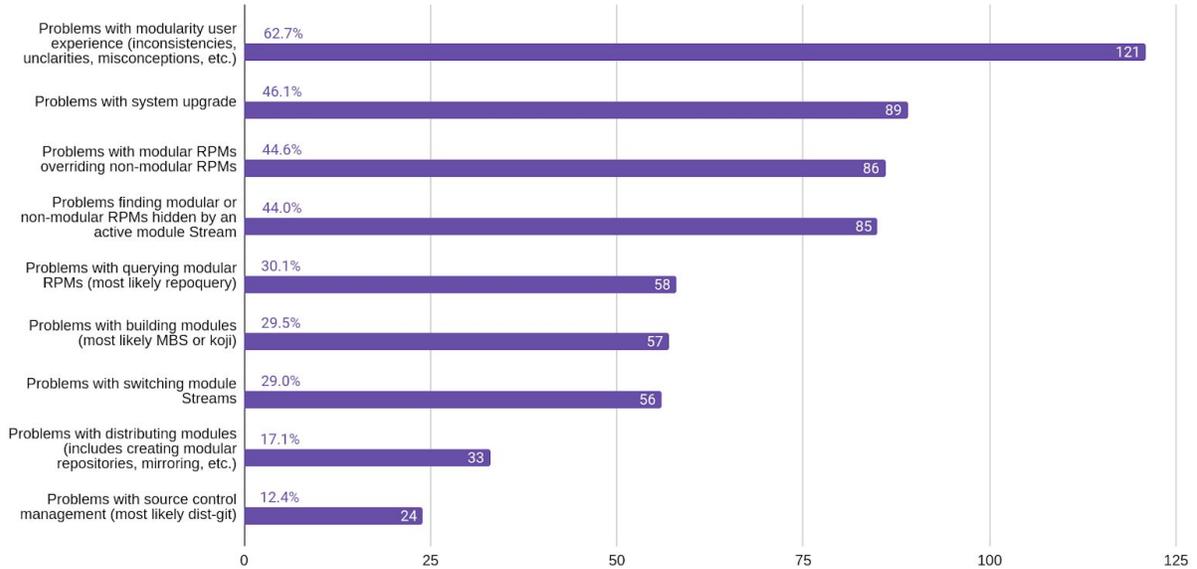


# Satisfaction of respondents with Modularity

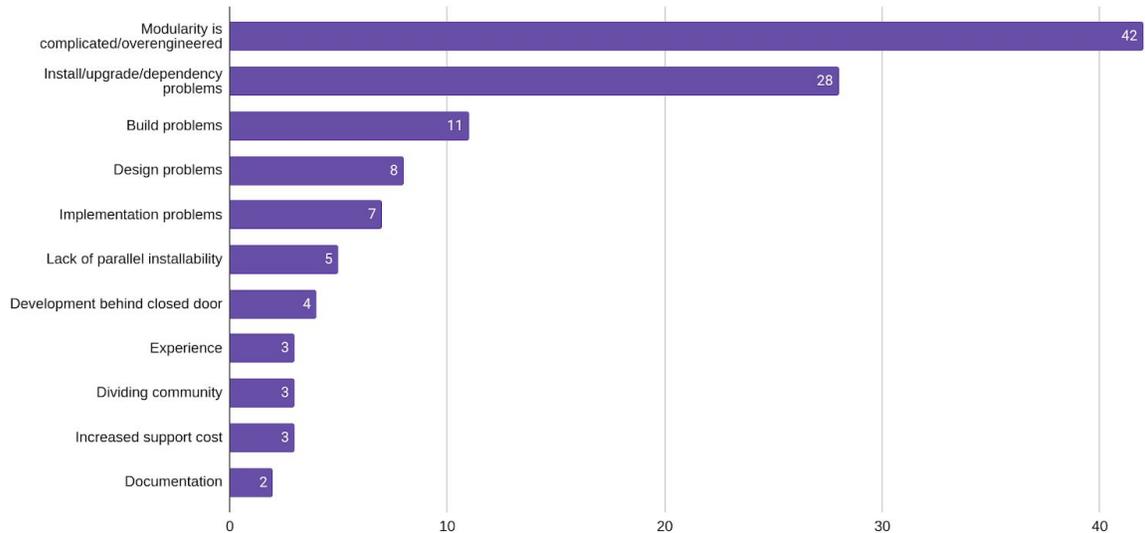
12.4% of respondents answered “I like it”, 38.9% “Neutral” and 48.7% “I dislike it”.

15.1% of respondents confirmed that Modularity solves problems for them, 70.3% answered negatively and 14.6% “I do not know”.

Experienced problems

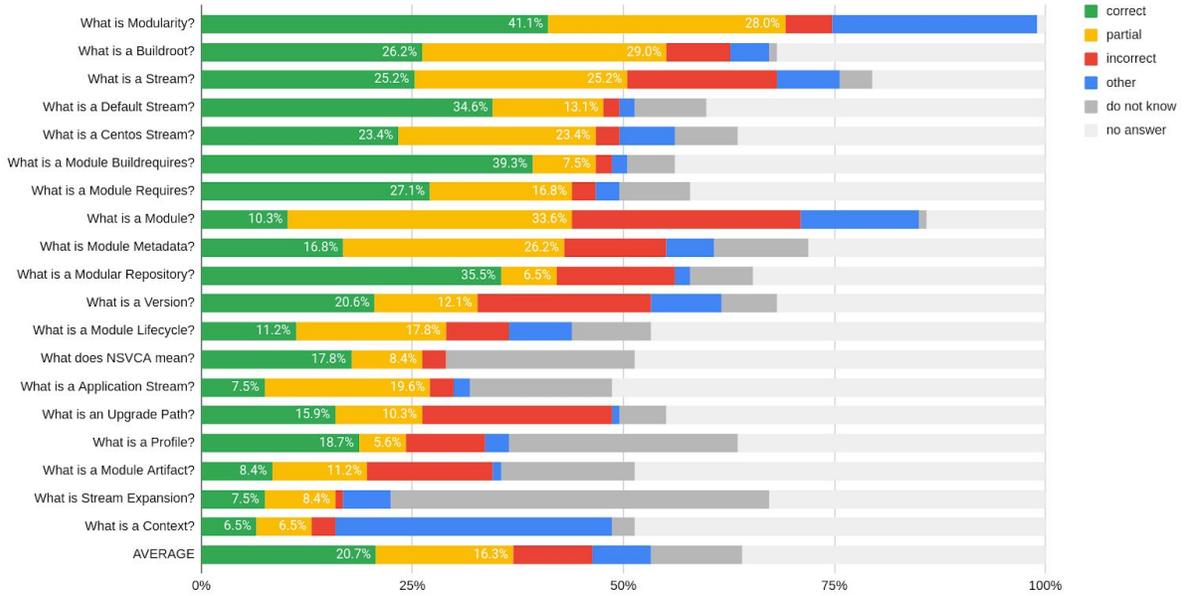


Additional problems shared in responses



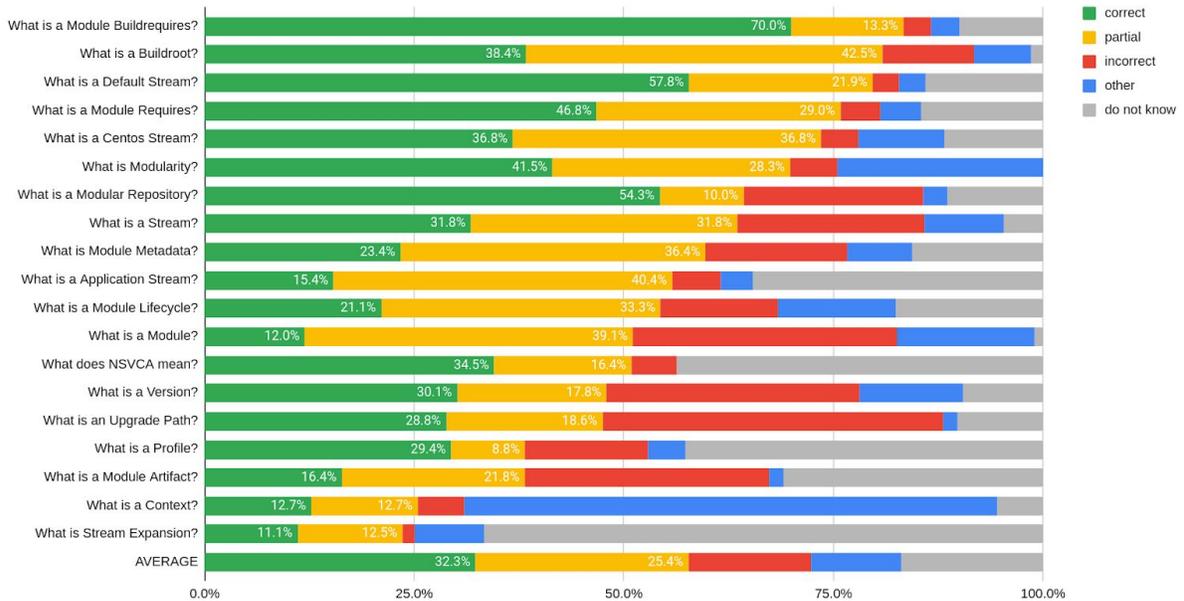
### Modularity terms understanding

Baseline of 107 respondents who answered at least one question



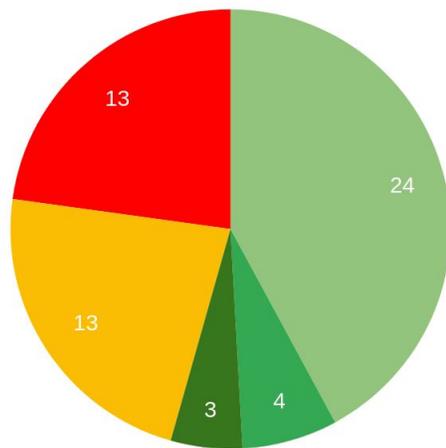
### Modularity terms understanding

Normalized baseline according to a number of respondents who answered the question



Could you describe which problems modularity is solving for you and how?

57 responses



- Providing an alternative content
- Improving packaging and distribution
- Decreasing support and maintaining cost
- Not any informative answer or none
- Creating problems (negative statements)

Highlighted benefits in the survey:

- Parallel availability (7 respondents)
- Life cycle (4 respondents)

## Conclusions and plans

We were very pleased with the large quantity of participants who took the time to complete this survey. This excellent feedback is helping us to focus on multiple problems and solutions to help improve the Modularity experience for both end users and developers. Below is a summary of problems interpreted from the survey results and plans to resolve them.

*The description of Modularity and the terms used causes confusion to many users and negatively impacts the user experience.*

**Plan:** Fix [Modularity documentation](#), improve clarity by creating a glossary. We are going to use the survey feedback as an input.

*Problems with system upgrade*

**Plan:** System upgrade improvement is scheduled in Fedora 33 [[Module Obsoletes and EOL](#)].

*Problems finding modular or non-modular RPMs hidden by an active module Stream*

**Solution:** The problem is fixed in Fedora 32 already by [the patch](#).

### Problems with modular RPMs overriding non-modular RPMs

It works per design. Any change proposals should be discussed first.

### Problems with querying modular RPMs (most likely repoquery)

**Plan:** Lower priority, stretch goal in Fedora 34.

### Problems with building, managing and distributing modules

There are currently missing end-user tools that can manage modules. New tools need to be developed to cover:

- build modules locally
- manage (edit, create) modulemd data locally
- download individual modules from remote repositories
- manage custom repositories with cherry-picked modules

### Problems with switching module Streams

**Plan:** The problem is considered to be fixed in Fedora 33 or 34.

### Problems with source control management (most likely dist-git)

**Plan:** Branching policy needs to be reviewed.

## Reporting issues

General issues can be filed in the [General Modularity issue tracker](#). You can see more details on how to report bugs and issues, in the [Modularity documentation](#).