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HFOSS

**What distinguishes FOSS and HOSS?**

FOSS is source code that is licensed free of charge, and encourages improvements and modifications. FOSS also gives you the freedom to run the program for any purpose, to study how the program works and change it to make it do what you wish, redistribute copies so you can help other people, and to distribute copies of your modified versions to others. HOSS is also open source software, but is used for social good instead.

**What are advantages and disadvantages of open source software?**

The biggest disadvantage to using OSS is the UI (User Interface). OSS, like Linux, is a lot harder to get use to then other operating systems like Windows and iOS. OSS will take time and practice getting used to, but it can be very beneficial if you learn it.

Besides the fact that OSS’s are almost always free, they provide you with a long list of positives. OSS’s do not limit you with the developer. For example: if Microsoft goes out of business, that means the end of Window’s getting better. There will be no one to improve it. But if you are running an OSS, as long as there’s a community to work on the software, the system will keep improving. Even if the developer goes out of business. You can also do whatever you want with the software. The only limitations on what you can do, are the limitations of your skills and capabilities.

**Why are businesses taking an interest in open source software?**

One of the biggest reasons businesses are so interested in open source software, is that they can provide the business with better security. They can set their system, so that only people inside of the company that are given permission can access it, so the public won’t be able to see their bug reports (like in the case of Windows and Mac). Also, with using an OSS, you don’t have to upgrade your equipment as often, since OSS’s can generally run good on older equipment. Since a good majority of open source software is free, the support you can get for it is vast. There is commercial support for it, which means that there are people who make their living based off of helping people with their operating systems.

**Give a brief description of 2 or 3 HFOSS projects that looks interesting:**

* MouseTrap is an OSS released in April of 2015. MouseTrap’s mission is to “*provide an exceptional alternative input system to GNOME with a particular eye towards* [*aiding*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_accessibility) *the physically impaired community”*. What this means is that instead of having to use a mouse, since it is impossible for some people, you could instead install a webcam on your computer, and it would track your head movement, moving the mouse on the screen simultaneously.
* OpenMRS’s mission is to *“improve healthcare delivery in resource-constrained environments by coordinating a global community that creates a robust, scalable, user-driven, open source medical record system platform”*. What OpenMRS does, is publicly document and share their knowledge, skills, experiences, and failures to help prevent and fix medical problems.