Welcome!

Before you view these slides, make sure you've set up your laptop: http://bit.ly/laptop-setup

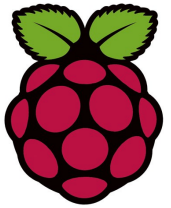
What we're going to cover:

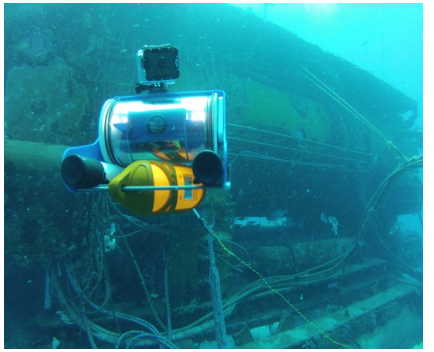
- What is open source?
- How can you contribute?
- Mailing lists
- IRC
- Bug trackers
- Version control

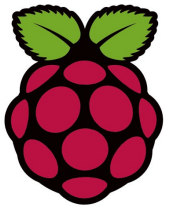
What is open source?

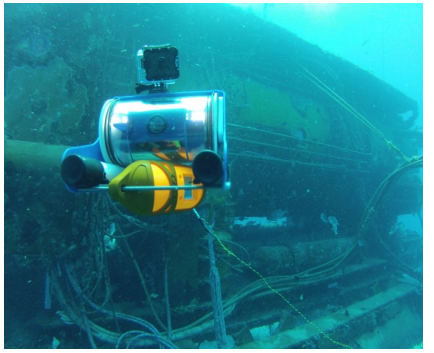
OpenMRS

python™









Clockwise from top left: Blender (3D computer graphics software for simulation, modeling, animating); Ubuntu (Operating System); Sugar Labs (makes Sugar, an educational desktop environment for children, with OLPC); Firefox (browser); OpenMRS (medical records system for underserved communities); Python (programming language – general); Tremulous (open video game – uses open source game engine ioquake3); R (programming language – statistical); Raspberry Pi (open source/open hardware credit card sized computer); OpenROV (low cost remote operated mini submarine)

Ways to contribute...

Code

Documentation

Translation

Testing and quality assurance

User interface design

Logos and branding

Creating demos

Maintaining servers

Maintaining websites

Project management

Community management

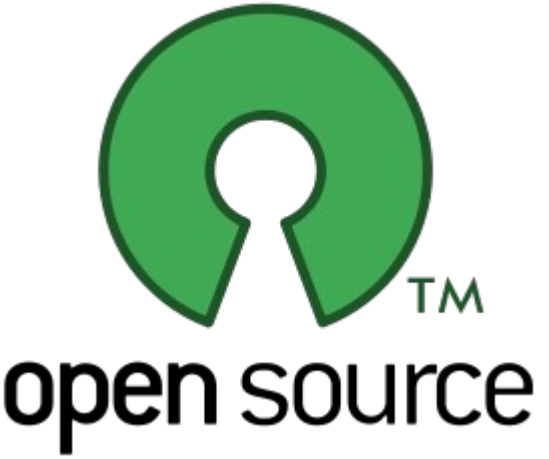
Triaging and reproducing bugs

… and more

Free Software vs Open Source

Free Software must have the “Four Freedoms” :

- Run it for any purpose
- Understand + change it
- Share copies
- Share modified copies



“Open Source” means roughly the same thing, but branded to be more palatable to businesses.

FREE SOFTWARE FOUNDATION

Tool #1: Mailing Lists

You can learn more about a project's culture, interact with other contributors, and ask questions about using or developing the project on the mailing list.

Some projects have only one list. Many have a developers list and a users list.
Some have many many more.

Tool #2: IRC

You should have installed an IRC client during the latop setup. Now, go into that client and join the server Freenode and the channel #openhatch.

Ask someone there to tell you about:

- /me
- /query
- Tab completing user names
- Notifications when someone talks to you by name

Tool #3: Issue Trackers

Issue trackers help project keep tasks of problems to fix and features to add. Key fields to watch:

- Status: if a bug is “new” that means that no maintainer has verified that it really is a bug. If it is “closed” that means the issue has been taken care of. You're looking for bugs labeled “accepted” or something similar.
- Last updated: if a bug is older than six months you'll want to make extra sure that the problem has not been resolved.

Have a problem with this presentation? Leave an issue on the Open Source Comes to Campus issue tracker!

Places to look for answers

- Project documentation
  - Installation guides, tutorials, FAQ
- Googling for error messages
  - StackOverflow, LinuxQuestions.org
- Social Resources
  - School clubs & local user groups
  - OpenHatch!
- Project Communications Tools
  - Mailing list
  - IRC
  - Issue tracker