3.4 Openness

Matt Price

...ideas that were more-or-less serviceable in the world before networked computers... are now up for debate. The emergence of new rights regimes (such as open access, open content and open source) and the explosion of new information are manifestations of these changing costs. (Turkel)

Ideals of openness





Jefferson on Freedom of Information

It would be curious then, if an idea, the fugitive fermentation of an individual brain, could, of natural right, be claimed in exclusive and stable property. If nature has made any one thing less susceptible than all others of exclusive property, it is the action of the thinking power called an idea, which an individual may exclusively possess as long as he keeps it to himself; but the moment it is divulged, it forces itself into the possession of every one, and the receiver cannot dispossess

the web as open space

Origins of Web wrapped up in ideologies of Freedom

Free and Open Source Software

- GNU GPL in 1970s
- "Open Source" licenses in 1980s and 90s
- now a dominant mode of software production

Open [Source | Standard | Access | Culture | X]

- free something, or
- open something
- often means "the principles of openness articulated by Open Source Software advocates, but applied to some other domain