Future with Open source

Examining the recent history of open source and the deep impact it had during the pandemic, we can safely deduce that **open source** is the way forward for companies from both ends of the spectrum (tech providers and tech buyers, contributors and users). In this section we will walk through some of the **predictions on the future of open source**.

* The future of remote working is open source

As mentioned earlier, the Covid-19 pandemic will have undoubtedly changed the way we work for years to come.

**Remote working** will be embraced by more and more companies, leading to an increase in demand for enterprise software.

And when we talk about software, we have to talk about **open source**. Sure, some companies out there would choose proprietary solutions, but the significant financial hit post Covid will lead many to choose **open source**.

But the choice to **opt for open source** won’t be based on the absence of licensing fees alone.

Extensibility, interoperability and allowing IT Teams to have greater control over security IT audits, among other benefits, would most certainly guarantee the high and wide adoption of open source software for remote teams.

* More advancements in open source AI

Probably any internet article concerning the future of virtually anything technology related contains the magic two letters AI.

**Artificial intelligence and machine learning** have gained increased interest in the last decade or so. With the field still relatively in its infancy, the focus for many AI start-ups and initiatives is on innovation and the exchange of knowledge.

As is the case with any open source project, everything revolves around driving innovation through dedicated communities where contributors share code at the algorithm level, allowing other parties to first understand specific patterns and later reuse and integrate the code within their own solutions.

Examples of industries engaged in **open source projects** include the automobile industry with its self-driving cars and the banking & finance sector with AI solution aiming at analysing large sets of data and the list goes on.

* A cloudy future

A few years back, the **relationship between open source and cloud vendors** was a bit complicated to say the least.

Many **open source businesses** were weary that large cloud vendors would simply take their **open source code**, repackage it and sell it at a much higher price, posing a threat to their communities.

However, recently, certain open source vendors such as MongoDB and DataStax have been moving towards the cloud and gradually transitioning from their on-premise heritage.

This move also helped to **facilitate the use of open source software**, especially large databases which require experts to constantly run and maintain them. In the short and long term, we expect many other solutions to follow suit.

* FOG computing will certainly be something big

To quote Wikipedia: “Fog computing or fog networking, also known as fogging, is an architecture that uses edge device to carry out a substantial amount of computation, storage, and communication locally and routed over the Internet backbone”.

Let’s break down this definition and make it a bit simpler. In its basic form, think of fog computing as an extension of the cloud (or something in between the devices we use and the clouds in the sky, hence the name I guess).

It’s a distributed network (as opposed to cloud computing, which is a centralized system) that connects multiple components such as edge devices (which are devices such as IoT sensors that connect a local network to an external one).

As of today, there are multiple open source solutions that power fog computing for a variety of projects that mainly revolve around IoT, such as smart cities, smart home security systems, wearables, and so on.