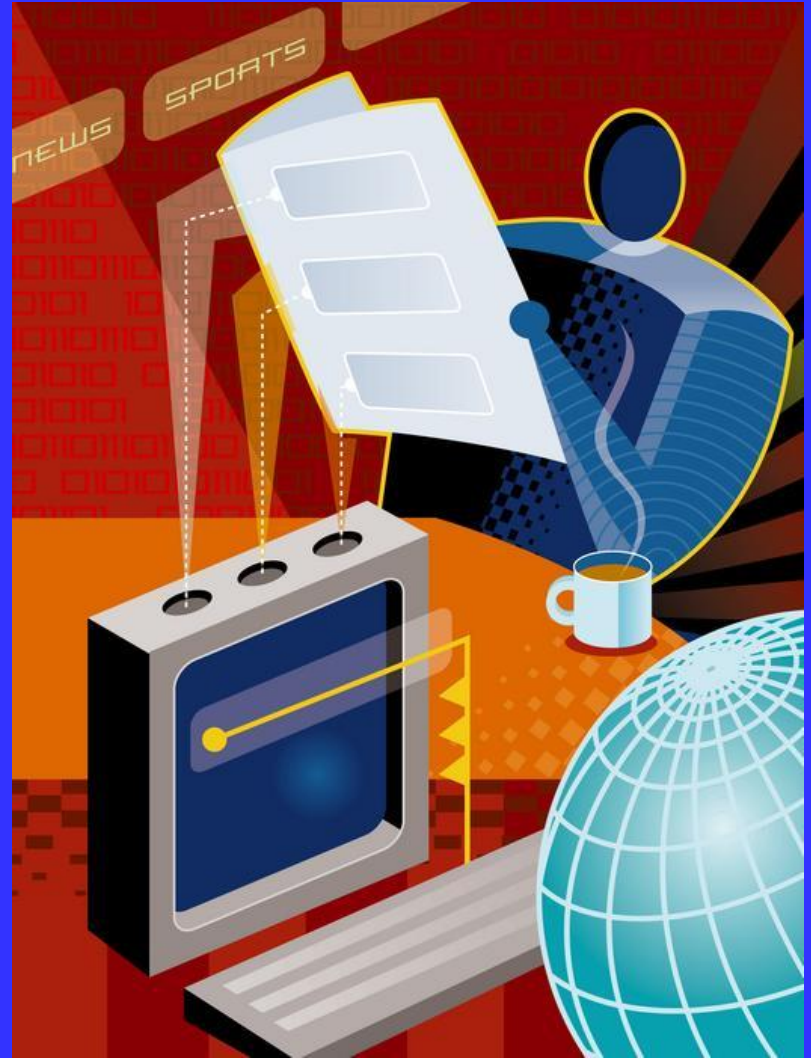


Chapter II. Distribution of Software

- I. Contributors and Distributors
- II. Distribution
- III. Open Source Collaboration
- IV. Contributor Agreements
- V. What about Users?



I. Contributors and Distributors

Open source software is written by computer programmers who generously distribute it to their friends, employers, or customers.

Often these programmers work for companies that aggregate code written by many programmers into a functional whole; those companies then distribute the aggregated work to the world.

I. Contributors and Distributors

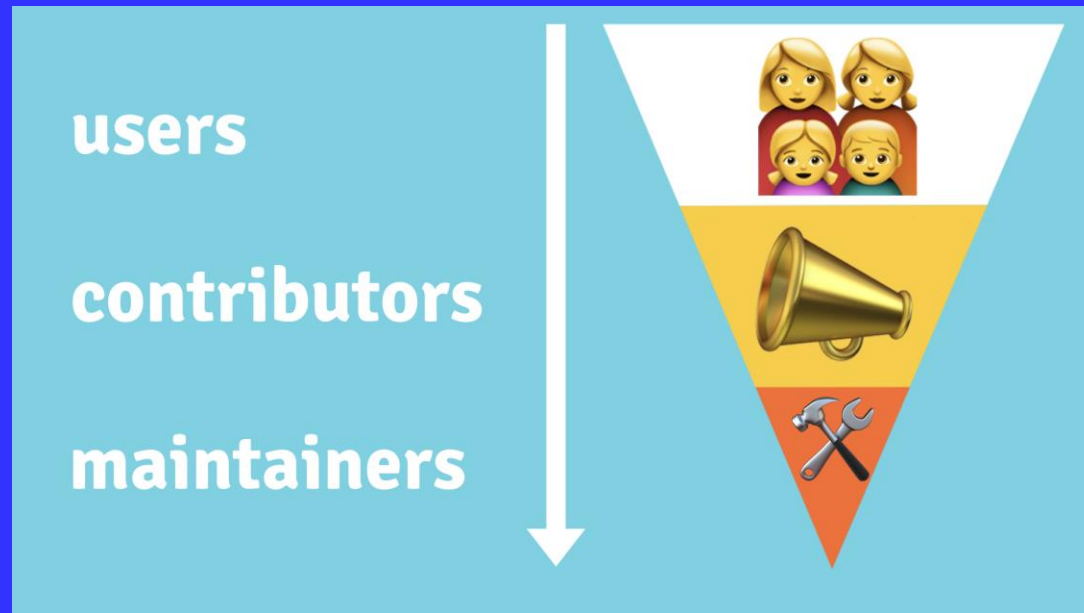
Important computer software is usually too big and complicated to be written by many people acting together — although each component of software always starts with one person acting alone — and it almost.



I. Contributors and Distributors

Everyone is free to become a contributor to or distributor of open source software, starting from anyone's open source software.

At least that is the promise, although incompatibilities between open source licenses are preventing that goal from being completely met.



I. Contributors and Distributors

Open-Source Software is a type of software whose code is publicly available to use and modify. Open-Source Contribution involves contributing to the development or improvement of open-source software.



II. Distribution

Distribution = meaning in the software world

Certainly it means selling or giving copies of software away to others.

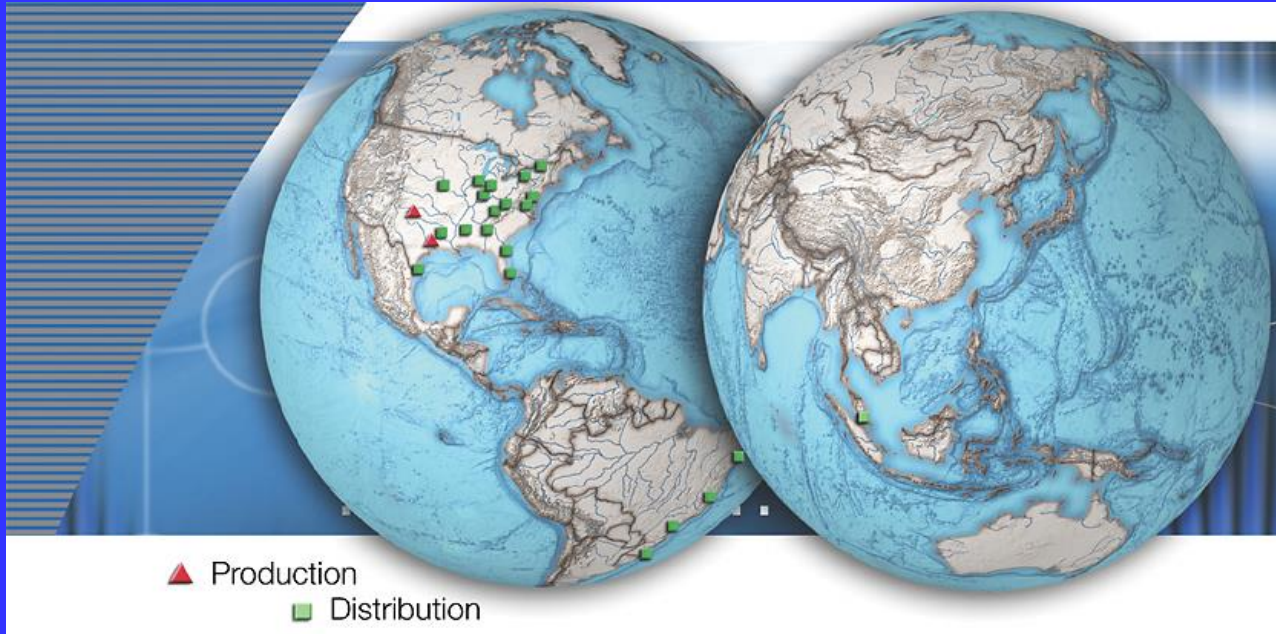
It also may include such arrangements as incorporating software into consumer or industrial products and selling those products to others.



II. Distribution

An open source license must grant everyone permission to make copies, to create derivative works, and to distribute those copies and derivative works.

Anyone, anywhere, for any reason, may become a distributor of open source software.



II. Distribution

There may be no time, place, or manner limitations on distribution in an open source license - but this does not mean that there may be no conditions on distribution at all.

Open source licenses may condition the distribution of derivative works on reciprocity of licensing, an important device first used in the GPL (*General Public License*)



III. Open Source Collaboration (Cooperation)

Open source software is distinguished from most other commercial software because its development frequently takes place collaboratively among many individual developers, working alone or for different companies, without contracts or other formal arrangements among them.



III. Open Source Collaboration

Worldwide communities of software engineers dynamically form and grow on the Internet.

Participants discuss among themselves what needs to be implemented; allocate the design, programming, and documentation tasks to those who volunteer to do them; and eventually publish one or more working programs for all to use.



III. Open Source Collaboration

Contributors to open source software can be individuals or companies.

Their contributions are combined at the project level with the contributions of other individuals and companies into larger works.



III. Open Source Collaboration

It is not always easy to distinguish between a contributor and a distributor of open source software, because people aggregate software into larger systems at each step of the development and distribution process.

A distributor becomes a contributor to the next higher level of the food chain, just as fish in the ocean become food for larger fish.



IV. Contributor Agreements

Why do contributors contribute ?

There are certainly as many answers to that question as there are contributors. But one thing is certain: **People contribute to open source projects whose goals they share.**



IV. Contributor Agreements

Contributors may leave a project but their contributions remain.

Once software is made available to a project under an open source license, the project may continue to copy the software, create derivative works from it, and distribute it even after the contributor's participation ends.



Câu hỏi ôn tập

1. Thế nào là cộng tác phần mềm nguồn mở?
2. Khái niệm nhà cộng tác?
3. Khái niệm nhà phân phối?