

# Open source

And its social impact



# Open source vs free software

Definitions and fights

Same licenses, different values

“The terms “free software” and “open source” stand for almost the same range of programs. However, they say deeply different things about those programs, based on different values. The free software movement campaigns for freedom for the users of computing; it is a movement for freedom and justice. By contrast, the open source idea values mainly practical advantage and does not campaign for principles. This is why we do not agree with open source, and do not use that term.”

FLOSS is the attempt to compromise, where some believe compromise doesn't exist.

Transparency, empowerment, sharing.

# Open source projects

They're everywhere

Linux, Git

The web (sort of)

Apache, Nginx, Docker, Kubernetes

Android (sort of)

Firefox (definitely) and Chrome (sort of)

Most programming languages

OSX's kernel

.NET (nowadays)

Material design, Bootstrap, Vanilla

Flutter

OpenSSL and *all the libraries*

# Software quality

Why open source won  
(not free software)

"given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow"  
(Linus' law)

The cathedral and the bazaar

- Mostly apolitical
- Why openness & collaboration make better software

19 lessons

- Scratch your own itch
- Release early, release often, listen to your customers
- Throw one away
- Rewrite, reuse

No one company can create software alone

# Enlightenment and altruism

## The philosophy

Empowerment, transparency

The four freedoms

- To read and inspect
- To use, for any purpose
- To modify
- To distribute and sell

[Enlightenment](#) - building on what's gone before

"Sharing your work product for other people's review and improvement is the soul of the enlightenment," he says. "It's the difference between alchemy and science.

Cory doctorow, [Guardian](#)

"By defying ownership regulations in the construction and use of information—a key area of contemporary [growth](#)—the [Free/Open Source Software \(FOSS\) movement](#) counters [neoliberalism](#) and [privatization](#) in general"

[Wikipedia](#)

# The three stages of open source

Or; the corporatisation of open source

90s: Fledgling revolution against tech giants' walled gardens

- Decentralisation
- Community development
- Support monetisation (RedHat)

10s: "Open core" business model

- Chrome & Android
- Lots of other attempts

Nows: SaaS

- package open source software and sell it as a platform
- Centralisation
- Exploit the community

[How open source took over the world](#)

# Related movements

- [Hacker culture](#)
- [Open government](#)
- [Corporate transparency](#)
- [Working in the open](#)
- [Open data](#)
- [Open access](#)
- [Open collaboration](#)
- [Openness](#)

# Practical impact

Third world development, etc.

(Hard to quantify when open source is everywhere)

“When nonprofits can use open source tools and technology, it increases their ability to champion social good and be impactful.”

Exygy

Empowerment

“In the context of limited financial resources and capacities, Africa can examine how to better use the opportunities presented by the emergence of free and open source software (FOSS) to leapfrog into the information age and bridge the digital divide through reduced costs and less dependency on imported technology.”



# Problems in open source

Funding

Accessibility

Diversity

Corporate takeover

[Stallmann](#)

# Divergence for commercial purposes

Innovation in open-source software is true innovation. Because there is no incentive to entrap users. Compatibility with other systems is only ever increased as there is no incentive to remove interoperability.

# Benefits for us

We can attract talented, like minded people to work with us.

We can promote our self in the industry on topics of interest.

We can point directly to commits or discussion on topics, which is rare in companies.

# Benefits for all

Saves us time and money

Access to industry for cheap

People can learn web skills for free

# Practical examples

Places that do this well

[Gitlab](#): publish their company handbook with transparency principles.

[Buffer](#): The social media management software startup takes financial transparency to the next level by publishing the salaries of all employees.

And [many more](#).