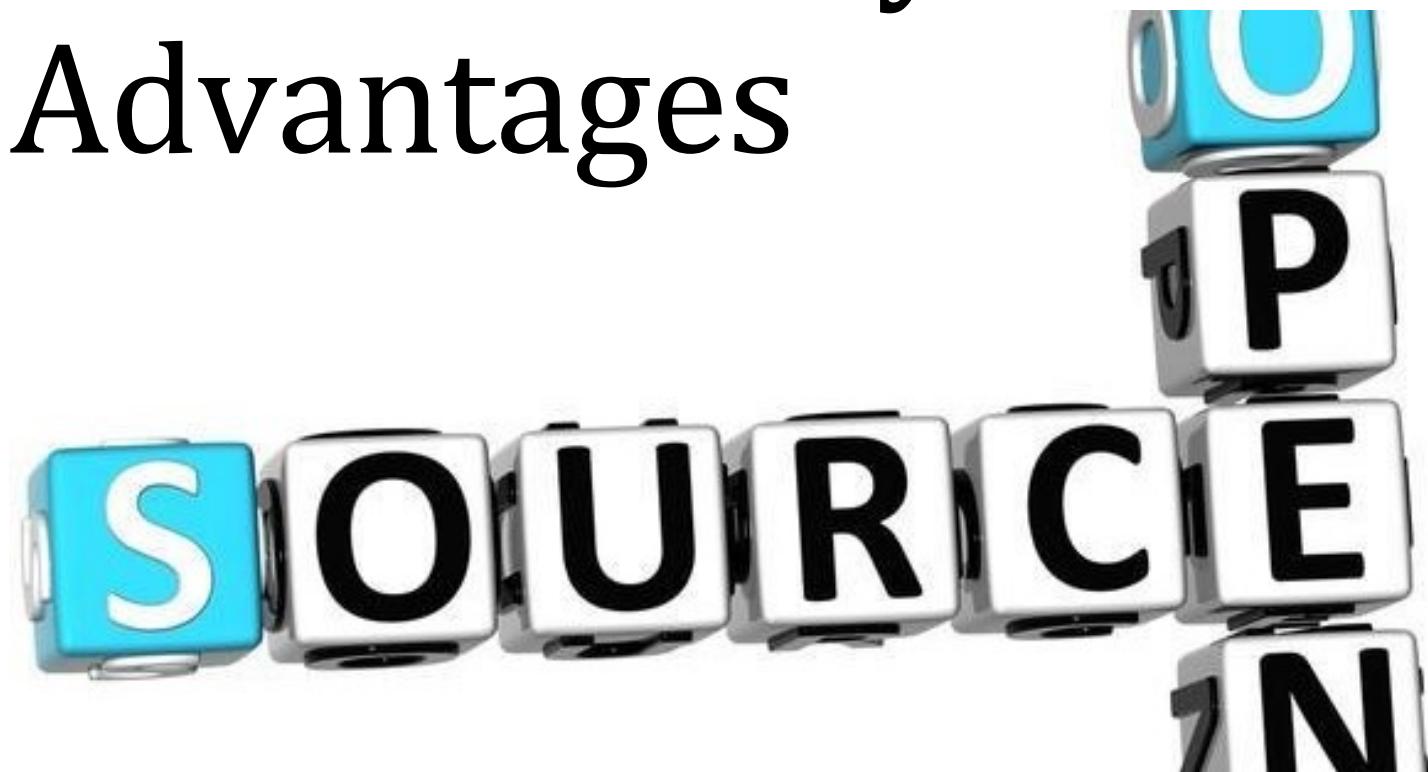


Open Source History and Advantages

A decorative graphic consisting of several 3D-rendered blocks stacked in a staggered pattern. The visible letters spell out "SOURCE". The letter "S" is blue and white, while the other letters "O", "U", "R", "C", and "E" are black and white. Above the "S" block, there are additional blocks showing the letters "P", "U", "N", and "T", which are partially obscured by the main word.

Genesis of GNU

Richard Stallman created Free Software foundation with following freedoms

Freedom 0: To user programs for any purpose

Freedom 1: To study how the programs works and to modify it to suit your needs.

Freedom 2: To redistribute copies, either gratis or for a monetary fee.

Freedom 3: To change and improve the program and to redistribute modified version of the program to the public so others can benefit from your improvement.

Copyleft- All right reserved

It could have been possible that the corporate could reuse the source codes with few modifications and sell them for a price without sharing the modified source codes.

To over come this Stallman wrote **General Public License (GPL)** for free(libre) software.

He defined something called “**copyleft**”

- EVERYTHING COPYRIGHT IS NOT

Viral licensing

Software that licensed under GPL cannot be made proprietary.

It is not allowed to use the code which is licensed under GP in any proprietary code.

This is only possible if the proprietary software code is licensed under GPL,i.e proprietary software source code is available for public, this is called **viral licensing**, as it was contagious.

Open Source
code under
GPL License



Proprietary
Code



Open Source
code under
GPL

Proprietary
Code

GPL License

Benefits of Open Source

Below are non-exhaustive benefits

Availability:

- Anyone can download and use the software
- Anyone can modify the source code and can use it on other hardwares too

Lower Cost:

- Most of the open source projects are free to use and modify, but it does not mean that there is no cost at all.
- There are companies which build additional capabilities on the top of this free software, the cost is minimum , no scaling cost.

Continuity:

- Here the users are not dependent on any community for support and upgrade.
- Shutting down of original community does not hamper much to the users.

Benefits of Open Source...

Vendor lock-in:

Customers have freedom of choice and can customise it or get it customised.
Not dependent on vendor.

Security:

Source code is available publicly so large programmers can analyse it and contribute with security patches.