The distinction between open source and free software is blurred because many people cannot see, or understand where the distinction lies. Richard Stallman, a software freedom activist, and programmer graduated from Harvard University in 1974, wrote a compelling magazine article about the distinction between open source and free software. The term open source was originally proposed to avoid a misunderstanding from “free software” ended up having different philosophical views. Stallman describes open source as software that may be free but with restrictions on what the user can do when compared to free software.

Stallman’s argument is diminished by his bias towards free software and the belittling of Open-Source guidelines throughout the article. His involvement in the Free-Software movement creates a black and white divide between the two software types while simultaneously denying the importance of Open-Source software due to its practical nature. Open source promotes freedom of software while reducing the amount of information pirated. The same can be said for copyright, while copyright focuses on the best interest of the owner there is some freedom for non-owners. The social and economic effects from using open source are hardly mentioned in the article but are important factors that impact Stallman’s bias argument.