

Open Source- The open and close of it

Open source refers to a software program or platform with source code that is accessible and modifiable by anyone. Open source grants access to user by which they can enhance a product's design, fix bugs or improve the original code. Open source projects and products embrace and celebrate principles of open exchange, collaborative participation, rapid prototyping, transparency and community-oriented development. Hence, leading to the creation of better and more innovative applications from the foundation of previous open sourced applications.

An open source development model is the process used by an open source community project to develop open source software. The software is then released under an open source license, so anyone can view or modify the source code.

Many open source projects are hosted on GitHub, where you can access repositories or get involved in community projects. To know more about GitHub visit <https://github.com/>.

About GitHub

GitHub is a website and cloud-based service that helps developers store and manage their code, as well as track and control changes to their code. GitHub is also the world's largest internet repository for open source code and version control.

GitHub, on its website states, "Open source software is free for you to use and explore. Get involved to perfect your craft and be part of something big."

Visit GitHub's open source guides- <https://opensource.guide/>.

The Git in GitHub

The first step to understand GitHub is knowing Git. Git is an open-source version control system that was started by Linus Torvalds—the same person who created Linux. Git is similar to other version control systems—Subversion, CVS, and Mercurial to name a few. Now, what is a version control system? When a company releases a product, it always comes up with new versions after certain periods of time by making changes to the source code. So, the version control systems, also called source control system, as the name suggests, helps the creators and software teams manage the changes made to the source code over time.

Visit <https://git-scm.com/> to know more about git.

Get started with GitHub

1. Sign up on GitHub for a free account (<https://github.com/join>).
2. Follow the GitHub Hello World guide (<https://guides.github.com/activities/hello-world/>) to understand its basic actions.

And done! It's that simple.

The advantages of open source

Living in a world where time is money, open source saves time. How? Let's look into it through a contributor's perspective. Contributing to any project over open source does not require permissions or paper work which usually hog up a lot of time and energy. With closed source projects, the company or creators of the code have to be notified and contributors may have to wait a considerable amount of time before any changes can be made to the application.

To take a product to near perfection, multiple minds are required to test its usability and finding all kinds of possible loop holes. Making the source code of a certain project available to the community increases the chances of a product being irreproachable and surviving in the market. Supporting this point, we have examples of various projects and softwares namely Mozilla Firefox, Linux, WordPress, Bitcoin, and Android which are open sourced and it's safe to say that they are nothing less than a brand name in today's date.

Hacktoberfest- The Celebration

Hacktoberfest is a month long virtual celebration of open source contributions presented by Digital Ocean, Intel and DEV. It is also the easiest way to get into open source. It takes place during the month of October every year, as the name suggests. All contributors have to do during the month is contribute to open source projects and open at least 4 valid pull requests. Another interesting thing about hacktoberfest is that contributors get a chance to win a limited edition T-shirt and stickers absolutely free of charge. Visit <https://hacktoberfest.digitalocean.com/> for more information.

Open source Friday

Open source Friday is the latest initiative taken by developers from 24 Pull Requests and GitHub as a weekly reminder to contribute to open source projects and to educate employers on why it's important. The concept was originated by ideas developed by Andrew Nesbitt (of 24 Pull Requests) and GitHub's Mike McQuaid, open source Friday is all about sustainable effort. But, don't confuse it with a hackathon, it's simply a way of giving back to the open source community. Visit <https://opensourcefriday.com/> to know more and contribute to open source.