What are the biggest advantages of open-source software?

#1 Absolute transparency

**What you see is what you get: the point of open-source software is the transparency of its code.**As a matter of fact, many other open-source advantages stem from the absolute visibility of its code.

Since users of open-source software can see the code, they are inclined to trust the software provider more. Furthermore, since the code is publicly available, it gives its users a sense of stability: it can be used for long-term projects since the software won’t simply be discontinued.

#2 Flexibility

Open-source software is flexible in a way that allows developers to see how the code works and make changes to it. Therefore, they can adapt the software to their or their company’s needs. Moreover, **they can make changes to problematic aspects of the app, which makes it one of the greatest advantages of this kind of software.**

Flexibility is one of the biggest open-source software advantages since being free from vendor lock-in and the ability to scale and change the app could also be seen as flexibility factors.

#3 Agility

Ah, agility: the much-beloved word in the business dictionary. Today, companies must be agile in order to beat their competitors.**Open-source software fits in the need for agility perfectly since it allows for multiple ways to solve a single problem.**

Moreover, open-source software is continuously being changed and upgraded by members of the open-source community. Commercial software is being updated more slowly, and the updates most commonly stem from commercial and financial reasons.

#4 Enhanced security

**Many open-source enthusiasts say that open-source software is more secure than its proprietary counterpart.** However, open-source software is not inherently more secure. Rather, the security is increased for several reasons.

Why is open source more secure than average closed-source software:

1. **More people are inspecting the code**. This enables more issues to be found - and fixed.
2. **Vulnerabilities are fixed much faster and updates are more frequent.** This leaves little time to exploit any imperfections of the code.
3. In more instances than not, **closed-source software uses numerous open-source components.** Thus, closed-source software does not equal more security, especially if the open-source components are being and not updated frequently.

#5 Cost-efficiency: sharing maintenance costs + lesser hardware and software costs

Open-source software mismanaged is very often free or cheaper than proprietary software. Therefore, you save on licensing and maintenance fees. Moreover, most open-source solutions take less hardware power to carry out their tasks. In other words, you can also save on hardware costs!

Another cost-effective aspect is the ability for enterprises to start small and test the software before applying it on a large scale.

#6 Starting out small

The possibility to start small and test the open-source software on a smaller scale is not only cost-effective but has other benefits. For one, companies can see if the solution is truly the best one for them.

In organizations, teams often start using the open-source software and then move on to commercially supported versions to cover their growing needs. Therefore, this open-source advantage makes it easier for companies to try out different solutions and later scale them if needed.