1. **Introduction:**

The term **Open Source** refers to software whose source code (the medium in which programmers create and modify software) is freely available on the Internet; by contrast, the source code for **Proprietary** commercial software is usually a closely guarded secret. The most well-known example of open source software is the Linux operating system, but there are open source software products available for every conceivable purpose. Open source software is distributed under a variety of licensing terms, but almost all have two things in common: the software can be used without paying a license fee, and anyone can modify the software to add capabilities not envisaged by its originators.

1. **Open and Closed Source Software**

In this section I will develop a little about the cons and pros of each of the two types of software. Pros and Cons of a given software are respectively the advantages and disadvantages of the given software, which you consider carefully so that you can make a sensible decision on which one to choose from the other.

* **Pros:** The fact that people have different needs and ambitions, their preferences will also differ from one type of software to another. In here, we will cover, in both the closed and open source, the following list of features and some not listed.  
  -The support type.  
  -The way bugs are fixed.  
  -The security and stability features.
* **Cons:** People view disadvantages of software features in different ways depending on what a user consider disadvantage. An example of this is when an **Apple** and an **Android** user argue about file sharing features on their mobiles. Some of the features covered in here are:  
  -The Minimal Support Leverage for the **Open Source Software**-The business risk.  
  -Dependency of the **Proprietary Software.**  
  -Software opacity

1. **Situations in which Proprietary wins over Open Source Software**

* When end users are not software developers – Open source software, such as Linux, has a well-deserved reputation for being designed for and by geeks. Its UI/UX is typically not plug-n-play and often requires the use of command line tools.
* When SaaS is what you really want – Many cloud services can offer the same functionality and support as closed source on-site software on a pay-as-you-go basis that is far less expensive than buying proprietary packages for in-house use.

1. **Summary**

At this point, you understand that the distinction between open source and proprietary software is not that one is free and the other is not. They are each based on differing philosophies, methodologies and business models. These fundamental factors are what lead to their separate sets of pros and cons. These must be weighed within the context of each individual software development process. By the way, overall cost is a secondary consideration of companies that choose to adopt open source platforms. That factor typically comes up as Nº 2 in surveys. The Nº 1 reason is the belief that the open source software chosen is technically superior to software from proprietary vendors. The answers on that point very likely differ depending on the business and market of the respondent however. From a big picture point of view, the basis of a decision to adopt one over the other is an example of the classic tradeoff between flexibility and usability. Open source software is, almost by definition, more flexible but requires more effort to use, whereas the opposite is true for proprietary software in general. You can build a house by having all the raw materials dumped on the lot and then build whatever you like as you go along. Or, let a third-party design, architect and build the house and hope that it suits you. In the latter case, you enlist the architect and builder to correct problems, but in the first case, you must fix deficiencies yourself, which may be your preference. Many enterprises are successful with either approach and many utilize both approaches simultaneously. Neither choice can ever be said to be the absolute best, but currently open source is gaining ground over proprietary solutions in some areas. Whereas most companies are quite familiar with closed source software, new adopters of open source solutions should monitor progress and fairly compare the advantages and disadvantages for themselves.