**Andrew Dykman - Web Security and Ethics - Homework 3 - Memo on Open Source Software - 7/10/12**

*Memorandum:*

To the all concerned company staff members and decision-making executives: This memorandum addresses the pros and cons of open source software to make an evaluation on whether or not this will meet the needs of our company, and is written to you, the evaluator, to weigh each side and decide what is right for us to use as a model.

I would like to outline the pros and cons of using the open source software model: Open source software done right can serve as a viable alternative to proprietary software for the following reasons:

#1.) Open source software doesn't necessarily mean "free license to do anything" software. If our company's concerns are that our software will be abused because it is open source, then let it be known that  any use comes with certain rights and obligations; noncompliance means that abusers of the license for the open source software can be held legally liable for their software and license abuse.

#2.) Under the open source model, no initial licensing free is required, nor is a fee required for subsequent license quantity increases; license renewals, updates, upgrades, and/or home use. This could also be seen as a con, but is more likely to make our software available for public use and get it out to the general public. This will help get our company's name out there.

#3.) Under the open source model, Source code is open and available to all users. As long as no licensing agreements are broken, users are free to do what they wish with the code, making the code more desirable for the end users.

#4.) No DRM. Because open source is essentially free in many ways, the company does not have to worry about dealing with complex DRM schemes to protect the software.

#5.) Potential cons: Other than profitability loss, there exists some incompatibility between certain open source software licensing. One example is that BSD (Linux) is compatible with GNU but not vice versa (GNU is a specific open source license model that applies to certain software, such as the Linux platforms.) We as a company must be aware of possible caveats such as this.

In summary, I believe if our goal is not the company's bottom line, but to increase our presence then the open source model could be extremely viable, or if we were releasing software as a public service, for example, Antivirus software to help prevent the spread of internet and e-mail viruses. Assuming otherwise, perhaps would should review other software models instead.

Sincerely,

Andrew Dykman, Company IT Staff Informer