

Preston Precourt

Ohlson / cruz

Ela 9

16 April 2018

### Do You want a Free Computer?

What is a computer; a computer is just memory attached to some simple arithmetic units. Programming a computer was originally started as just ones and zeros. This is because computers use transistors to process information and transistors can only process ones and zeros. People thought this method was too complex so they programmed a compiler. This allowed them to code with human readable languages. When a piece of code is compiled, it is made into two documents such as the actual machine readable code and the human readable code. Let's say a person is the head of a big company. Would he/she release the source code and risk someone stealing their code and making money off of their code? This is where the two Ethics Open Source and Proprietary software come from. There are many reasons why Open Source Software is better than proprietary software. Two of the best reasons are: Open Source Software ( also known as free software ) is more efficient at making software evolve and, Open Source Software is better for the consumers.

Open Source Software is more efficient at making software evolve and become more powerful. One of the best sites for letting others see the source for one's Open Source Software is GitHub.com which allows others to download their software. The reason this is relevant is that it allows an individual to "fork."(Trishume 2014) A fork is when someone takes the code, modifies it and re-uploads it. For example, the file manager Luke Smith uses: Ranger file manager, has been forked many times shown in (Ranger 2018). An example of a "good" fork is (Trishume 2014) Someone who uses a Mac thought that Ranger had potential and he made it better. Where Trishume "added Nice icons and cool look, when used with the app it has things like a draggable icon in the title bar as well as OSX file preview images"(Trishume 2014). The selection of which software is the best is a lot like natural selection in which the best software survives and is used for the longest. Meanwhile the worst software dies and becomes obsolete.

Open Source Software is better for the consumer because it allows them to see how the software they are using works. “This software is called ‘free’ not because it carries a zero-dollar price tag, but because of the freedom it gives to its users. . .”(Ball & Cruz 2003). In fact, the main reason Open Source Software is made is “Enjoyment” and not for money and “people working on Open Source projects generally earn nothing”(Nicholas Thompson 2000). Most Open Source producers make most of their money is off of donations.

One may argue that Open Source Software enforces pirating in the case of someone stealing software that someone else made. According to “-Copy or distribute software or its accompanying documentation, including programs, applications, data, codes, and manuals, without permission or a license from the copyright owner; - Run a copyrighted software program on two or more computers simultaneously unless specifically allowed by the license agreement; - Infringe the laws against unauthorized software copying because someone requests or compels it; - Loan software so that a copy can be made or to copy software while it is on loan; - Make, import, possess or deal with articles intended to facilitate the removal of any technical means applied to protect the software program.”(Patric G. Marshall 1993) Well this is a valid case Open Source Software does not normally abide by these rules because it is not normally copyrighted but even if it was the Open Source ethic allows one to share without a license, and its normally free. Another misconception is that Open Source development is that Open Source development is not professional. Even Bill Gates thought this in a letter that said “ ‘Who can afford to do professional work for nothing’ ”(Patric G. Marshall 1993) While this could be argued well again go back to the fact that Open Source Software is normally optional and done for entertainment so yes it is not a professional process it still is a efficient process.

The process of becoming an Open Source civilization is a long risky process with great rewards. The process of Becoming an Open Source civilization is also very risky but very possible Helping business become a easier thing is important for economy. But do people have enough will to do so Open Source is an ethic used by the people who do. Yes the future might be great but will it be Open Source?