



Exercise 1.1: Basic Facts about Open Source Software

Which of the following statements are true?

1. Once fees are charged for the use or distribution of software, it can no longer be termed **open source**.
2. If the control, content and timing of the official software releases is controlled by one entity (such as a company), it can no longer be termed **open source**.
3. The first widely used **OSS** product was the **Linux** kernel, first released in 1991.
4. If a program is written using an open source computer language (such as **Python** or **Perl**) it must be released under an open source license.

✓ Solution 1.1

1. **False:** When the word **free** is used in conjunction with **OSS**, it is used in the sense of freedom, not no cost. One can charge any sum for the software and still fit in the category of **OSS**.
2. **False:** **Android** is a good example of an important product ultimately controlled by one authority (**GOOGLE**), where all code is openly available, but the company controls the code base and release schedules and in general does not release all information in advance of new versions, although it does give more confidential heads up information to corporate partners using the operating system, such as mobile manufacturers.
3. **False:** Software has been released in source form since the beginnings of the computer age. A big advance as the history progressed was a growing consciousness about the importance of carefully crafted licenses.
4. **False:** The language used does not control the license of an application or other software; it can still be proprietary and closed source.