

# Part II

## Software Basics

# What is open source software?

- Open source software is software that is subject to an open source license.
- An open source licensor must give the licensee certain rights to be considered open source
- Basically, the licensee has the right to use, modify or distribute the software, and the right to access the source code.

# Is it the same as free software?

- Generally yes
- Free software was the original name
- Open source began being used to allay the concerns of proprietary software companies that were thinking of utilizing or developing free software

# Prominent Open Source Programs

- Apache Web Server
- Mozilla and Firefox web browsers
- Linux
- BIND
- MySQL

# Prominent Open Source Vendors

- IBM
- Red Hat
- Sun Microsystems

# Shareware

- May be free or may not
- Licensor does not provide the right to make derivative works or give access to source code
- Limited time

# Freeware

- May be free
- Licensor does not provide the right to make derivative works or give access to source code
- Not limited with time
- After acertain amount of time you have to purchase the program

# Public Domain

- Author retains no copyright rights if software is in the public domain
- Open source software authors retain copyright rights
- Open source licenses contain restrictions, just different ones than licensees may be used to
- The restrictions in open source licenses are based on copyright law and depend on it for their effectiveness.



# Part VI

## Risks and Benefits of Open Source Software

# Legal Risks

- Intellectual property infringement
- No warranties
- Copyleft
- Copyright attribution and notice requirements
- Enforcement
- Ambiguous license terms
- Consumer protection laws
- License management
- Licenses have not been construed by an American Court
- Licenses may be revocable
- Uncertain interpretation
- Forking (not a legal risk, but still a risk)

# Benefits

- Increased user base
- Longer useful life
- Increased stability
- Security
- Scalability
- Innovation
- Cost
- Adaptability