Open Source And Its Relevance to my future.

***Introduction***

Open source also referred to as OSS (open-source software) is basically code that is free to use, modify it, add new features, fix bugs and distribute their own version of the software if they see fit. Users are able to use open-source software without paying for any licensing fees ,though there are some distribution terms that one must comply with.Open-source software is maintained collaboratively and in a decentralized approach which are it key features, it is hugely created by developers anyone who just wants to volunteer, reviewed and maintained by them.

It has seen a phenomenal growth over the years, and its impact on the IT industry is undeniable. Tablets, phone, browsers, Operating systems its used everywhere. A great example of Open-source software would be Linux which is the most widely used OSS and also the fastest growing server operating systems in the world.

Commercial entities which once looked down upon open source and considered it as its enemy, are now its biggest supporters, investors and contributors. In this essay I will be discussing how I see the open-source model its most prominent features , characteristics and developments and how all of this will be having an impact on my future career.

***Impacts of Open-Source.***

MySQL, Python, NodeJS, React, git, WordPress are some of the open-source software’s I have been using extensively since my inception into computer science. These software’s and many more now have a profound effect in several fragments of my professional and academic life and also the Career choices I would be making for the future.

*Upgrading skills and Creating more employment opportunities in various sectors.*

Organizations have been building their entire businesses structure around open-source software’s and providing FOSS services to users instead of adopting commercial software’s which would be more expensive. They now require innovative developers who have the required skills to develop or modify these software’s and use them to make a better-quality product, creating more employment opportunities today and for the future. Many organizations now need developers , engineers and even legal expert consultants which can guide them on the licensing use of these software’s , for example Companies now have a dedicated department known as open-source project office (OSPO) that keeps record of all the open-source code they have been developing or using (Red hat blog - Brian Proffitt, 2019). These opportunities that are being created require a certain skillset , which pushes me to learn more about FOSS software’s or frameworks becoming more productive and growing as a developer in my domain. It is not only the technology sector where these opportunities are being created, open source is now and will be creating more programs or courses in education institutions which will be teaching students how to take advantage of this ecosystem and so further develop their talent and creativity. Open source is enabling developers or programmers to collaborate more and , discuss ideas, work on complex problems and come up with better innovative solutions in fields such as AI, artificial intelligence and machine learning (Tony Wasserman, 2019). Organization are not looking only at propriety software these days for a solution but at open-source software’s where innovative minds are producing the best results, this will be giving developers like me a chance in the future to work with the very best minds collaboratively and acquiring knowledge from them, breeding and exchanging new ideas further improving my development skills.

*Open source and Start-ups in future.*

It is not necessary today that you have to find a job. If you have an idea which you believe in, or you can provide a better solution to a complex problem you can start your own small business or start-ups using the advanced technologies on the open-source platform. Using open-source provides some huge benefits to start-ups.  
Budget : - the most important factor for a start-up is Budget, they have a strict budget restriction which means they can’t use expensive proprietary software’s, so they have to come up with creative and economical ways to not overshoot their budget while not compromising on their business models. Open source has proved to be saviour in the sphere, it is cost effective and reduces cost expenditure significantly, it has been reported that it saves 20 – 55% over commercial software’s (Linux Foundation, 2017).  
Agility : - Open source provides a great deal of agility as a start-up needs to experiment with various technologies and framework’s what works or what not works for them they need software which is provides agility. It has also helped in providing great levels of productivity , teams or members can be spread around the globe following a distributed way and if a code isn’t working you are provided with a feedback by the community member (Will Schroeder, 2011).Looking at these benefits of open source, if I have a solution to solve a complex problem or a better idea to upgrade an existing system open source is the approach I would be taking.  
  
*Conclusion* Open source and commercial software both are going to stay for a long time to come, neither of them is going to destroy each other. They both have created successful business models which help In generating large revenue and employment. Open-source projects, software have helped me numerous times, I can now learn about different frameworks, their uses, how they have been designed, why the developer made certain design choices, architecture patterns and principles they followed and several other functionalities. Contributing to an interesting project and at the same time enhancing my skill is something I look forward to being a part of.

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