Week 1: Discussion Forum Post 1

Instructions

Respond to the Discussion Question posted by your instructor below and then respond to at least two peer's posts (by Sunday before Midnight).

Name one major advantage and disadvantage in using an open-source application, such as PostgreSQL, as compared to a proprietary application, such as Microsoft Excel.

Among many advantages and disadvantages, we can mention the low cost as an advantage.

Open-source software collectively helps entrepreneurs save an estimated $60 billion a year. This may seem unbelievable at first, but it's not surprising as these programs are designed to be accessible to anyone (especially those who cannot afford commercial products). For one, they're usually offered for free and don't require you to pay for additional downloaded copies. Since many of these programs are designed to work with virtually any type of computer, they can also help you extend the life of your old hardware and avoid having to replace it now and then.

As for the disadvantage, we can mention that it may not be as user-friendly as the commercial versions.

Less attention paid to the GUI or Graphical User Interface creates a disadvantage for users of open-source software. Non-technicians may not be comfortable with OSS due to the ineffectiveness of the GUI. This inefficiency may require special staff training to accelerate each new release of software programs.

The inefficiency of the GUI can even lead software development companies to develop an appropriate GUI for further integration. This will cost you time, effort, and money – as without a proper GUI, progression remains inadequate. While technical professionals can adjust to this inadequacy, it would be a little exasperating for non-technicians to find the proper solution for the same.

Hello Lucas,

I agree with you.

Many people have access to the source code of open-source software, but not all of them have good intentions. While a lot of people use their access to spot defects and make improvements to the program, others use this privilege to exploit the product’s vulnerabilities and create bugs that can infect hardware, steal identities, or just annoy other users.

Hello Anderson,

The issue of security is something to consider this can be said for all technologies, however. There is minimal risk involved with all technologies and software. The point is, how well failures are handled. Releasing the source code to everyone across the world is something to be concerned about as the vulnerability is even greater – at such a high pace that it can be uncontrollable at one point.