Case Study Research Assignment

*Proprietary software vs. Open source software*

**Background**

Proprietary software has set restrictions on use and can be very expensive, whereas open source software is freely available to use as is or to change, improve, and redistribute. Open source software has become acceptable as a cost-effective alternative to proprietary software—so much so that it’s reported that the increased adoption of open source software has caused a drop in revenue to the proprietary software industry. But determining which software to use involves more than just reviewing the IT budget.

Case research topics to consider

* Open source software
* Proprietary software
* Copyright licensing
* Open source development
* etc.

**Tasks**

1. Team members devise a scenario in which someone is a proponent for open source software but is being rebuffed by someone who feels that “you get what you pay for” and is a big proponent of using proprietary software.
2. Each Team member should take on a specific character: open source proponent, proprietary developer, or arbitrator.
3. Each team member is to research the aspect of open source/proprietary software from the perspective of the chosen character
4. Each Team member should write a summary of the position their team assumes, outlining the pros and cons of their position with regard to the use of Proprietary software vs. Open source software.

*NOTE: The position you are asked to take may or may not match your own personal beliefs, but your research and use of logic will enable you to represent whichever view is assigned. Together the team will agree on an ethical solution.*

1. Team members should select the most powerful and best-constructed **arguments** and develop a summary **conclusion**.
2. Team members should write up to 2000 words to present their findings on an academic writing style and format (remember your English class?).

**Writing format**

1. Title of Case Study
2. Background
3. Problem
4. Short literature review
5. Findings and Discussions
6. Conclussions and Recommendations