



The Business And Economics Of Linux And Open Source

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Summary : Free the business and economics of linux and open source pdf download - preface the expression necessity is the mother of all invention is so true i would not have taken on this project if there was another text out there that i could have referenced just like every other topic these days there is an abundance of information on the internet if you want to do some research i found no manuscript that consolidates for a business audience topics related to linux and open source in one place i also believe that some of the paradigm shifts initiated by the open source movement have not been documented for corporate managers until now the linux and open source movement has instigated religious wars between different camps each presenting extreme but often unrealistic positions this book is not about any war and does not take on a cause it is about simple business this text acknowledges that the linux and open source phenomenon is real and is rapidly becoming omnipresent within the high-technology industry however simple acknowledgment is not enough to deal with the fundamental new business issues created by linux and open source who this book is for this book is directed primarily at business managers some of you will be information technology it managers in any given industry and may be trying to understand what value linux and open source can deliver to your business in other words what is different that would cause you to want to change others will be managers developing software for internal use or for commercial resale in these cases you will likely be looking at the open source movement as a way to leverage a huge population of developers but may struggle to understand the best way to integrate with this community and still return a profit for your investors this book is from one manager to another and there are two levels of management that can benefit if you are part of executive management then this book will give you a guide to help drive your teams to find the right answers and help you ask the right questions when your teams make new proposals related to linux and open source if you are in the middle management ranks this book should help you make sure that your plans and proposals to senior management are complete and address the new business paradigms of linux and open source this book is not for developers it does not navigate through any code modules for any software in linux or any other

open source project there may be cases where uninitiated developers may be looking for a big-picture view of the linux and open source communities in these cases this book will add value at least in parts for the past few years i have been working every day in this wonderful new way of doing business it is always a challenge to take on a job where concepts are different and some of the fundamental rules change it is natural for most people to reject these changes and do everything possible to maintain the status quo i continue to deal with this resistance every day while the business concepts associated with linux and open source are still very new corporate managers are rapidly discovering that they can no longer ignore what is happening the wonderful thing about a market economy is that it requires new business concepts such as linux and open source to prove themselves and once proven those who ignore them invariably lose competitors who take notice and aggressively take advantage of new opportunities begin to take business from those who reject change however those who move too quickly to every fad that comes around waste resources and eventually either disappear or realign to an accepted business reality there are those who believe that linux and open source are still a passing fad and some who even hope it will go away soon the linux operating system is now more than 10 years old the open source movement which started with the free software movement is approaching 20 years of existence it should be apparent that it is not going away and that your business needs to deal with new realities how this book is organized part 1 of the book is an initiation into the world of linux and open source chapter 1 starts by examining the fundamental business reasons why this new movement is good for business and how it delivers value it also establishes a core understanding of terminology and significant players so that you can follow the rest of the book chapter 2 digs deep into the linux kernel while the kernel may seem a deeply technical topic for business in this new world it is a core requirement to understand how the components fit together the next chapter outlines the open source definition since open source is at the core of what makes linux work understanding open source licenses is also a required component of basic training part 1 ends with a broad look at a number of communities and organizations you will need to be familiar with as you integrate your company with this movement part 2 looks at the operational side of linux it starts with a look at linux distributions to help you internalize how the linux kernel integrates with all the pieces that constitute an operating system next you will be taken through a detailed analysis of measuring it costs with an open source mindset we will also look at how key standards affect the cost picture and which ones will be important to the future success of linux finally we will take a look at operations from deployment migration and coexistence to

support and training the last part of this book explores in great detail the open source effect on the corporations and businesses developing commercial software this is where the fundamental new business paradigms are examined we will start by looking at how the open source community is structured some of its cultural elements and how it compares to a corporate structure we will also examine the open source effect on the value delivered over time this will prepare you for the following discussion which is a detailed examination of open source business models and how to make money the last two chapters examine in great detail the process of integrating open source within your company and the people management effects of working with this new community of developers many of the concepts presented especially in part 3 will be very new to a business audience hopefully the information will give you enough guidance to manage open source projects within your company and help you build synergistic relationships with the great communities of developers out there as you being to understand how open source works and what it really is i encourage you to look at this book as an open source project i am but the maintainer and i hope that any of you will become contributors i present to you an imperfect project and hope you will share your genius much as those who contributed to the review process to evolve it into a great one martin fink summer 2002

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