

The Success Of Open Source

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Summary: Free the success of open source pdf download much of the innovative programming that powers the internet creates operating systems and produces software is the result of open source code that is code that is freely distributed--as opposed to being kept secret--by those who write it leaving source code open has generated some of the most sophisticated developments in computer technology including most notably linux and apache which pose a significant challenge to microsoft in the marketplace as steven weber discusses open source s success in a highly competitive industry has subverted many assumptions about how businesses are run and how intellectual products are created and protected traditionally intellectual property law has allowed companies to control knowledge and has guarded the rights of the innovator at the expense of industry-wide cooperation in turn engineers of new software code are richly rewarded but as weber shows in spite of the conventional wisdom that innovation is driven by the promise of individual and corporate wealth ensuring the free distribution of code among computer programmers can empower a more effective process for building intellectual products in the case of open source independent programmers--sometimes hundreds or thousands of them--make unpaid contributions to software that develops organically through trial and error weber argues that the success of open source is not a freakish exception to economic principles the open source community is guided by standards rules decisionmaking procedures and sanctioning mechanisms weber explains the political and economic dynamics of this mysterious but important market development table of contents preface 1 property and the problem of software 2 the early history of open source 3 what is open source and how does it work 4 a maturing model of production 5 explaining open source microfoundations 6 explaining open source macroorganization 7 business models and the law 8 the code that changed the world notes index reviews of this book in the world of open-source software true believers can be a fervent bunch linux for example may act as a credo as well as an operating system but there is much substance beyond zealotry says steven weber the author of the success of open source an open-source operating system offers its source code up to be played with extended debugged and otherwise tweaked in an orgy of user collaboration the author traces the roots of that ethos and process in the early years of computers he also analyzes the interface between open source and the worlds of business and law as well as wider issues in the clash between hierarchical structures and networks a subject with relevance beyond the software industry to the war on terrorism --nina c ayoub chronicle of higher education reviews of this book a valuable new account of the open-source software movement -edward rothstein new york times we can blindly continue to develop reward protect and organize around knowledge assets on the comfortable assumption that their traditional property rights remain inviolate or we can listen to steven weber and begin to make our peace with the uncomfortable fact that the very foundations of our familiar knowledge as property world have irrevocably shifted --alan kantrow chief knowledge officer monitor group ever since the invention of agriculture human beings have had only three social-engineering tools for organizing any large-scale division of labor markets and the carrots of material benefits they offer hierarchies and the sticks of punishment they impose and charisma and the promises of rapture they offer now there is the possibility of a fourth mode of effective social organization--one that we perhaps see in embryo in the creation and maintenance of open-source software my berkeley colleague steven weber s book is a brilliant exploration of this fascinating topic -- j bradford delong department of economics university of california at berkeley steven weber has produced a significant insightful book that is both smart and important the most impressive achievement of this volume is that weber has spent the time to learn and think about the technological sociological business and legal perspectives related to open source the success of open source is timely and more thought provoking than almost anything i ve come across in the past several years it deserves careful reading by a wide audience --jonathan aronson annenberg school for communication university of southern california

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