

# Clearing a Path to Global Innovation through Technical and Legal Collaboration

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# Open Source is a Social System that Transforms the Nature of Innovation in the New Economy -

- Silos Replaced by Collaborative Communities that Build on Each Others Ideas - **New Novelty**
- **Barriers Blur** - geographic, social, cultural, technological, racial, religious, organizational...
- Invention/Contribution Can More Readily Occur In Situ - **Project-Based Innovation**
- Beyond Technical Collaboration - **True Power is in the Modality & the How**

# Open Source is a Social System that Transforms the Nature of Innovation in the New Economy -

- Ushering in **Organizational Transformation** That Enables

- New Ideas to Be Embraced
- Complacency Replaced by Openness/Receptivity
- M&A and Joint Ventures Largely Ineffective Relative to Open Source in 'Bringing the Outside In' & Spurring Innovation - Clayton Christensen Revisited & Henry Chesbrough Open Innovation Realized

# Open Source is a Social System that Transforms the Nature of Innovation in the New Economy -

- Enabling **Co-opetition** To Take Root & a New More Open Mindset of Interdependence to Permeate Organizational Thinking
  - Collaborate to Compete More Effectively
  - Antitrust Concerns Balanced with Innovative Benefits of Collaborative Development



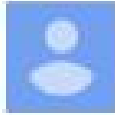
# Community is the Key to Open Source - Yielding Better Communication, Code and a More Receptive Context for Innovation to Occur

- **Projects are Communities** with Codes of Conduct and Norms that Enable Innovation through a Culture that Explicitly Acknowledges that  $1+1+1$  does not equal 3 but rather 6 or 10 or 20 when we Authentically Collaborate
- **Legal Communities in OSS Parallel Technical Communities** and Yield Opportunities for Sharing, Learning, Growth and more effective environments for Collaboration and Innovation to become manifest

# Linus Torvalds's Famous Email — The First Linux Announcement

By [Adarsh Verma](#) August 25, 2016





**Linus Benedict Torvalds**



Hello everybody out there using minix -

I'm doing a (free) operating system (just a hobby, won't be big and professional like gnu) for 386(486) AT clones. This has been brewing since april, and is starting to get ready. I'd like any feedback on things people like/dislike in minix, as my OS resembles it somewhat (same physical layout of the file-system (due to practical reasons) among other things).

I've currently ported bash(1.08) and gcc(1.40), and things seem to work. This implies that I'll get something practical within a few months, and I'd like to know what features most people would want. Any suggestions are welcome, but I won't promise I'll implement them :-)

Linus ([torv...@kruuna.helsinki.fi](mailto:torv...@kruuna.helsinki.fi))

PS. Yes - it's free of any minix code, and it has a multi-threaded fs. It is NOT protable (uses 386 task switching etc), and it probably never will support anything other than AT-harddisks, as that's all I have :-).

**Humility** (is a Strength) - absent which learning is not possible, is the key takeaway from Linus' original post and is, to this day, the hallmark of a healthy OSS Project and Project Culture. We collaborate and solicit the contribution of others because we know **collaboration** can yield **value** in the form of **new novelty/innovation** that could not be achieved absent **collaboration**.



**Open Source** - was not born in isolation. It was birthed in a context which was for its founders not explicit or meaningful but context made cognizable can be useful in understanding opportunity space and potential limitations

- Richard Stallman was concerned with freedom and became motivated to do something about it when creating the GNU General Public License.
- Linus was focused on writing elegant code that made our lives and work more easily performed and was acculturated to tap an online community of colleagues to do so. But...

**Systems Thinking** - provided the social science context which enabled Open Source to flourish. Jay Forrester at the Sloan School at MIT first crystalized ideas around Systems Thinking in the mid 1950's and began a transformation that has given rise to concepts that underlie the social movement that is Open Source - self organization, self regulation, emergence, holistic problem solving, interconnectedness, feedback loops...

**“Systems thinking is a discipline for seeing wholes. It is a framework for seeing interrelationships rather than things, for seeing ‘patterns of change’ rather than ‘static snapshots.’”**

**– Peter Senge**

**“Collaboration is vital to sustain what we call profound or really deep change, because without it, organizations are just overwhelmed by the forces of the status quo. ”**

**— Peter Senge**

# History Lesson - Understanding the Context of Open Source & the Power of Collaboration in Response to Looming Threat

## Patent Threat/Legal Environment in 2005

- Microsoft Had Positioned Itself as Monolithic  
Threat to Open Source Software Adoption  
Through Active Patent Litigation Rhetoric
- GPL V3 Had just been Promulgated But Little  
Enthusiasm for Its Patent Provisions
- Limited Adoption of OSS by Large Operating  
Companies Concerned with Patent Litigation Risk





# History Lesson - Understanding the Context of Open Source & the Power of Collaboration in Response to Looming Threat

Over Time All Companies/Individuals Come to Understand the Tenets of the Social System(s) in which They Participate and on Which They Rely - Values, Norms, Codes



## What does Microsoft joining the Open Invention Network mean for you?



Written by [Steven Vaughan-Nichols, Senior Contributing Editor](#)

Oct. 11, 2018 at 7:27 a.m. PT

“Technology changed forever when [Microsoft opened its patents by joining the Open Invention Network \(OIN\)](#). The traditional enemy of all things open source is now not just using or contributing to open source, it's allowing other [OIN](#) members to use its 60,000 patent portfolio royalty free on the Linux system.”

# Closing Thoughts

Evolution within the Social System that is the Open Source Community Creates the Foundation of Open Source's Onward Viability/Value - We are all of us becoming!

Technical, Legal & Policy Collaboration Allow the Broader Community to Be Generatively Enriched and Benefits to Accrue to All who wish to be Authentic Participants

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