“According to Welling and Thomson (2008) and Meloni (2008) the most significant disadvantage of open source technology is that it is fairly complex to use and implement, and requires expertise from individuals who are experienced in the technology applicable. This carries with it factors such as additional costs for hiring of people with expertise or costs associated with training to up skill people to obtain the necessary skills.”

Hi Zubair,

I totally agree with this statement. I learned this when I first attempted to install Linux on a desktop computer back in 1997. Just like today, it was free, but the effort required was extremely difficult and time consuming compared to Windows. Of course, it’s much easier now that we have distributions like Ubuntu. Even to this day, many people espouse the often-said mantra that the advantage of open source software being “free”. One way or another, organizations will learn that open-source software has hidden costs. Applications such as Filezilla are one thing. Operating systems such as Linux and web servers like Apache are a whole different animal requiring IT staff with expertise in maintaining these systems. In fact, if I were in charge of allocating resources for a project, I would seriously consider contracting outside vendors for such services like such as Amazon’s Cloud Computing services (Amazon Web Services, 2014), and Oracle’s Cloud Database (Oracle, 2014), which may save an organization overhead expenses in such areas like HR.

Regards,

Emanuel

References:

Amazon (2014) *Amazon S3 Pricing* [Online]. Available from: <http://aws.amazon.com/s3/pricing/> (Accessed: 16 June 2014)

Oracle (2014) *Oracle Cloud* *Database* [Online]. Available from: <https://cloud.oracle.com/database?tabID=1383678929090> (Accessed: 16 June 2014)

“enforcing both client and server-sided validation is the real deal in achieving true form validation.”

Hi Olatunde,

During the time I have researched this topic for this DQ, I have also come to this conclusion. Since client-side validation could be subverted, server-side validation should also be done. In my opinion, client-side validation is most useful for providing a better user experience, and avoiding situations where users later complain that they actually submitted required data. For example, an entire form could be rejected and the user would be informed. What is your opinion?

Regards,

Emanuel

“I tend to disagree with your statement “The first and most obvious advantage of using open source software is of course, that it is free”, to a large extent, not all open source software’s are free of charge like a free tool, some open source licenses are restricted and could have a price tag attached to them.”

Hi Olatunde,

Thank you for reading my post and your comments. I whole-heartedly agree with you. Perhaps I should have phrased my statement better. What I really meant was that this is a perceived advantage to many individuals and organizations when they are considering which software they will be adopting. When these “newbies” do choose to go with the open-source alternative, they quickly learn that there are hidden costs, usually associated with the expertise required to maintain the system. If I were running an organization, I would seriously consider passing the responsibility of this maintenance to an outside vendor rather than making sure my IT staff had the adequate expertise required.

Regards,

Emanuel

Hi Ala and Remigius,

I agree with Remigius to “validate both on client and server”. While I agree to some extent regarding Ala’s statement about the client-side validation being redundant, I think that it can also fulfill another purpose. Client-side validation probably does not offer much in the way of protection from malicious attacks from a determined user. However, I think its benefit lies more in giving the user immediate feedback. It can be used to inform the user that their input submission is invalid or incomplete. If this validation was done only on the server-side, then they would get an error message upon submission, and might have to start filling out the fields on the webpage from the beginning, without knowing where the invalid input was.

Regards,

Emanuel

“However, with the advent of the internet and open source systems, software evolution and development has expanded tremendously giving rise to open platforms that are not vendor dependent, and at the same time reducing the control of software development and use.”

Hi Alex,

I’m not sure I agree with this. For example, I think it would be safe to say that most organizations running Linux would purchase it from a vendor such as Red Hat. Unless they have the in-house expertise to maintain these systems, do you think they would probably just choose to be locked in with the vendor that provided it, rather than go through the trouble of doing it themselves?

Regards,

Emanuel

“Email addresses are often confirmed by the server sending an email to check validity”

Hi Frank,

I frequently encounter web pages with a field requiring the user to confirm their email address by entering it again. Would you advise us to adopt this practice? Whenever I encounter this, I always just copy and paste from the previous field, and I imagine others do too?

Emanuel

“Regarding malware, if we compare windows and linux OS which do you believe is the most affect by malware?”

Since approximately 90% of all desktop operating systems in use are Windows while Linux has a paltry 1.6% (Net Applications, 2014), it doesn’t come as a surprise that it is the most attacked OS (Vaughan-Nichols, 2014). Since hackers “want to have a higher success rate”, they will of course target Windows (Popa, 2014). However, it has been recently reported that approximately ”25,000 web servers infected with Linux malware have been used in the past two years to hit website visitors” (Tung, 2014). It just goes to show that despite Linux’s reputation as being secure, it really isn’t.

References:

Net Applications (2014) Desktop Operating System Market Share [Online]. Available from: <http://www.netmarketshare.com/operating-system-market-share.aspx?qprid=10&qpcustomd=0> (Accessed: 18 June 2014)

Popa, B. (2014) ‘Security Expert Explains Why Windows Is the Most Attacked Operating System’, *Softpedia* [Online]. Available from: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Security-Expert-Explains-Why-Windows-Is-the-Most-Attacked-Operating-System-445834.shtml> (Accessed: 18 June 2014)

Tung, L. (2014) ‘Botnet of thousands of Linux servers pumps Windows desktop malware onto web’, ZDNet [Online]. Available from: <http://www.zdnet.com/botnet-of-thousands-of-linux-servers-pumps-windows-desktop-malware-onto-web-7000027472/> (Accessed: 18 June 2014)

Vaughan-Nichols, S. (2014) ‘Security 2014: The holes are in the apps, not the operating systems’, ZDNet [Online]. Available from: <http://www.zdnet.com/security-2014-the-holes-are-in-the-apps-not-the-operating-systems-7000026893/> (Accessed: 18 June 2014)

“The more secure an application the less user friendly it is. So we have to think about what is important. Is making a very beautiful and user friendly application that provides a rich user experience more important that securing your application, user dat? In my eyes no matter what, making sure your application is robust and secure is more important than the user experience.”

Hi Adrian,

That’s an interesting point. I’ve always thought that user-friendliness and power/flexibility were inversely proportional, but never thought of it also applying to user-friendliness and security. Regarding which is more important, I think it would depend on the customer. Individual consumers will probably have less stringent security requirements, while businesses and larger organizations may have stricter ones. For example, everyone is required to change their passwords every 90 days where I work. For my own personal accounts (email, banking, etc.), no such requirements are in place, though it probably is a good idea. I have so many of these, that requirements to change them periodically would be obtrusive. However, knowing that events such as irregular activity will result in someone calling me offers me some peace of mind.

Regards,

Emanuel