“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

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