Introduction to open source

Founder- Eric Steven Raymond (ESR)
Year- 1998
Organization- Open Source Initiative

What is Open Source Software

- Open source software is computer software that has a source code available to the general public for use as is or with modifications.

- This software typically does not require a license fee.

- The key fact that makes open source software (OSS) different from proprietary software is its license.

Is there any difference between Open source software , Freeware, Free software, Shareware?

- ***Freeware:*** Freeware software's are available to use with no cost. Source code is not available

- ***Shareware:*** Shareware software's are used for marketing purpose. Computer users can download and use a limited version of software or full version of software for a limited period of time. We can say that Shareware software is just like "Try before you buy".

- ***Free Software:*** Free software can be used, modified and studied without any restriction. Free software can be copied and distributed with or without any modifications.

- ***Open Source:*** Open source software can be defined as computer software for which the source code of the software is available under a copyright that must meet the open source definition.

Open Source Software

OSS is unique in that it is always released under a license that has been certified to meet the criteria of the Open Source Definition.

These criteria include the right to:

1. Redistribute the software without restriction
2. Access the source code
3. Modify the source code
4. Distribute the modified version of the software.

Advantages of OSS

- Lower Cost
- Flexibility
- Reliability and Quality

Examples

- **Office Automation:** AbiWord, OpenOffice, KOffice
- **Web Design:** Nvu, GIMPShop   Bluefish
- **Communication:** Pidgin   Thunderbird, PhpBB
- **E-commerce:** OsCommerce, VirtualMart, Zen Cart
- **Content-Management System:** Drupal   Joomla
- **Operating System:** Fedora , Android
- **Web Browser:** Lynx, Mozilla, Firefox
- **Programming Languages:** Perl, PHP, Python,   Ruby