**Open Source Software**

In today’s fast evolving and growing world, software, applications, and information systems are a necessity rather than a luxury for ventures that want to keep pace with how business works. These specific types of computer technology are possible through different methods (proprietary, of-the-shelf, etc.) This essay will discuss one of these various methods. Open source software is different from the other types because of two different unique aspects. First, like its names implies, it is a type of software that is distributed for free. Obviously, this is a self-explanatory feature. It is the cheapest way to get a software. You generally only pay for license fees which are lower compared to commercial software. However, the fact that it is not expensive, does not mean it lacks quality. With this in mind, we are going to talk about our second aspect. Open source software is known because it is a public source code that can be manipulated in order to improve how it allows programs and applications to work with no extra maintenance costs. In other words, you can modify how the software functions with specific availabilities that you need for your particular purpose with it.

The best way to define open source software is a free software that can be changed to your specific needs. I know it sounds pretty sweet, but those are not the only benefits. Besides its price and flexibility, the main advantage of having an open source software is that it is independent from manufacturers and service providers. The “no strings attached” philosophy of zero commitment allows a possible individual adaptation of the software. This makes it easier for companies to choose either to have an IT service provider or to make the internal IT team useful to work on the development of the features’ extensions. In contrast to commercial software, there is no vendor lock-in; therefore, there is no need to contract their private consultants for support and development, allowing the implementation of open source software to cut expenses enormously. Moreover, open source software has the support of an entire community using the same software. Since they are relatively easy to obtain, many other enterprises might have already implemented it in their daily operations, which stands as recognized, trustworthy, reliable high-quality software. This same community also enables high security standards. Since numerous IT teams from different organizations keep track of bugs and security gaps, they are discovered, closed, and solved in a more rapid manner. Generally, these updates are posted and recorded on each specific open source software website, along with enough documentation to fix other issues or achieve specific things with the software. Its openness on the coding guarantees maximum transparency and confidence in the software.

Since you can adapt to the specific needs and purposes you desire, open source software is similar to proprietary software in this approach. This last mentioned are one-of-a-kind unique software molded for a particular application and owned by the firm, body, or person that uses it. With proprietary software you can easily adjust the software and add capabilities that you did not consider in the first place or that you might need to counteract an initiative by competitors or to meet new supplier/customer demands. You have control of how you want it to work. This concept is constructed on the idea that an enterprise explains to the vendor what you need to do with it. The venture does not need to worry about the coding, but if it is not involved in the design process, the results can be different from the expected. This also leads to the long time and resources it can take to make it happen. In order to create a software, time and money must be spent. Even though a proprietary software will automatically differentiate a business from its competitors in the technology used (since it is a one-of-a-kind software), a dependence on the vendors is created. They might even include cost surprises in renewals and confusing license schemes.

What a better example of success than the Android Operating System by Google. Its open source nature allows it to control the majority of the world’s smartphones. Android is based on another operating system, Linux, which is one of the most commonly used operating system for desktops. Mozilla Firefox, another success story, is also one of the most popular browsers available. And GIMP is an effective alternative for Adobe Photoshop. As explained, open source is a perfect economic way to obtain your desired software if the appropriate IT team is available for support and regular updates.

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