# Ethical and economical perspectives of open source software

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## Keywords:

Open source, software, information provider, social changes, community, information culture, business model, Google, proprietary, property rights, Copyleft, Linux, ethics

## References:

**Anderson, T., 2004, The Open Source Revolution, Available At: http://www.itwriting.com/opensource.php**

Provides a useful explanation of what open source software is then explains open sources’ ethical stance along with Microsoft’s impact with open source.

**Andrews, C., Culp, E., Shinsato, C., 2007, An Ethical Commentary on Software: Proprietary vs. Open-Source*,* Available At:http://www.ethicapublishing.com/confronting/5CH15.pdf**

Explains and analyses both the benefits and drawbacks of open source and proprietary software. A conclusion is drawn up to show which type of software is most effective by outweighing each other.

**Benkler, Y., 2005, The new open-source economics, Technology Entertainment Design(TED), Available at: http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/yochai\_benkler\_on\_the\_new\_open\_source\_economics.html**

Yochai Benkler asserts that IT has provoked great changes in society’s development, and explains how the Open Source model influenced these changes.

**Collins-Sussman, B. & Fitzpatrick, B.W., 2007, What's In It for Me? Benefits from Open Sourcing Code, Available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtYJoatnHb8**

Considering the advantages of open-sourcing software, this video explains the methods by which developers can launch their closed-source software to open-source most effectively.

**Fuggetta****, A., 2003, Open source software––an evaluation, *Journal of Systems and Software,* vol. 66, no. 1, pp. 77-90**

Paper proposes some qualitative reflections and observations on the nature of open source software and the compares the faults of it to that of proprietary software. Also, provides a general evaluation of open source software principles in general.

**Gonzalez-Barahona, J.M., 2000, Perceived disadvantages of open source models, Available at: http://eu.conecta.it/paper/Perceived\_disadvantages\_ope.html**

A concise explanation of the three most common misconceptions of the disadvantages of open source software.

**Krüger, J.D., 2004, Open source vs. commercial CMS*,* Available: http://www.contentmanager.net/magazine/article\_257\_open\_source\_commercial\_cms.html**

An extremely balanced look at both the disadvantages and advantages of commercial software compared to open source alternatives.

**Lakhani, K.R. & Hippel, E., 2002, How open source works: “free” user-to-user assistance, *Research Policy,* vol. 32, no. 6, pp. 924-943**

The article seeks to answer the question “Why people are willing to participate in open source software development?” The evidence based on empirical research suggests that there are great benefits for individuals to participate in the model.

**Luo, D.H., 2002, The Business Prospects of Open Source, Available at: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~luluo/Courses/17910final.pdf**

Discusses the social aspects of open source, including five suggested business models. It is stated that commercial value is shifting from licensing, towards ancillary “product halos”. It is also suggested that there can be a way of analysing when a business should shift from traditional approaches to open source methods.

**Mustonen, M., 2003, Copyleft – the economics of Linux and other open source software, *Information Economics and Policy*, vol. 15, pp. 99–121**

Explains the concept of “Copyleft” software, and why developers are distributing this type of software. Explains how Copyleft and commercial products are able to co-exist.

**Rosenberg, J., 2009, The meaning of open, Available at: http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2009/12/meaning-of-open.html**

Google believes that open source will help them to deliver the best quality products. They have two types of open source: information and technology. They aim to keep their technology at the forefront, raising standards; they also try to keep their information as transparent as possible.

**Santa Clara University, 2008, Unavoidable Ethical Questions About Open Source, Available at: http://www.scu.edu/ethics/publications/submitted/open-source.html**

This website poses the ethical questions that question whether it really is ethical and “fair” that we can expect free software from developers and not other professions, but also providing thought provoking questions in other ethical areas too.