Open Source as a counter movement

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Topics

- Definition of "Open Source™"
- History of Open Source
- Who influences the "Open Source Movement"
- How is "Open Source" organized
- Political Conflicts
- Future and Limitations of Open Source

OSI "Open Source™" Definition

- Free Redistribution permitted
- Source Code included
- Allow Distribution of Modifications
- No Discrimination of Users or Fields of Endeavour
- License must be Technology Neutral
- More Details: http://www.opensource.org/

History

- In the Beginning nearly all Software was Open Source

- Since 1980 Closed Source became popular

- 1984 Richard Stallman founded the GNU project

- 1997 Eric Raymond published the well-known essay "The Cathedral and the Bazaar"

- Today: Open Source especially Linux is very popular and the foundation of the Internet

Influences

- Users
- Academic & Governmental Research
- Companies, including
  - Open Souce Companies
  - Hardware & Software Vendors
  - Consultants
- Standardisation Organisations

Organization

- The "Open Source Movement" consists of an enormous number of loosely connected Projects

- The organization-structures of the Projects are very varying from democracy to dictatorship

- Additional a lot of implicit rules are widely accepted

- Several Opinion Leaders influence the public appearance of the Open Source Movement

Political Conflicts

- National Laws especially
  - Copyright vs. "Urheberrecht"
  - Export Restrictions
  - Wireless LAN radio regulation
  - DMCA/DRM
- Closed Standards and NDAs
- Software patents
- FUD campaigns (SCO, Microsoft...)

Directions and Limitations

- Open Content (e.g. Wikipedia, DMOZ)
- "Open Hardware", "Open Music"
- Creative Commons

Summary

- Open Source is not a new idea
- Open Source is not a detached concept for Softwaredevelopment, but affects many aspects of Life
- Open Source is not Anarchy
- Open Source is Information and Knowledge sharing

Further Reading

- Mark Webbink: Understanding Open Source Software, *New South Wales Society for Computers and Law March 2003*

- James Russell: A Conversation with Sam Leffler, *ACM Queue vol. 2, no. 3 - May 2004*

- J.J. King: Free Software is a political action *Telepolis August 1999*

- Andread Brandt: Structure and Organization of KDE *KDE Contributors Confercne 2003 Nove Hrady*

- Clifford Wolf: First they ignore you.. *Keynote zu den Grazer Linuxtagen 2004*

THE END