

Title: What is Open Source software?

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Summary: open source refers to a program in which the source code is available and public for use and/or modification from its original design free of charge.

(1) Generically, open source refers to a program in which the source code is available and public for use and/or modification from its original design free of charge.

Open source code is typically created as a collaborative effort in which programmers share the code and share the changes within the community. Open source sprang from the community as a response to proprietary software owned by corporations.

(2) A certification standard issued by the Open Source Initiative (OSI) that requires the source code of a computer program is made available free of charge to the general public.

The rationale for this movement is that a larger group of programmers not motivated by ownership or financial gain will produce a more useful and bug-free product.

The concept relies on peer review to find and eliminate bugs in the program, a process that commercially developed and packaged programs do not utilize. Programmers are free to redistribute and modify the source code, forcing an expedient evolution of the program.

The process of eliminating bugs and improving the software happens at a much faster rate than through the traditional development channels of commercial software as it occurs throughout the open source community and does not originate and channel through a single research and development cogs.

OSI dictates that in order to be considered "OSI Certified" a product must meet the following criteria:

- * The author or holder of the license of the source code cannot collect royalties from the program
- * The distributed program must make the source code accessible to the user
- * The author must allow modifications and derivations of the work under the same license
- * No person, group or field of endeavor can be denied access to the program
- * The rights attached to the program must not depend on the program's business model or software distribution
- * The licensed software cannot place restrictions on other software that uses the program

For full details please visit [Open source definitions](#)