

Open Source Software

The 2nd Wave

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Open Source Software (OSS) has arrived. Everyone has heard, but I believe most people still don't understand that a fundamental paradigm shift has occurred that can't be understood by our previous software experience. He who will not understand this major upheaval, will not prosper.

My talk explains the social and legal basis for OSS. Some points that will be addressed are:

1. OSS is distributed under a license that does not restrict freedom, but rather guarantees it.
2. Open Source is a Process, not a product. Software created using the Open Source model might be products.
3. Control over the product is passed to the user of the software. Currently, many users don't want nor do they understand the power of this control. This aspect of OSS can be invaluable for users who know how to use it and can break out of the standard problematical software provider-consumer relationship.
4. Paradigm changes create opportunities for those who can recognize them. This talk will explain why OSS will generate business opportunities that are not available in a world of proprietary software.

Biography

Joel Isaacson has worked as a independent consultant at the cutting edge of high technology for over 30 years. He concentrates his efforts on consulting and actively developing software. He has been promoting open software solutions for over 15 years. For the last 20 years, he has taught various advanced computer science courses at Bar-Ilan University and has advised tens of students in their advance degree theses. He has a Ph.D. degree in theoretical Physics from the University of Pennsylvania.