

# **Open Source Today: Individuals Need Not Apply?**

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**The term “Open Source”  
turned 20 this year**



**Open Source has  
changed a lot in 20  
years**

# Linux Users Groups



# 20 years ago: Why we contributed

Equal access to technology

Friendship and a rewarding community

I enjoy working on technology

The Four Freedoms to: use, study, share and improve the software

Build skills for current or future paid work

Found bugs or needed features during work and give back

Belief that building on open source software makes for better long-term viability, security

Avoiding vendor lock-in

Long term cost savings for collaborating

# OPEN SOURCE WON. SO, NOW WHAT?

## Linux and open source have won, get over it

2015 was the year Linux and open-source software took over the IT world, but many open-source and proprietary software fans still haven't figured it out.



By Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols for Linux and Open Source | January 4, 2016 -- 14:29 GMT (06:29 PST) | Topic: Enterprise Software

**SD Times** SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

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## Industry Watch: Open source has won the day

Latest News Published: July 4th, 2018 - David Rubinstein

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**Yay! I like being paid!**



**Except...**



**Projects are now more complex**

**Most of the contributors of top projects are paid**

**Reduced commitment beyond  
their paycheck**

**More governance structures,  
licenses, agreements**

**Source available,  
closed development**

# **Resurgence of vendor lock-in**



**Now what?**

# Remind yourself:

## Why?

What inspired you to start getting involved with open source in the first place?

What kept you working on it?

Are there other things in your life you rather be doing right now?

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# Find good projects

A small project you use personally

Tip: Not on your desktop/laptop much? Contribute to an open source phone app!

Clear, open development

Nice people

# Stay vigilant about vendor lock-in

Third-party cloud platforms and APIs are latest form of proprietary vendor lock-in

Use your open source knowledge to steer organizations you're involved with away from the vendor-specific tooling where possible

# Get involved locally

Find a non-profit in your area that is using open source

Support a local organization by offering your expertise with open source, and/or help them find open source solutions to their problems

# Participate in your government

There are now large, open source projects for local governments

Help your own city or town adopt them

# Mentor a new contributor

Help them on-board to a project, it feels good to help!

Help the project even out the rough spots for new-comers

Build a personal relationship that may last a lifetime

Support them as they take their newfound expertise to the next level

**And money can  
be used for good**

# Attracts new types of contributors

Not everyone always had free time, with a monetary incentive, our pool of contributors can grow

- More professional opportunities
- Paid internship programs

Diversity of all kinds will make our projects better

# Investment in development platforms

GitHub ecosystem created a uniform way to participate code-wise

Free-to-open-source testing tooling from companies like Travis CI, CircleCI

Improved communication tooling



# Business interest brings civility

Contributors being paid and representing companies bring a level of professionalism and courtesy, some even have internal training for expected conduct in public projects

As more traditional professionals join with diverse backgrounds, there's less resistance to Code of Conducts

# Donate

If you're short on time, you can donate money to a non-profit in the open source space

- An open source project directly
- An organization using open source
- An organization supporting the ideals and legal side of open source
- A program supporting minorities in open source

**Thank you!**

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