

Opening the Public Sector to the future

Amanda Brock, CEO, OpenUK

Transform, Bern, 8 May 2024



Home » Open Source Codes and the Challenge of the SDGs: An UNTIL Interview with Amanda Brock

Open Source Codes and the Challenge of the SDGs: An UNTIL Interview with Amanda Brock



The question of how least developed countries can access expensive computer software has long vexed the UN. At the same time, even private sector companies sympathetic to the Sustainable Development Goals have been reluctant to share the secrets of their closed-source software. To find a solution to this problem recently UNTIL established an Advisory Group composed of outside experts and chaired by Amanda Brock.

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Open Standards Board

The Open Standards Board works with the Cabinet Office and is accountable for transparent selection and implementation of open standards.

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- [Membership](#)
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- [Contact details](#)

computing™ IT LEADERS 100

The definitive ranking of the UK's foremost technology professionals 2023

 THECHANNELCO.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
|  <p>Julian Bond
Head of ICT
Hillarys
View Profile</p> |  <p>Christopher Booth
CTO
Odgers Berndtson
View Profile</p> |  <p>Jorge Bordona García
CIO EMEA-APAC
Experian
View Profile</p> |  <p>Charl Brits
Group CISO
Laing O'Rourke
View Profile</p> |
|  <p>Amanda Brock
CEO
OpenUK
View Profile</p> |  <p>Annette Brown
Head of IT
Milbank LLP
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Head of Information Security
Next
View Profile</p> |  <p>Andy Caddy
Group CIO
PureGym
View Profile</p> |





A Panel Discussion

OPEN SOURCE LAW, POLICY AND PRACTICE BOOK PANEL



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Open UK



Jilayne Lovejoy
Red Hat



Kate Stewart
The Linux Foundation



Nithya Ruff
Amazon



Pamela Chestek
Chestek Legal



Karen Sandler
Software Freedom Conservancy





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Chair of the
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Director



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Tim Telford
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Policy Officer



Andrew Martin
Chief Information
Security Officer



Chaw Thant
Marketing Intern



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Jones**
Chief Blueprint
Officer



Chris Eastham
Chief Legal
Officer



Chris Howard
Chief Learning
Officer



Iain G Mitchell
QC
Honorary QC



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Recruitment
Officer



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Chief Research
Officer



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Company
Secretary



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Chief Meet Up
Officer



John Bernard
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Advisor



Katie Gamanji
Chief Future
Founder



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Sustainability
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Project Manager
Lead



Matt Barker
Entrepreneur in
Residence

Leadership



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Chief Financial
Officer



Mike Bursell
Advisory Board
Facilitator



Nico Vibert
Chief DEI Officer



Robert Carolina
Chief Security
Policy Officer



Rochelle Farmer
General Counsel



Serena Ricci
Comms Manager
Learning



Shaz Ali
Chief Technology
Officer



Simon Muskett
Chief
Facilitation
Officer



Sonia Cooper
Data Lead



**Srikrishna 'Kris'
Sharma**
Chief Partnership
Officer



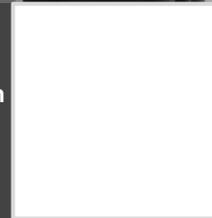
Tom Meadows
Chief Apprentice
Ambassador



Tiana Lea
Photographer



Zin Nwe Zaw Lwin
Graphic Designer



**Community
Support Manager
Open Position
(paid)**

Ambassadors



Alistair Hay
Ambassador



Anais Urlichs
Ambassador



Andre Maia Chagas
Ambassador



Andrei Cioaca
Ambassador



Andy Piper
Ambassador



Ashleigh Monagle
Ambassador



Ashley Nicolson
Ambassador



Ben Whitfield-Heap
Ambassador



Carla Gaggini
Ambassador



Charlie Hull
Ambassador



Cheryl Hung
Ambassador



Chris Kranz
Ambassador



Chris Simmonds
Ambassador



Chris Howard
Ambassador



Danny Abukalam
Ambassador

Ambassadors



David Burns
Ambassador



Dominique Top
Ambassador



Eddie May
Ambassador



Fiona Nielsen
Ambassador



Giuseppe Sollazzo
Ambassador



Hannah Foxwell
Ambassador



Henry Nash
Ambassador



Ian Watt
Ambassador



Ingo Weiss
Ambassador



Jai Campbell
Ambassador



Jason Evans
Ambassador



Jon Seager
Ambassador



Jordi Mon Companys
Ambassador



Julieta Arancio
Ambassador



Justin Cormack
Ambassador



Kunal Kushwaha
Ambassador

Ambassadors



Laura Czajkowski
Ambassador



Marc Cluet
Ambassador



Mark Baker
Ambassador



Mark Dansie
Ambassador



Marko Bevc
Ambassador



Michael Cade
Ambassador



Michał Poręba
Ambassador



Mo Ladha
Ambassador



Neil McGovern
Ambassador



Nick Jones
Ambassador



Nicki Watt
Ambassador



Nigel Abbott
Ambassador



Nikita Koselev
Ambassador



Paula Kennedy
Ambassador



Phil Weir
Ambassador



Phil Griffiths
Ambassador

Ambassadors



Ruth Cheesley
Ambassador



Sonya Moisset
Ambassador



Tara Stella
Ambassador



Wendy Ng
Ambassador



Will Hall
Ambassador

Apprentice Ambassadors



Tom Meadows
Chief Apprentice
Ambassador



Nelson Batsford
Apprentice
Ambassador



**Santosh Kumar
Perumal**
Apprentice
Ambassador



**Revana Siddesh
Bathi**
Admiral Group Plc,
Cardiff



Yamini Holla
Lead Engineer,
Lloyds Banking
Group

International Ambassadors



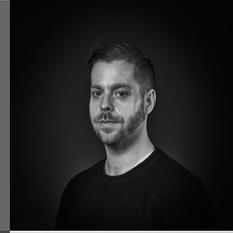
Alois Reitbauer
International
Ambassador



Bart Farrell
International
Ambassador



Blessed Tabvirwa
International
Ambassador



Chris Lloyd-Jones
International
Ambassador



Floor Drees
International
Ambassador



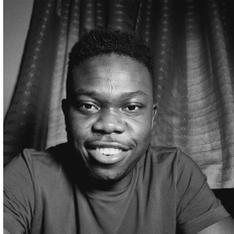
Max Körbächer
International
Ambassador



Paul Statham
International
Ambassador



Paolo Vecchi
International
Ambassador



Samson Goddy
International
Ambassador



Sal Kimmich
Director of Open
Source, Escher
Coud



Steve Helvie
International
Ambassador



Vicky Brasseur
International
Ambassador

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Member



Laura Czajkowski
Member



Emma Thwaites
Judge



Hannah Foxwell
Judge



Nico Vibert
Judge

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Chris Howard
Chief Learning
Officer



Amanda Brock
Member



Gethin James
Member



Pamela Boal
Member



Nick Bryan
Member



Paul Taylor
Member



Serena Ricci
Comms Manager
Learning

Legal Working Group



Chris Eastham
Chief Legal Officer



Adrian Keward
Member



Amanda Brock
Member



Andrew Katz
Member



Anne Todd
Member



Charlotte Lee
Member



Iain Mitchell
Honorary KC
Member



**Professor Ian
Walden**
Member

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James Lovegrove
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Magdalena Rzaca
Member



Olivia Johansson
Member



Robert Carolina
Member



Rochelle Farmer
Member



Sami Atabani
Member



Toby Crick
Member

Museum Working Group



Amanda Brock
Member



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Matt Jarvis
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Phil Weir
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Lex Roberts
Member



Stuart Mackintosh
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Corporate
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Advisor



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Defence
Consultancy
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- The Tony Blair
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Communications
& Public Affairs,
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Andrew Martin
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Security Officer



Guy Podjarny
Member



Dr Jacqui Taylor
Member



Justin Cormack
Member



Robert Carolina
Chief Security
Policy Officer



Sal Kimmich
Member



Sonya Moisset
Member

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**Anil
Madhavapeddy**
Member



Cristian Parrino
Member



**Professor Eleanor
Shaw, OBE, MA.,
PhD., FRSA**
Member



Elizabeth Allkins
Member



Laura Sandys CBE
Member



Lonneke Driessen
Member



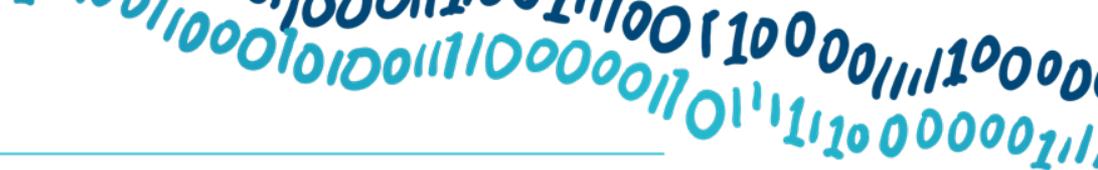
Lucy Yu
Member



Max Schulze
Member



Leanne Kemp
Chief Sustainability
Officer



Building a Cohesive Community with a voice

- Ambassador Program
- International Ambassadors Launched 2022
- Apprentice Ambassadors Launched 2023
- 5th Annual Awards - launch April 2024 - House of Lords
- Past Events - IWD 22 House of Lords with Baroness Kennedy and Afghan Judges and 2023 BT Tower
- MeetUps – launched in London in 2023 and in Scotland, Cardiff and Bristol 2024
- 4th New Year’s Honours List – Influencers and Future Leaders each year
- Honours List party hosted by Digital Catapult for London Tech Week 2023
- Showcasing the UK’s Leadership wherever possible whilst collaborating globally, eg in our Reports
- State of Open Con 24 - 900 plus in person registrations, 89% attendance, almost 50% not white and over 40% of speakers female
- Gave away 100 free tickets for each of community, students and unemployed



Open:UK HONOURS

open.uk/2022HonoursList
#openukgennext #openukhonouree

2022 OpenUK Honours List

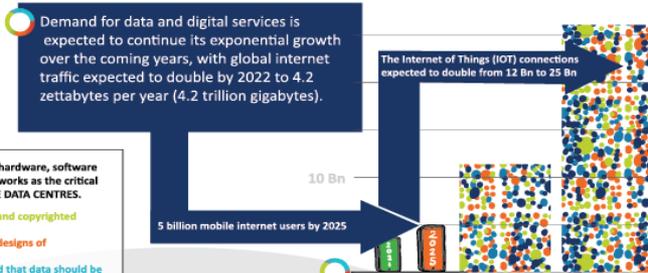
OpenUK is pleased to share its New Year's Honours List for 2022 celebrating the future generations of Open Technology in the UK



Influencing Legal and Policy to make sure the UK is a great place to do Open

- Review of new laws and policy, respond to consultations - quoted in House of Lords LLM Report
- Day One Member Gaia-X – UK Hub coordinator
- NHS Research and Report 2022
- State of Open: The UK in 2021 - 2024 - first organisation to do value based economics of open source
- COP26 follow up - Blueprint for EV Charging and Societal Value Metrics, 2nd Open Technology for Sustainability Day 14 September 2023 openuk.uk/sustainability
- Energy Catapult – open source support and mentoring in 2023
- 2nd Thought Leadership Day London September 2024
- State of Open Con 2025 - 4 and 5 February in planning
- House of Commons event January 2024 and more planned
- Open Manifesto being shared for Sign up
- 12 refreshed Advisory Boards including Finance being announced in April/ May

An open source blueprint for the CARBON NEGATIVE DATA CENTRE based on the three opens - open source software, open hardware and open data



Adoption of an open technology platform across hardware, software and data (3 Opens) and carbon accounting frameworks as the critical backbone in enabling circular, CARBON NEGATIVE DATA CENTRES.

Open source software enables release of licenced and copyrighted source code;

Open Source hardware enables the release of the designs of tangible artifacts;

Open Data relies on the notion of transparency and that data should be freely available to everyone.

All rely on the principles of collaboration and public benefit which is key to an effective circular economy.

For ICT, the answer is in wholly circular, CARBON NEGATIVE DATA CENTRES based on the 3 Opens of Technology (open source software, open hardware and open data)

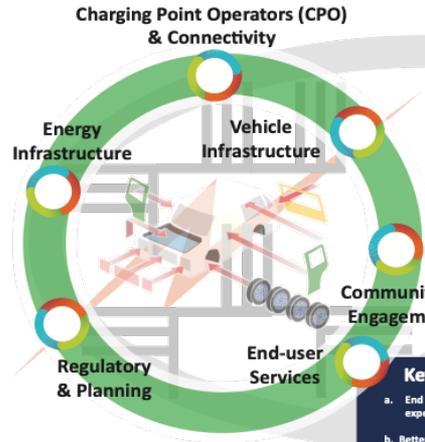
OpenUK has formed a diverse, international consortium to develop a blueprint for the CARBON NEGATIVE DATA CENTRE

We would love the opportunity to share this blueprint at COP26 as an engaging and dynamic Computer Aided Design (CAD) model that will take industry, government, and prosumer participants on a journey which educates them on the true environmental cost of a data centre



Components (not sub-components) for Sustainable EV Charging

An Open Technology blueprint for sustainable EV Charging infrastructure standardising Open Source Hardware, Open Hardware and Open Data components to create beneficial environmental impacts and improved Sustainability



Scope

1. An Open Technology blueprint listing the key components of an EV Charging ecosystem grounded in sustainability, providing a clear and concise overview of the community's goals and objectives for electric vehicle charging sustainability.
 - a. Each component will describe sub-components with the approach, the potential impact of adopting the approach, and related resources.
 - b. The blueprint should identify key stakeholders in electric vehicle charging sustainability and their respective roles and responsibilities
 - c. The blueprint should outline the community's approach to electric vehicle charging sustainability, including key strategies, initiatives, and programs.
 - d. The blueprint should identify key metrics for measuring progress and success in electric vehicle charging sustainability.

Stakeholder Mapping



Key themes

- a. End user experience
- b. Better use of energy and infrastructure
- c. People and community
- d. Organisation and standards

Aims based on stakeholder feedback



PEOPLE
PROCESS & GOVERNANCE
OPEN TECHNOLOGY



OpenUK Future Leaders' Public Procurement Review
Levelling the playing field

Open:UK 



State of Open: The UK in 2021
Phase One
March 2021

Open:UK 



State of Open: The UK in 2021
Phase Two:
UK Adoption
7 July 2021

Open:UK 



State of Open: The UK in 2021
Phase Three
The Values of Open
October 2021

Open:UK 





Open:UK's Open Manifesto

1. Develop Future UK Tech Sector Skills through Open Source Contribution
2. Enhance utilisation of Open Source across the UK Public Sector
3. Enable AI Openness

#OpenManifesto





Building Learning in Open Technology

Achieved:

- Annual Kids' Competition 2021-2022
- Runner Up Gnome Foundation Community Challenge
- Future Leaders Training
- SOOCon23 and SOOCon24
- Future Founders - 8 workshops led by Founders Forum
- CEO Book - Open Source Law, Policy and Practice published by OUP and open access, <https://amandabrock.com/books/>

2024 focus:

- Kids Camp refresh aligned to microbit give away from microbit foundation
- University – Partnership on business of open source and MOOC (massive open online course) in planning
- Curriculum – working on GCSE and Scottish equivalent - ongoing





 **OpenUK Kids Camp**
<https://openuk.uk/openkidscamp/> #openkidscamp

Sponsored by



Camp 2 Episode 1



Camp 2 Episode 2





Future Founders Training

Kicking off 2022 with world class training for Future Founders, the Founders Forum will be leading a course and mentoring program for Future Founders from January 2022. Led by the Entrepreneur in Residence OpenUK's Founders Forum is a group of UK based Founders, former founders, potential founders and senior business people experienced in businesses based on Open Technology who wish to support the founding and scaling of the UK's Open Technology based businesses. The recordings

- **21 January** – Session 1 – **Why found an Open Source Business?**
- **28 January** – Session 2 – **Open Source Product Market Fit / Developing a Product**
- **4 February** – Session 3 – **Corporate Structure, licensing and IP for Open Tech Businesses**
- **25 February** – Session 4 – **Sales in Open Source Businesses**
- **4 March** – Session 5 – **Revenue Generation and Models**
- **11 March** – Session 6 – **Raising and Runway in Open Tech Businesses**
- **1 April** – Session 7 – **Community and DevRel in Open Tech**
- **13 May** – Session 8 – **People, Hiring and Scaling**

Recordings have been made available for anyone who could not join.

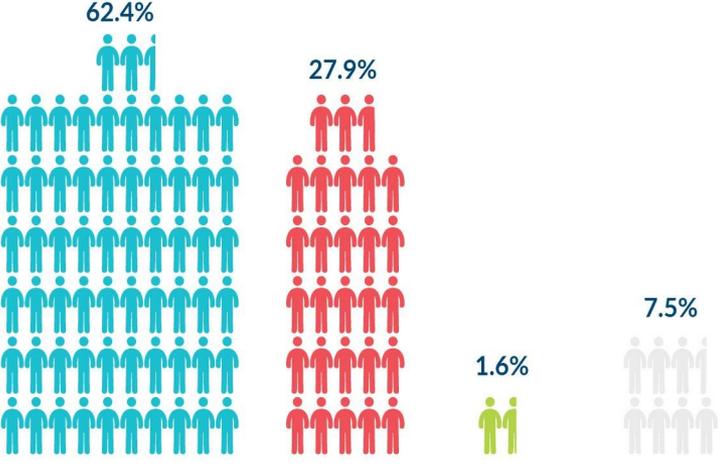


STATE OF OPEN
CON 23

www.stateofopencon.com



What gender do you most identify with?



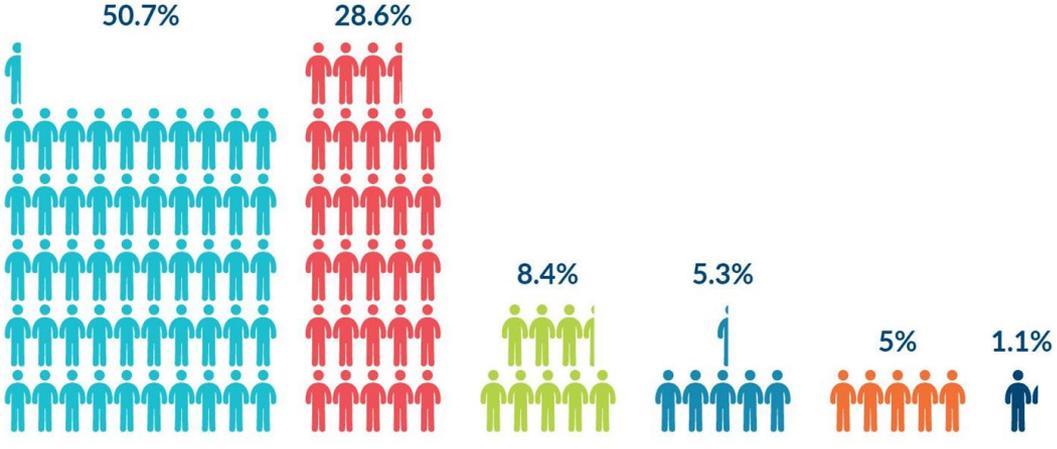
Male

Female

Non-binary

Prefer not to say

What is your ethnicity?



White, Caucasian

Asian

Black/African/Caribbean

Other Ethnic Group

Mixed/Multiple Ethnicities

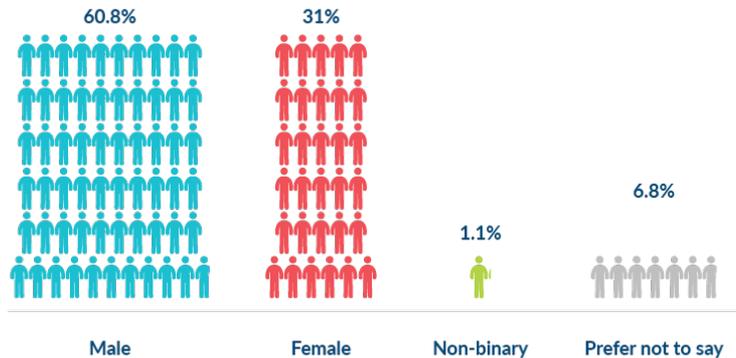
Arab

STATE OF OPEN
CON[®] 24

6 and 7 February
The Brewery, London

Attendee Demographics SOOCon24

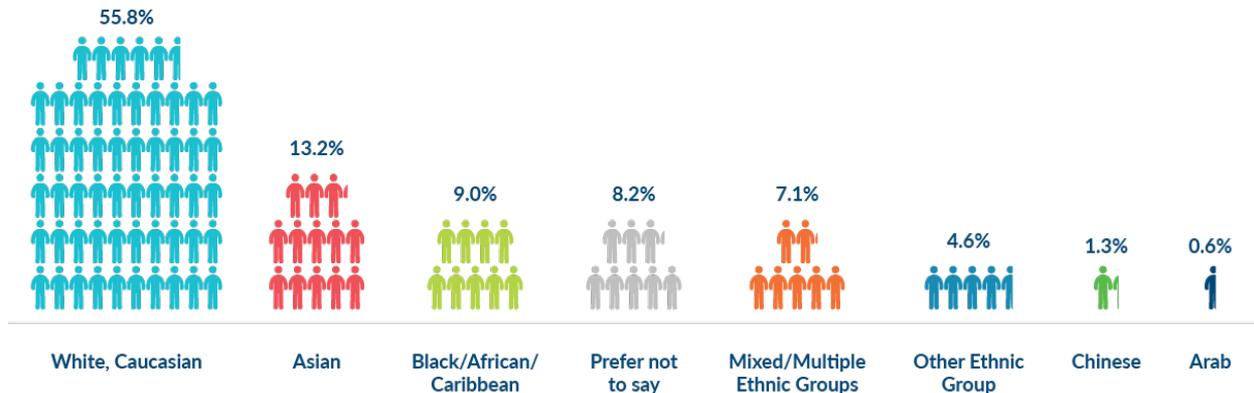
What gender do you most identify with?



Do you identify as neurodiverse?



What is your ethnicity?



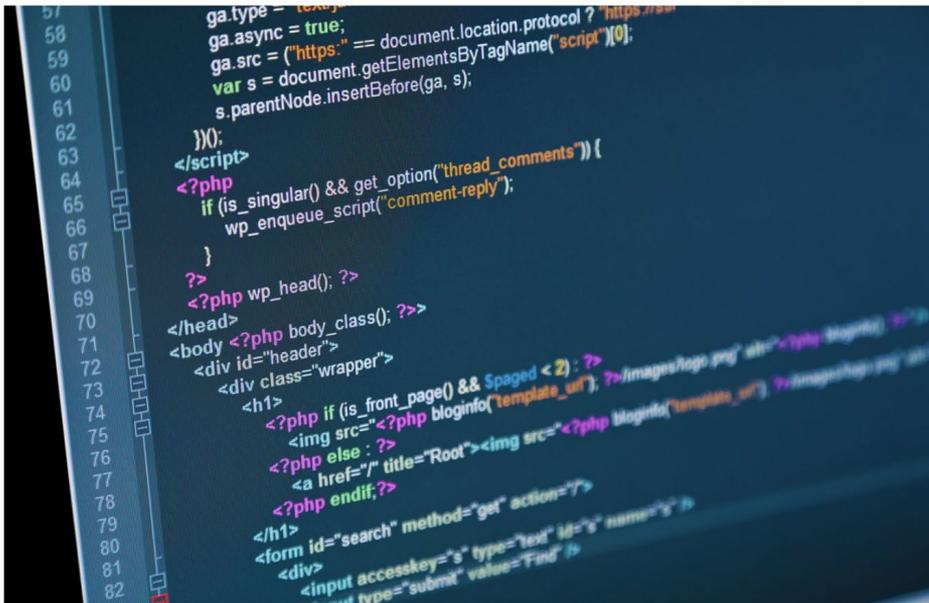
STATE OF OPEN
CON[®] 25

4-5 February 2025
Southbank, London

The Digital Economy and Open Source

What is open source, and why does it matter today?

February 8, 2022



```
57 ga.type = text;
58 ga.async = true;
59 ga.src = ("https:" == document.location.protocol ? "https://www"
60 var s = document.getElementsByTagName("script")[0];
61 s.parentNode.insertBefore(ga, s);
62
63 });
64 </script>
65 <?php
66 if (is_singular() && get_option("thread_comments")) {
67     wp_enqueue_script("comment-reply");
68 }
69 <?php wp_head(); ?>
70 </head>
71 <body <?php body_class(); ?>
72 <div id="header">
73     <div class="wrapper">
74         <h1>
75             <?php if (is_front_page() && Spaged < 2) : ?>
76                 " />
77             <?php else : ?>
78                 <a href="/" title="Root">" />
79             <?php endif; ?>
80         </h1>
81         <form id="search" method="get" action="?">
82             <div>
83                 <input accesskey="s" type="text" id="s" name="s" />
84                 <input type="submit" value="Find" />
85             </div>
86         </div>
87     </div>
88 </div>
```

<https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/open-source-technology/129261/>

The Open Source Definition

Page created on July 7, 2006 | Last modified on February 16, 2024

Introduction

Open source doesn't just mean access to the source code. The distribution terms of open source software must comply with the following criteria:

1. Free Redistribution

The license shall not restrict any party from selling or giving away the software as a component of an aggregate software distribution containing programs from several different sources. The license shall not require a royalty or other fee for such sale.

2. Source Code

The program must include source code, and must allow distribution in source code as well as compiled form. Where some form of a product is not distributed with source code, there must be a well-publicized means of obtaining the source code for no more than a reasonable reproduction cost, preferably downloading via the Internet without charge. The source code must be the preferred form in which a programmer would modify the program. Deliberately obfuscated source code is not allowed. Intermediated forms such as the output of a preprocessor or translator are not allowed.

3. Derived Works

The license must allow modifications and derived works, and must allow them to be distributed under the same terms as the license of the original software.

4. Integrity of The Author's Source Code

The license may restrict source-code from being distributed in modified form *only* if the license allows the distribution of "patch files" with the source code for the purpose of modifying the program at build time. The license must explicitly permit distribution of software built from modified source code. The license may require derived works to carry a different name or version number from the original software.

5. No Discrimination Against Persons or Groups

The license must not discriminate against any person or group of persons.

6. No Discrimination Against Fields of Endeavor

The license must not restrict anyone from making use of the program in a specific field of endeavor. For example, it may not restrict the program from being used in a business, or from being used for genetic research.

7. Distribution of License

The rights attached to the program must apply to all to whom the program is redistributed without the need for execution of an additional license by those parties.

8. License Must Not Be Specific to a Product

The rights attached to the program must not depend on the program's being part of a particular software distribution. If the program is extracted from that distribution and used or distributed within the terms of the program's license, all parties to whom the program is redistributed should have the same rights as those that are granted in conjunction with the original software distribution.

9. License Must Not Restrict Other Software

The license must not place restrictions on other software that is distributed along with the licensed software. For example, the license must not insist that all other programs distributed on the same medium must be open source software.

10. License Must Be Technology-Neutral

No provision of the license may be predicated on any individual technology or style of interface.

The Open Source Definition was originally derived from the [Debian Free Software Guidelines](#) (DFSG).

Version 1.9, last modified, 2007-03-22

<https://opensource.org/osd>

Gen One
Linux

Gen Two
Kubernetes

Gen Three
AI and Future



Tech Decision Making: The Rise of the Developer

Developers and technologists are increasingly being given a "seat at the table" and forming peer relationships with executives regarding enterprise technology investments.

IW Guest Commentary
Guest Commentary

November 27, 2020



Git was originally authored by Linus Torvalds in 2005 for development of the Linux kernel, with other kernel developers contributing to its initial development. Since 2005, Junio Hamano has been the core maintainer.

Repository: git.kernel.org/pub/scm/git/git.git

Original author(s): [Linus Torvalds](#)

Operating system: POSIX (Linux, macOS, Sola...

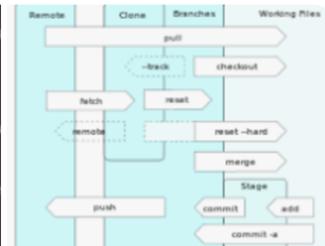
Initial release: 7 April 2005; 17 years ago

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Git>

[Git - Wikipedia](#)

```

$ git init
Initialized empty Git repository in /tmp/tep.I8BYSY7/
$ cat > README << 'EOF'
> EOF
$ git add README
$ git commit
[master (root-commit) e4dcc69] You can edit locally
to any remote.
1 file changed, 1 insertion(+)
 create mode 100644 README
$ git remote add origin git@github.com:cdwn/thats.g
$ git push -u origin master
  
```







UK GitHub Accounts 2023



Figure 1. UK GitHub Accounts 2023
Source: GitHub

France's improving position

Open:UK



interoperable
europe

Interoperable Europe

Solutions

Support Centre

Sign in

Get started



OSOR Open Source Observatory (OSOR)

Join this collection

OSOR mission

Knowledge Centre

OSOR Awards 2023

OSPOs & OSS Governance

Open Source in Cities and Regions

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France Open Source report update

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Translate

OSOR's update: Report on open source in France



Axel Thévenet

Published on: 05/07/2023

News

This article was written by our contributing author, Frida Hallin.

OSOR just published the updated version of the report on the [state of Open Source in France](#). This report is an overview of France's use and policies on open source software (OSS) as of February 2023. It showcases the evolution over the last years.

The report presents the major actors from the public sector, including, the recently created, [The Free Software Unit](#) which is driven by [Etalab](#), a department of [DINUM](#). The Free Software Unit is responsible for open source policy and leads the Open Source Software and Digital Commons Action Plan, both created in 2019. The Free Software Unit has also been part of creating the [Digital Republic Bill](#) which created the 'open by default' principle for data within the French government.

Besides the Free Software Unit this report also presents the newly created [Free Software Council](#) (Conseil logiciels libres). This council was created by DINUM in 2022 and aims to be a space that brings together the public actors that are committed to the use and development of free software and the representatives of associations and initiatives that represent companies, local governments and citizens. In this setting DINUM and its members can share expertise that can support DINUM in formulating strategies for the future.

In addition to major actors this report also includes two of the most recent policy milestones around OSS for France. First, the [Open Source Software and Digital Commons Action Plan](#) published in November 2021 and led by Etalab's newly created Free Software Unit. This plan entails various objectives all aimed at fostering the use of open source in public administrations. And secondly the [Declaration by the French Presidency](#) of the Council of the European Union calling for a European Initiative for Digital Commons. Announced in April

Public Sector Adoption





CabinetOffice


Home Office

All about Open Source

An Introduction to Open Source Software for Government IT

Version 2.0

It is Government policy to consider open source solutions on their merits and according to total lifetime cost of ownership. Government recognises the potential benefits of Open Source Software (OSS) and is committed to increasing the adoption of open source solutions across government, where it offers best value for the taxpayer.

Covid-19 and contact tracing — an open source approach is vital



by AMANDA BROCK

|  @AMANDABROCK

|  @AMANDABROCKUK

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Well argued: 71%

Interesting points: 78%

Agree with arguments: 68%

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Updated 15 June 2022

Applies to England

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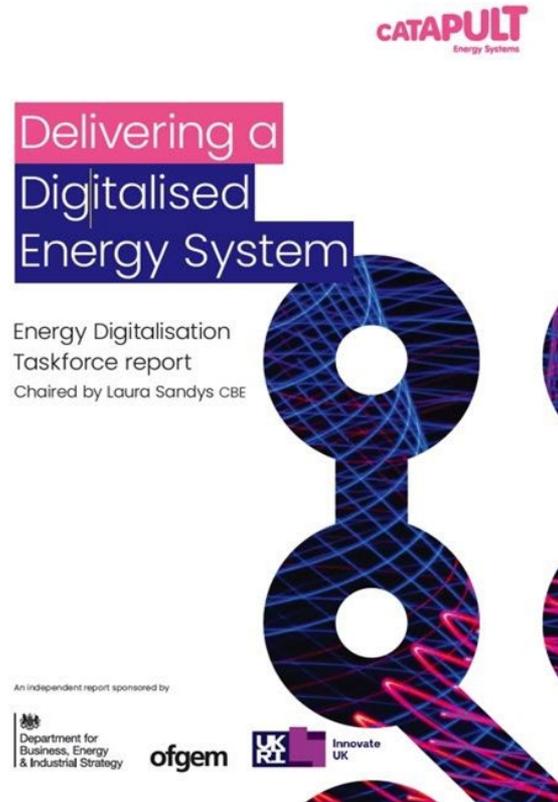
[NHS England Transformation Director foreword](#)

- [1. Improving trust in the health and care system's use of data](#)
- [2. Giving health and care](#)

Ministerial foreword

The use of NHS data was at the forefront of this country's fight against coronavirus (COVID-19), helping us to remove restrictions and return on the path to normal life.

Now that we are living with COVID-19, we must keep this momentum going, and apply it to the long-term challenges ahead of us, including tackling the COVID backlog and making the reforms that are vital to the future of health and care.



Open source software strategy

The European Commission will further encourage and leverage the transformative, innovative and collaborative potential of open source.

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Open source software strategy
2020-2023

Open source software strategy
2014-2017

EU-FOSSA - Free and Open
Source Software Auditing

Open source software strategy 2020-2023

On October 21st, the European Commission approved the new Open Source Software Strategy 2020-2023 of the Commission. This is an important step towards achieving the goals of the overarching [Digital Strategy of the Commission](#) and contributing to the Digital Europe programme.

The internal strategy, under the theme "Think Open", sets out a vision for encouraging and leveraging the transformative, innovative and collaborative power of open source, its principles and development practices. It promotes the sharing and reuse of software solutions, knowledge and expertise, to deliver better European services that benefit society and lower costs to that society. The Commission commits to increasing its use of open source not only in practical areas such as IT, but also in areas where it can be strategic.



3 NOVEMBER 2020

Open source software strategy 2020-2023

English

(631.17 KB - PDF)

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The European Public Sector Open Source Opportunity

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While the EU increasingly recognizes the value of open source, the public sector is still behind in embracing open source software, with little contribution to the ecosystem and policymaking that inhibits its potential. This report examines the present-day trends, challenges, and opportunities for OSS adoption in this sector, emphasizing the need for a cultural shift in order for open source to reach its full potential in Europe.

Synthesizing case studies and interviews with subject matter experts, the report lays out resources to encourage greater public sector adoption, engagement, and participation. Read more about the needs and recommendations for the sector in the full report.



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Why do Governments want open source

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Vendor lock-in

19 languages ▼

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In *economics*, **vendor lock-in**, also known as **proprietary lock-in** or **customer lock-in**, makes a customer dependent on a *vendor* for *products*, unable to use another vendor without substantial *switching costs*.

The use of *open standards* and alternative options makes systems tolerant of change, so that decisions can be postponed until more information is available or unforeseen events are addressed. Vendor lock-in does the opposite: it makes it difficult to move from one solution to another.

Lock-in costs that create *barriers to market entry* may result in *antitrust* action against a *monopoly*.

Lock-in types [edit]

Monopolistic	Collective	Popular term
No	No	—
	Yes	Technology lock-in
Yes	No	Vendor lock-in
	Yes	

Monopolistic

Whether a single vendor controls the market for the method or technology being locked in to. Distinguishes between being locked to the mere technology, or specifically the vendor of it.

This class of lock-in is potentially technologically hard to overcome if the monopoly is held up by barriers to market that are nontrivial to circumvent, such as patents, secrecy, cryptography or other technical hindrances.

Collective

Whether individuals are locked in collectively, in part through each other. Economically, there is a *cost to resist* the locally dominant choice, as if by friction between individuals. In a mathematical model of differential equations, disregarding *discreteness* of individuals, this is a *distributed parameter*

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[Open Source](#) [Policy](#)

Open source creates value, but how do you measure it?

When digital infrastructure is overlooked by governments, it isn't just a missed opportunity: policies may inadvertently endanger open source collaboration.



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Congratulations Dnsmasq for winning the very first BlueHats award

nlnet.nl/news/2024/20240418-BL...

BlueHats prizes is an initiative by the French Interministerial Digital Directorate. They are awarded to maintainers of critical free and open source projects. In 2024 four prizes of € 10 000 each will be given out

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Challenges to the Future of Open Source

Forbes

Jan 26, 2022, 08:30am EST | 103 views

Dispelling The Most Widespread Myths About Open-Source Software



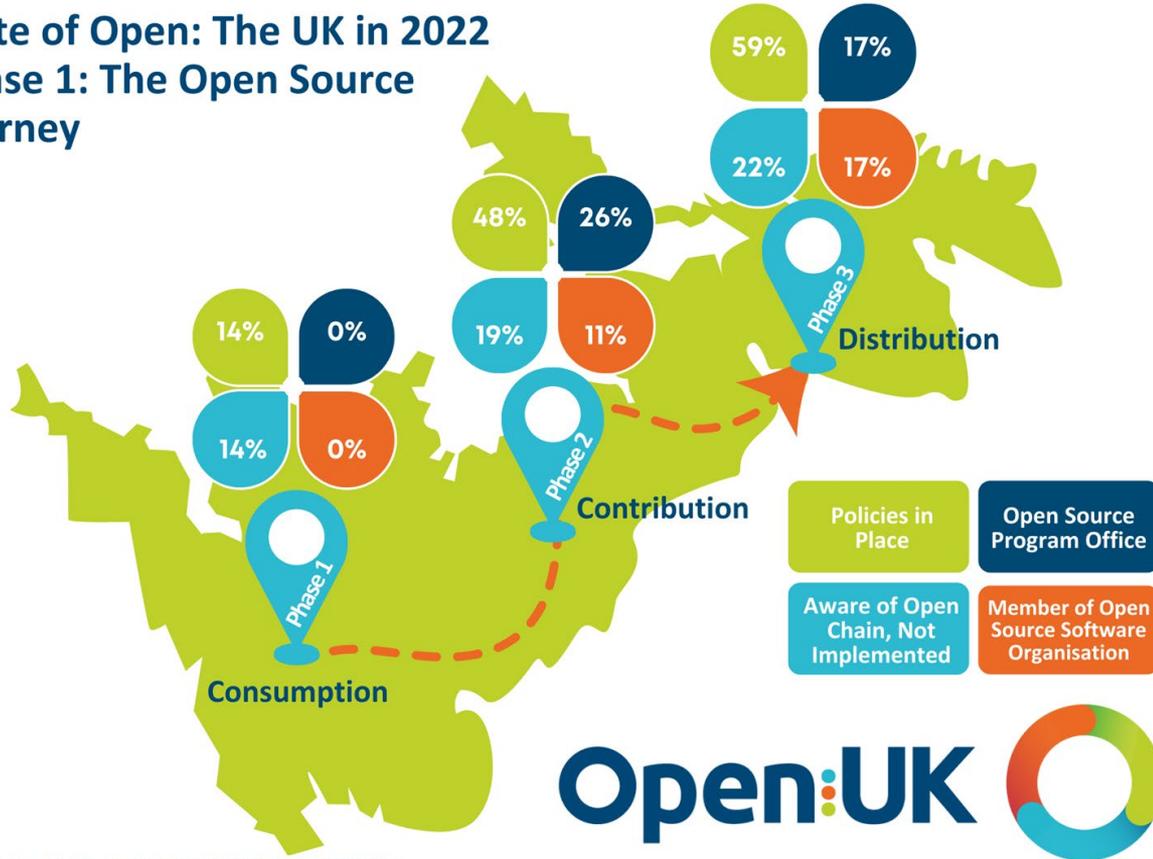
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f *CEO of BellSoft, accomplished expert in Java technology and IT leadership with 10+ years of experience.*





State of Open: The UK in 2022 Phase 1: The Open Source Journey



DEEPImpact

Bern's mayor says "sorry" for Base4kids debacle

AUTHOR

By [Keystone-sda / Thomas Schwendener](#), April 29, 2022 at 1:23 p.m

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POLITICS ECONOMY E-GOVERNMENT BASE4KIDS HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



Alec von Graffenried, the mayor of Bern, in 2019. Photo: Parliamentary Services 3003 Bern

The city council debated the failed 27 million project. One line of conflict is open source software vs. Microsoft applications.



Thomas Schwendener

Editor

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Doubling down on open, Part II

By [Shay Banon](#)

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HashiCorp adopts Business Source License

HashiCorp adopts the Business Source License to ensure continued investment in its community and to continue providing open, freely available products.

AUG 10 2023 | [ARMON DADGAR](#)

When Mitchell and I founded HashiCorp, we made the decision to make our products open source because of a few key beliefs:

- We believe strongly in freely available source code to make it easy for practitioners to freely download, inspect source code, and solve their own problems.
- We believe in building an ecosystem and community around our products to enable broad integrations.
- We believe in the importance of transparency for our users.

Open Source Needs Maintainers. But How Can They Get Paid?

The world runs on code maintained largely by an army of unpaid hobbyists. It's not sustainable. Who's trying to change that?

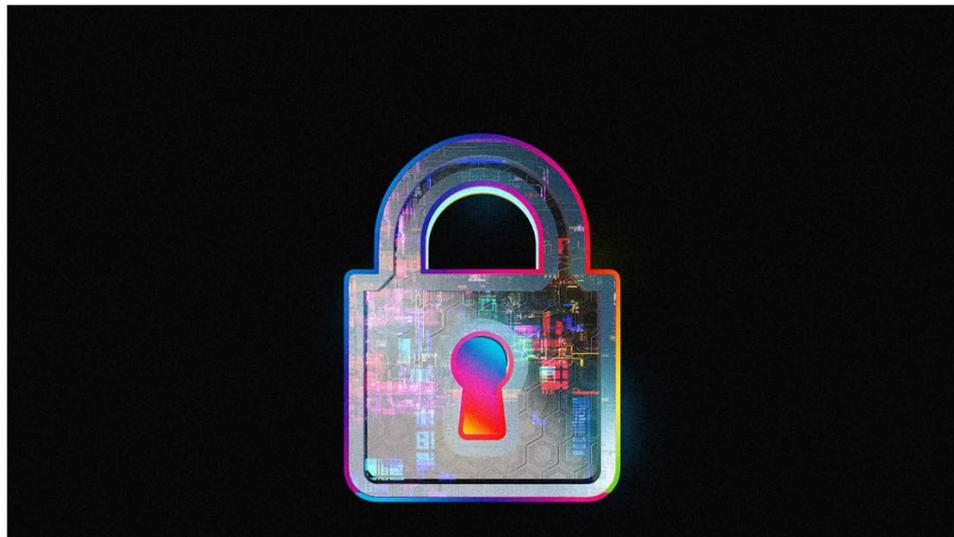
Sep 6th, 2023 3:00am by [Heather Joslyn](#)



DAN GOODIN, ARS TECHNICA SECURITY APR 2, 2024 4:00 AM

The XZ Backdoor: Everything You Need to Know

Details are starting to emerge about a stunning supply chain attack that sent the open source software community reeling.





XZ Utils cyberattack likely not an isolated incident

By Robin Bender Ginn, Executive Director, OpenJS Foundation; and Omkhar Arasaratnam, General Manager, Open Source Security Foundation



Log4j hearing: 'open source is not the problem'

Cisco, Palo Alto, Apache executives look at Log4j vulnerability responses, and the likelihood of future issues.



Michael Cooney (Network World)

10 February, 2022 08:00



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Biden orders Software Bill of Materials to boost cybersecurity. AdvaMed wants uniform standards.

Published May 21, 2021

 **Greg Slabodkin**
Senior Editor

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Administration | **Priorities** | The Record

MARCH 02, 2021

FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces National Cybersecurity Strategy

 | [BRIEFING ROOM](#) | [STATEMENTS AND RELEASES](#)

[Read the full strategy here](#) ↗

Today, the Biden-Harris Administration released the National Cybersecurity Strategy to secure the full benefits of a safe and secure digital ecosystem for all Americans. In this decisive decade, the United States will reimagine cyberspace as a tool to achieve our goals in a way that reflects our values: economic security and prosperity; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; trust in our democracy and democratic institutions; and an equitable and diverse society. To realize this vision, we must make fundamental shifts in how the United States allocates roles, responsibilities, and resources in cyberspace.

1. We must **rebalance the responsibility to defend cyberspace** by shifting the burden for cybersecurity away from individuals, small businesses, and

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3.3: SHIFT LIABILITY FOR INSECURE SOFTWARE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Markets impose inadequate costs on—and often reward—those entities that introduce vulnerable products or services into our digital ecosystem. Too many vendors ignore best practices for secure development, ship products with insecure default configurations or known vulnerabilities, and integrate third-party software of unvetted or unknown provenance. Software makers are able to leverage their market position to fully disclaim liability by contract, further reducing their incentive to follow secure-by-design principles or perform pre-release testing. Poor software security greatly increases systemic risk across the digital ecosystem and leave American citizens bearing the ultimate cost.

We must begin to shift liability onto those entities that fail to take reasonable precautions to secure their software while recognizing that even the most advanced software security programs cannot

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY STRATEGY

20

★★★★★

prevent all vulnerabilities. Companies that make software must have the freedom to innovate, but they must also be held liable when they fail to live up to the duty of care they owe consumers, businesses, or critical infrastructure providers. Responsibility must be placed on the stakeholders most capable of taking action to prevent bad outcomes, not on the end-users that often bear the consequences of insecure software nor on the open-source developer of a component that is integrated into a commercial product. Doing so will drive the market to produce safer products and services while preserving innovation and the ability of startups and other small- and medium-sized businesses to compete against market leaders.

The Administration will work with Congress and the private sector to develop legislation establishing liability for software products and services. Any such legislation should prevent manufacturers and software publishers with market power from fully disclaiming liability by contract, and establish higher standards of care for software in specific high-risk scenarios. To begin to shape standards of care for secure software development, the Administration will drive the development of an adaptable safe harbor framework to shield from liability companies that securely develop and maintain their software products and services. This safe harbor will draw from current best practices for secure software development, such as the NIST Secure Software Development Framework. It also must make good time investments now to build secure software

Shaping Europe's digital future

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POLICY AND LEGISLATION | Publication 15 September 2022

Cyber Resilience Act

The proposal for a regulation on cybersecurity requirements for products with digital elements, known as the Cyber Resilience Act, bolsters cybersecurity rules to ensure more secure hardware and software products.

Hardware and software products are increasingly subject to successful cyberattacks, leading to an estimated global annual cost of cybercrime of €5.5 trillion by 2021.

Such products suffer from two major problems adding costs for users and the society:

1. a low level of cybersecurity, reflected by widespread vulnerabilities and the insufficient and inconsistent provision of security updates to address them, and
2. an insufficient understanding and access to information by users, preventing them from choosing products with adequate cybersecurity properties or using them in a secure manner.

While existing internal market legislation applies to certain products with digital elements, most of the hardware and software products are currently not covered by any EU legislation tackling their cybersecurity. In particular, the current EU legal framework does not address the cybersecurity of



Related topics

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Policy paper

Call for views on software resilience and security for businesses and organisations

This publication seeks views on the cyber security risks of software used by businesses and organisations, and where government should seek to mitigate them.

Product Liability Directive: More Bad News for Open Source

In my previous two [blog posts](#) I discussed concerns with the European Cyber Resilience Act ("CRA") which we believe will harm both the open source community and the innovation economy in Europe. But the CRA needs to be understood as part of a larger legislative framework. In this post we will examine the potential impact of the proposed changes to the European [Product Liability Directive](#) ("PLD") on the open source community and ecosystem.

As in previous discussions I think it is important to note that the intentions of the PLD are good. No one can argue that the time has come to protect consumers from poor software. But at the same time, it is important to ensure that the consumer liability obligations are borne by the economic actors who deliver products and services to consumers, and not by the open source community which enables so much benefit to society by providing free software but does not share in the profits of the delivery.

As I understand it, the purpose of the CRA is to establish which parties are *responsible* for ensuring the quality of software products, particularly as it relates to cybersecurity. The purpose of the PLD is to establish which parties are *liable* for defects which cause harm to individuals or their property. So strictly speaking, my assertion in my previous blog posts that the CRA will break the limited liability obligations that underpins free software was incorrect. It is the PLD which is doing that.

The European Commission presented a draft of the revisions to the PLD last September, and it is going through the process of being adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. As a Directive, the PLD will be interpreted by each member state of the European Union and applied to updates of the local laws in each country. The specific intent of these revisions are to update the PLD of 1985 to address issues related to the modern digital economy. One of the key features of the PLD is its "no fault liability" model where injured parties can seek redress without demonstrating any error or fault on the part of the product manufacturer. The proposed revision explicitly expands the scope of no fault liability to cover software and artificial intelligence, and adds "loss or corruption of data" as a harm that could be suffered by a consumer.

There are numerous legal summaries of the PLD available, but [this one](#) from the law firm Baker Mackenzie provides a nice overview, as does [this one](#) from the law firm Cooley.

It has long been understood that product liability could not be completely waived by open source licenses in Europe. Hence, the "...to the extent permissible by law..." statements you see in many licenses. Since at least 1985, there have been strict provisions in Europe that you were always liable for harm caused to natural persons or their personal property as a result of using a defective product. From the perspective of an open source developer, the PLD extends and modernizes this legal framework in the following important ways:

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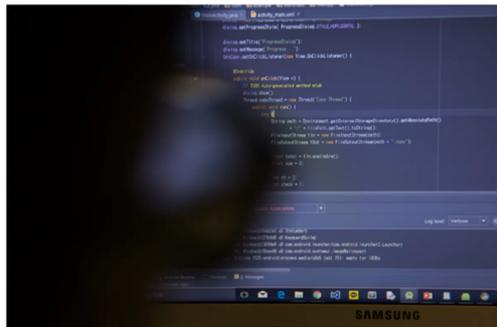
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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE / TECH / LAW

The lawsuit that could rewrite the rules of AI copyright



The key question in the lawsuit is whether open-source code can be reproduced by AI without attached licenses. Credit: Getty Images

/ Microsoft, GitHub, and OpenAI are being sued for allegedly violating copyright law by reproducing open-source code using AI. But the suit could have a huge impact on the wider world of artificial intelligence.

By [James Vincent](#), a senior reporter who has covered AI, robotics, and more for eight years at The Verge.
Nov 8, 2022, 4:09 PM GMT

[9](#) Comments (9 New)

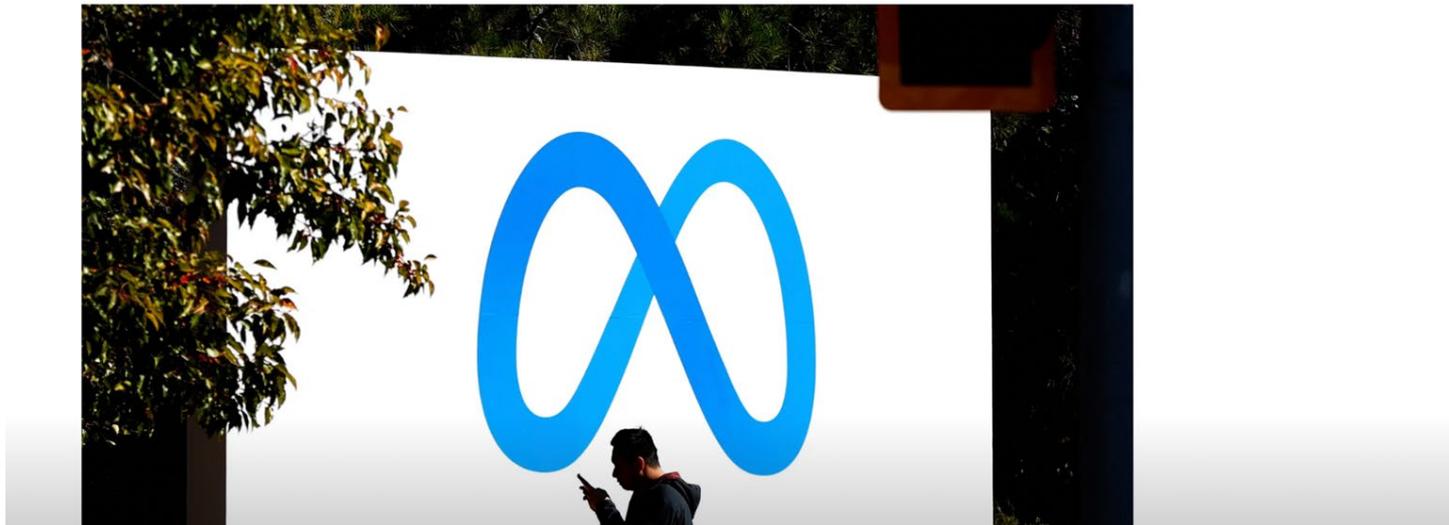
Microsoft, its subsidiary GitHub, and its business partner OpenAI have been targeted in a proposed [class action lawsuit](#) alleging that the companies' creation of AI-powered coding assistant GitHub Copilot relies on "software piracy on an unprecedented scale." The case is only in its earliest stages but could have a huge effect on the broader world of AI, where companies are making fortunes training software on copyright-protected data.

Copilot, which was [unveiled by Microsoft-owned GitHub](#) in June 2021, is trained on public repositories of code scraped from the web, many of which are published with licenses that require anyone reusing the code to credit its creators. Copilot has been found to regurgitate long sections of licensed code without providing credit — prompting this lawsuit that accuses the companies of violating copyright law on a massive scale.



The Myth of 'Open Source' AI

A new analysis shows that "open source" AI tools like Llama 2 are still controlled by big tech companies in a number of ways.





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“A market dominated by closed models presents other risks around overreliance, single points of failure and concentrated market power.”
House of Lords LLM Report 2024



Dan Milmo *Global technology editor*

Sat 25 Nov 2023 10.00 GMT

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Sacking, revolt, return: how crisis at OpenAI over Sam Altman unfolded

Firing of the CEO behind ChatGPT company sent shock waves through Silicon Valley - only for him to be reinstated days later



 Sam Altman speaks at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco, California, on 16 November. Photograph: Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images

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MEPs approve world's first comprehensive AI law

5 hours ago



By Shiona McCallum, Liv McMahon & Tom Singleton
Technology reporters

The European Parliament has approved the world's first comprehensive framework for constraining the risks of artificial intelligence (AI).

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The EU's AI Act Creates Regulatory Complexity for Open-Source AI

by Daniel Castro | March 4, 2024





Enabling an Open Future for the Public Sector

Forbes

The Future For Open Source

Adrian Bridgwater Senior Contributor 

I track enterprise software application development & data management.

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Feb 6, 2023, 07:14am EST



CEO of OpenUK Amanda Brock has called for something of a reimagining of the collective mindset ... [+] OPENUK

Software develops. By its very nature, software applications and data services of every shape, size and sub-genre typically all move forwards through ongoing iterations and version

Forbes

Busting small group mentality

We said at the start that software develops - and that includes open source software from a code content and programming point of view, but also from an engagement and organizational point of view.

Very much aware of the fact that open source is now firmly established within the realm of enterprise technology environments, CEO of OpenUK [Amanda Brock](#) has called for something of a reimagining of the collective mindset behind how we develop open technology as an industry... and perhaps, wider, as a planet.

“A challenge now posed [for us all] is that open source software development and maintenance has traditionally relied heavily on small groups of contributors with deep expertise. These small groups take care of projects, even as those projects become more critical to companies and users, so this technology is embedded in applications used by millions. This ubiquitous level of use means that - in order for that software to continue to be successful - the projects themselves end up being reliant on individuals who are not getting the levels of support that they need and deserve,” advised Brock.

Today, we know that open source communities are looking for this imbalance to be rebalanced. Speaking from her own

5.6 Curation: The Path to Trustworthy Open Source - Thought Leadership Eric Brewer, Google Fellow, Google



Although Open Source Software has been around for decades, the last decade in particular has seen explosive growth across all sectors and nearly all nations. Open source enables developers to build “on the shoulders of giants” and thus achieve rapid innovation. There are now millions of easy-to-reuse packages in many different languages that enable this innovation. As a consequence Open Source is now used widely by governments and in much of the critical infrastructure of many nations. GOV.UK, the UK government’s platform for hosting government websites, was built using Open Source and its code has been publicly available since 2012. Overall this is a great outcome: citizens and taxpayers benefit from more innovative, more efficient public services.

At the same time, Open Source delivers software “as is” – it literally comes with a licence that says the creators are not responsible for any defects, nor are the liable for any damages.. Many consumers of Open Source do not really understand “as is” and often expect a higher level of service and accountability. But this misunderstanding falls entirely on the consumer.

Conversely, most government projects have “top down” requirements and expectations that are important to creating trustworthy solutions. These requirements are in some sense in conflict with the “as is” nature of open source.

The solution to this fundamental incompatibility is “curation” – the use of an intermediary provider or contractor that provides Open Source solutions that are NOT “as is” and in fact meet the top-down

Regulators must understand open source



Open Source

**Open
Source
Software**

Proprietary

**Non Open Source
Software with Public or
Distributed Source Code**

**Closed
Source**



Closed Source

**Proprietary
Closed
Source**

Open Source

**Open Source
Software**

**Non Open Source Software
with Public or Distributed
Source Code**



Photo by Don Kaveen | <https://unsplash.com/photos/a-room-filled-with-hex-of-blue-and-purple-lights-D6KycKZ-ds>

RESEARCH REPORT

Software Reuse through Open Source Software in the Public Sector - A qualitative survey on Policy and Practice

A report commissioned by the Danish Agency for Digital Government (Digitaliseringsstyrelsen) and Local Government Denmark (KL).

RISE RAPPORT 2024:7

Johan Linäker, RISE

Sachiko Muto, RISE

“It’s hard to disagree with Brock’s sentiment that we need “a shift from categorizing #opensource software in the commons to considering it a public good.” says the @thenewstack



thenewstack.io

Can Open Source Sustain Itself Without Losing Its Soul?

Open source projects depend on maintainers who largely work for free. Can they get paid without losing the freedom that defines free software communities? ...

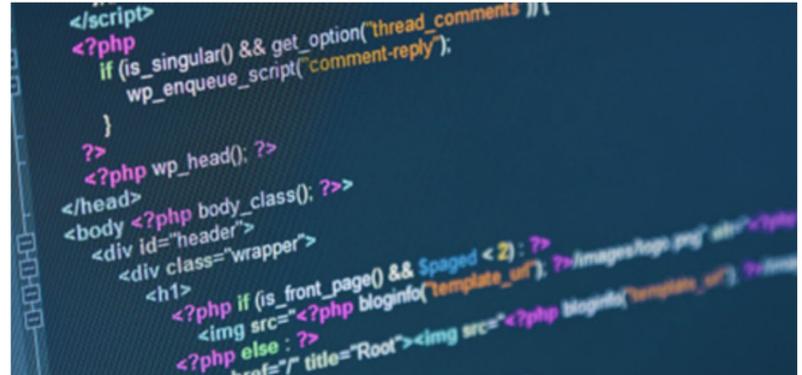
Is it time for open source to be treated as a public good?



John Leonard

21 January 2022 • 6 min read

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