State of Open Source: In Government

Amanda Brock, CEO, OpenUK
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.
Open Standards Board

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

Contents

- Terms of Reference
- Meeting dates
- Membership
- Meeting minutes
- Contact details
Amanda Brock
OpenUK CEO
Standing as an Individual Board Member

https://opensource.org/board/elections/amanda-brock
Develop UK leadership and global collaboration in open technology.
Leadership

Amanda Brock
CEO and Chief Policy Officer

Andrew Martin
Chief Security Technology Officer

Chris Lloyd-Jone
EV Charging Lead

Chris Eastham
Chief Legal Officer

Chris Howard
Chief Learning Officer

Cristian Parrino
Chief Sustainability Officer

George Bareham
Marketing Manager

Ele Kokkinia
Website Lead

Georgia Cooke
Chief Design Officer

Iain G Mitchell QC
Honorary QC
Ambassadors

Danny Abukalam
Ambassador

David Burns
Ambassador

Dominique Top
Ambassador

Eddie May
Ambassador

Fiona Nielsen
Ambassador

Gen Ashley
Ambassador

Hannah Foxwell
Ambassador

Ingo Weiss
Ambassador

Jai Campbell
Ambassador

Jason Bell
Ambassador

Jason Evans
Ambassador

Jon Seager
Ambassador
Ambassadors

Sonya Moisset
Ambassador

Steve Helvie
Ambassador

Wendy Ng
Ambassador

Will Hall
Ambassador
Building a Cohesive Community with a voice

- Ambassador Program
- International Ambassadors Launch 2022
- Third Annual Awards – House of Lords 30 November
- Events eg IWD event 2023 BT Tower
- Meet Ups – launch across the UK in September
- New Years Honours List – Influencers and Future Leaders
- Showcasing the UK’s Leadership wherever possible whilst collaborating globally
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
- Invited to speak with UK Trade on aspects of treaty negotiations - Brexit
- Joint report on UK and Open with OSOR 2020
- Amicus Brief in Google v Oracle decided 5 April 2021
- Responded to Biden Ordinance June 2021
- Future Leaders Report on Government Procurement
- Day One Member Gaia-X – UK Hub co-ordinator
- NHS Research and Report 2022
- State of Open: The UK in 2022 Phase 1 7 July openuk.uk/stateofopen
- COP26 - Blueprint for data center and Open Technology for Sustainability Day 2021
- Second Open Technology for Sustainability Day -16 November 2022, delivering Blueprint for EV Charging and Societal Value Metrics openuk.uk/sustainability
- Energy Catapult – open source support
- Infrastructure, Curation and Security – London event 20 September 2022
Open Source Policy
THE UNITED KINGDOM

The UK government has a strong history of promoting the use of open source software (OSS), first establishing relevant policies about 10 years ago. The Government Digital Service (GDS), a part of the UK Government’s Cabinet Office, maintains open standards chosen for use in government and requires equal consideration to be given to OSS and proprietary software in procurement.

1 General Information

2 Actors

The **Government Digital Service** is part of the Cabinet Office of the Government. It is the central team

[OpenUK advocates for the use of open technologies including OSS, open source hardware, and open]
OpenUK’s response to NTIA request for information on the use of SBOMs

17th June 2021

Attn: Evelyn L. Remaley, Acting NTIA Administrator

OpenUK welcomes the Executive Order 14028 on Improving the Nation’s Cybersecurity dated May 12, 2021; and the NTIA’s invitation to comment (Docket No. 210527–0117).

Trust in digital infrastructure requires transparency of the type created by the approach used in relation to Open Technologies. The open source software community is ideally placed to respond to the challenges that the NTIA is seeking to address in supply chain through the use of Software Bill of Materials (“SBOMs”), and stands ready with over a decade of commercial governance experience in effective enterprise-level code governance.

The open source software community operates in the context of the successful development, deployment, and adoption of technology and in governance and de facto standards keeping pace with innovation, including: (i) SPDX, the de-facto standard in relation to SBOMs that is currently submitted for publication as an ISO standard; and (ii) OpenChain (ISO 5230:2020), the process management standard for open source licence compliance. Another key element of governance common in the open source software community is the existence of established industry governance and legal organisations with high levels of collective expertise, such as OpenUK’s legal and policy group on whose behalf this response is submitted. These organisations offer a wealth of experience in open source software supply chain management and operate in a collaborative model as with the associated software community.
State of Open: The UK in 2022, Phase One, Key Facts

1. UK Spends £4.87 - £5.65bn on Open Source Software
2. 11.9m Open Source Software Package downloads in UK 1st half of 2022
3. 78% Believe Open Source Software not a greater security risk than proprietary
4. 100% of organisations <3 years old use Open Source
5. 41% of companies collaborate with competitors in Open Source (co-operation)
6. 27% of UK organisations contributed to Open Source >10 years

Top 3 Benefits:
7. Cost Saving
8. Collaboration
9. Community

Top 3 Challenges:
10. Cost of Maintenance & Security
11. Participation Cost
12. Lack of Coding Technical Knowledge

Top 3 Roles Being Recruited:
13. Back End Dev
14. Cloud Engineers
15. Agile Software Dev Leads

© OpenUK 2022 - Registered Office: 8 Coldbath Square, London EC1R 5HL
Company Number: 11209471 - VAT Registration: GB379697512
State of Open: The UK in 2022
Phase 1: The Open Source Journey
Building Learning in Open Technology

To date:
• OpenUK’s Kids’ Camp
• 2 Courses created - second using OSD 10 definitions and Sustainable Development Goals with digital magazines - creative commons openuk.uk/openkidscamp
• 8200 Digital Glove kits given away in the UK since 2020
• Annual Kids’ Competition

2023 focus:
• game for age 8-11 launch 2023
• University – Partnership and MOOC (massive open online course) launch 2023
• Apprenticeship scheme – creating a Knowledge Module
• Curriculum – working on GCSE and Scottish equivalent
### Press - Monthly Unique Visitors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Visitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State of Open Reports</td>
<td>154,859,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1</td>
<td>69,528,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 2</td>
<td>76,125,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 3</td>
<td>9,204,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability, Data Centre, COP26</td>
<td>3,410,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids Gloves Giveaway and Camp</td>
<td>59,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAIA-X</td>
<td>356,462,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2,311,553,134</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Monthly Unique Visitors**

2,826,344,792

(2021)
Twitter Impact

Tweets up +76%
- 2020: 460
- 2021: 810

Followers up +61%
- 2020: 1,620
- 2021: 2,602

Average Monthly Twitter Impressions: >100k

1 million+
Twitter impressions over 2021

Max impressions - October 2021 - 147,238

Tweet with most impressions: 71,551 announcing Open Technology for Sustainability Day:

Announcing the Open Technology for Sustainability Day #openukcop26 11 November. Speakers from business, UK and Devolved Governments and public sector and technology. Sign up to live stream from the COP26 Skypark Fringe openuk.uk/sustainability #openleadership #opensource #cop26
Europe's Digital Decade
Empowered by Open Source

European Commission study on the impact of Open Source
“Changes in ...digital technologies and geo-politics are already having a profound effect on the lives of Europeans. We are witnessing major shifts all the way from global power structures to local politics ... What we do now will determine what kind of world our children live in and will define Europe’s place in the world.” Creating a “Europe fit for the Digital Age.”

Ursula von der Leyen, 2019
Updated ICO statement on the judgment of the European Court of Justice in the Schrems II case.

Date: 27 July 2020
Type: Statement

Anyone transferring personal data internationally will have been watching the recent judgment of the CJEU with some trepidation. International data transfers, that are so vital for the global economy, suddenly became open to question.

The CJEU has confirmed how EU standards of data protection must travel with the data when it goes overseas, which means this judgment has wider implications than just the invalidation of the EU-US Privacy Shield. It is a judgment that confirms the importance of safeguards for personal data transferred out of the UK.

The European Data Protection Board (EDPB) has now issued its FAQs on the invalidation of the Privacy Shield and the implications for the Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs), and this guidance still applies to UK controllers and processors.

Further work is underway by the European Commission and EDPB to provide more comprehensive guidance on extra measures you may need to take. In the meantime you should take stock of the international transfers you make and look carefully at
GAIA-X: A Federated Data Infrastructure for Europe

With GAIA-X, representatives from politics, business and science from France and Germany, together with other European partners, create a proposal for the next generation of a data infrastructure for Europe: a secure, federated system that meets the highest standards of digital sovereignty while
Chinese officials have been repeatedly calling for closer cooperation with Europe, but the era of Covid-19 has made China-EU relations sour to an unprecedented low level since the two formally established diplomatic relations 45 years ago.
How US and China's break-up could affect world

The BBC's Zhao Yin Feng investigates the rivalry between the two superpowers.

Win or lose, Trump has already changed the world
UK orders ban of new Huawei equipment from end of year

Boris Johnson’s government says existing kit must also be stripped from 5G networks by 2027
BLACK LIVES MATTER

TAKE ACTION

Join the Movement to fight for Freedom, Liberation and Justice by signing up for updates, supporting our work, checking out our resources, following us on social media, or wearing our dope, official gear.

JOIN THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT

Sign up here for updates on special launches, network actions, programs, partnerships, and more!
What is open source, and why does it matter today?

February 8, 2022
The Open Source Definition

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. Intermediate 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
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.
You are viewing 1,904 cards with a total of 2,455,880 stars, market cap of $19.467 and funding of $65.398.
“Judge us by the actions we have taken in the recent past, our actions today and in the future”

Satya, CEO Microsoft
Dispelling The Most Widespread Myths About Open-Source Software

Alexander Belokrylov

CEO of BellSoft, accomplished expert in Java technology and IT leadership with 10+ years of experience.
Prime Leverage: How Amazon Wields Power in the Technology World

Nolan Pelletier
Doubling down on open, Part II

By Shay Banon

Please note: Since we initially published this blog, we have published three additional blogs with additional details: Introducing Elastic License v2, simplified and more permissive; SSPL remains an option; License change clarification and Why we had to change the license.
Recording of yesterday's space about Ukrainian open-source developers experiencing the Russian invasion.

Very heartbreaking stories from people who are creating software you use every day.

youtu.be/LeG09zu_p_g

“Many Ukrainians continue working. A very good opportunity is to continue working with them, to buy Ukrainian software products, to engage with people who are working [via] UpWork. Help Ukrainians by giving them the ability to work, to do some paid work,” whether still in the country or as refugees abroad. If you take something from this conversation, Anastasija Voltova's ideas may be the ones that should stick. After Ukraine has converged into a different force, with
“I like to say this is the world’s first open-source war,” says Oleg Roginsky, 35, another Ukrainian who runs a Silicon Valley start-up. He is also helping the Ukrainian cause and exchanging ideas with other computing engineers on social media sites, message groups such as Signal, and GitHub, the platform where coders exchange ideas.
Corrupted open-source software enters the Russian battlefield

A programmer behind the popular open-source npm program node-ipc poisoned it with malware that erased the hard drives of computers located in Russia or Belarus.

Written by Steven Vaughan-Nichols, Senior Contributing Editor

Posted in Linux and Open Source on March 21, 2022 | Topic: Security

It started as an innocent protest. Npm, JavaScript's package manager maintainer RIAEvangelist, Brandon Nozaki Miller, wrote and published an open-code npm source-code package called peacenetwar. It did little except add a protest message against Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But then, it took a darker turn: It began destroying computers' file systems.
The Relationship Between Open Source Software and Standard Setting

Mirko Boehm
Last updated on Nov 16, 2019

Go to Project Site

The objective of the study is to identify possible commonalities and barriers for interaction between standardisation and open source processes.

The study should clarify the role of open source in the context of standard setting, in particular its interplay with the licensing of standards-essential patents under “fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory” (FRAND) terms and
Open standards: telecoms companies seek better licences

In-house counsel say they want more certainty in open source licences and on the term ‘open source’ itself so that they can contribute to telecoms standards projects without the risk of losing IP

With the rising popularity of open source collaboration on standardised technology projects, telecommunications companies say they need better licences and governance models to allow them to contribute to core
Counsel at Nokia, Ericsson and Qualcomm, three companies that are leading the charge for the creation of effective open standards licences, explain that expanding the open source world to areas of technology that need to be standardised enables those inventions to be developed faster. Open source collaboration has already helped telecoms businesses advance less core areas of standardised technology that are hard to protect with patents or to get patents for because of the difficulties in proving inventive step or eligibility requirements or detecting infringement.

Such technologies include the software that dictates how networks operate. But sources say they are increasingly looking to contribute to core technologies, such as base stations and handsets, in the open source space that can be effectively protected by patents. This move is being driven partly by the 5G space, which has kick-started a convergence of technologies in different sectors, and partly by the increasing importance of software to telecoms companies.

“The move has also been is fuelled by artificial intelligence and the need for heavier processing outside the data centre with some processing loads moving towards the edge,” explains David Marr, vice president and legal counsel at Qualcomm in San Diego. “Both at the edge and within the data centre for 5G you need optimisations that need consistent protocols enabled...
FRAND is no friend: How to make EU tech standards compatible with open source

Op-ed. Please help by participating in EU consultation on open standards.

GLYN MOODY - 5/9/2016, 10:07 AM
Rockstar’s Patent Trolling Conspiracy

GLENN MANISHIN - APRIL 17, 2014

CATEGORIES COMPETITION TELECOM

The strangely named Rockstar Consortium has been in the news again, in part because some of its members just formed a new lobbying group, the Partnership for American Innovation, aimed at preventing the current political furor over patent trolls from bleeding into a general overhaul of the U.S. patent system. Yet Rockstar is perhaps the most aggressive patent troll out there today. Hence the mounting pressure in Washington, DC for the Justice Department’s Antitrust Division — which signed off on the initial formation of Rockstar two years ago — to open up a formal probe into the consortium’s patent assertion activities directed against rival tech firms, principally Google, Samsung and other Android device manufacturers.

Usually the fatal defect in antitrust claims of horizontal collusion is proving that competing firms acted in parallel fashion from mutual agreement rather than independent business judgment. In the case of Rockstar — a joint venture among nearly all smartphone platform providers except Google — that problem is not present because the entity itself exists only by agreement among its owner firms. The question for U.S. antitrust enforcers is thus the traditional substantive inquiry, under Section 1 of the Sherman Act, whether Rockstar’s conduct is unreasonably restrictive of competition.

COMPEITION
Some, if not all of society’s most useful innovations are the byproduct of competition. In fact, although it may sound counterintuitive, innovation often flourishes when an incumbent is threatened by a new entrant because the threat of losing users to the competition drives product improvement. The Internet and the products and companies it has enabled are no exception; companies need to constantly stay on their toes, as the next startup is ready to knock them down with a better product.

INNOVATION
New technologies are constantly emerging that promise to change our lives for the better. These disruptive technologies give us an increase in choice, make technologies more accessible.
What are open standards?
Microsoft joins Open Invention Network to help protect Linux and open source

Posted on 10 October, 2018

Erich Andersen, Corporate Vice President, Deputy General Counsel

I’m pleased to announce that Microsoft is joining the Open Invention Network (“OIN”), a community dedicated to protecting Linux and other open source software programs from patent risk.

We know Microsoft’s decision to join OIN may be viewed as surprising to some; it is no secret that there has been friction in the past between Microsoft and the open source community over the issue of patents. For others who have followed our evolution, we hope this announcement will be viewed as the next logical step for a company that is listening to customers and developers and is firmly committed to Linux and other open source programs.

Since its founding in 2005, OIN has been at the forefront of helping companies manage patent risks. In the years before the founding of OIN, many open source licenses explicitly covered only copyright interests and were silent about patents. OIN was designed to address this concern by creating a voluntary system of patent cross-licenses between member companies covering Linux System technologies. OIN has also been active in acquiring patents at times to help defend the community and to provide education and advice about the intersection of open source and intellectual property. Today, through the stewardship of its CEO Keith Bergelt and its Board of Directors, the organization provides a license platform for roughly 2,650 companies globally. The licensees range from individual developers and startups to some of the biggest technology companies and patent holders on the planet.
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.
State of Open: The UK in 2022, Phase One, Key Facts

1. UK Spends £4.87 - £6.65bn on Open Source Software

2. 11.9m Open Source Software Package downloads in UK 1st half of 2022

3. 78% Believe Open Source Software not a greater security risk than proprietary

4. 100% of organisations <3 years old use Open Source

5. 41% of companies collaborate with competitors in Open Source (co-competition)

6. 27% of UK organisations contributed to Open Source >10 years

Top 3 Benefits:
- Cost Saving
- Collaboration
- Community

Top 3 Challenges:
- Cost of Maintenance & Security
- Participation Cost
- Lack of Coding Technical Knowledge

Top 3 Roles Being Recruited:
- Back End Dev
- Cloud Engineers
- Agile Software Dev Leads
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.
GDS is 10: we’re ready for our next chapter

Tom Read - Chief Executive Officer, Government Digital Service and The GDS Team, 8 December 2021 - GDS team, People and skills, Transformation

The Government Digital Service (GDS) is turning 10. Watch as team members share - in 10 seconds or less - what excites them most about what’s coming next.
The UK has the second-most comprehensive digital strategy in the OECD

National digital strategy comprehensiveness, OECD countries (2021)
Covid–19 and contact tracing — an open source approach is vital

by AMANDA BROCK

Member ratings
Well argued: 71%
Interesting points: 78%
Agree with arguments: 68%

24 ratings - view all

Latest articles

A letter from the First Circle: Khrushchev to Putin
by LASZLO SOLYMAR
15 MAY 2022

Yuri Averbakh, 1922-2022
by RAYMOND KEENE
14 MAY 2022

Boisdale: the very finest from ages past in a modern world
by BOISDALE

Department of batty ideas:
Policy paper

Data saves lives: reshaping health and social care with data

Updated 15 June 2022

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.
Publish our Version 1 Open Source Policy through Github and a playbook on how to develop open source systems and products (summer 2022)
Delivering a Digitalised Energy System

Energy Digitalisation Taskforce report
Chaired by Laura Sandys CBE

Published May 21, 2021

Greg Slatodkin
Senior Editor

OpenUK’s response to NTIA request for information on the use of SBOMs

17th June 2021

Attn: Evelyn L. Remaley, Acting NTIA Administrator

OpenUK welcomes the Executive Order 14028 on Improving the Nation’s Cybersecurity dated May 12, 2021; and the NTIA's invitation to comment (Docket No. 210527-0117).

Trust in digital infrastructure requires transparency of the type created by the approach used in relation to Open Technologies. The open source software community is ideally placed to respond to the challenges that the NTIA is seeking to address in supply chain through the use of Software Bill of Materials ("SBOMs"), and stands ready with over a decade of commercial governance experience in effective enterprise-level code governance.

The open source software community operates in the context of the successful development, deployment, and adoption of technology and in governance and de facto standards keeping pace with innovation, including: (i) SPDX, the de-facto standard in relation to SBOMs that is currently submitted for publication as an ISO standard; and (ii) OpenChain (ISO 5230:2020), the process management standard for open source licence compliance. Another key element of governance common in the open source software community is the existence of established industry governance and legal organisations with high levels of collective expertise, such as OpenUK’s legal and policy group on whose behalf this response is submitted. These organisations offer a wealth of experience in open source software supply chain management and operate in a collaborative model as with the associated software community.
Log4j hearing: 'open source is not the problem'

Michael Cooney (Network World)
10 February, 2022 08:00
The Open Source Software Security Mobilization Plan

During the Open Source Software Security Summit II in Washington, DC on May 12 – 13, 2022, The Linux Foundation and OpenSSF gathered a cross-section of open source developer and commercial ecosystem representatives along with leaders and experts from key U.S. federal agencies to reach a consensus on high-impact actions to take to improve the resiliency and security of open source software.

The plan they agreed to focuses on 10 streams of investment, with concrete action steps for both immediate improvements and strong foundations for a more secure future.

Read the Plan

10 Streams of Investment for Open Source Security
Review of the December 2021 Log4j Event
Open-Source Security: How Digital Infrastructure Is Built on a House of Cards

By Chinmayi Sharma  Monday, July 25, 2022, 8:01 AM

Chinmayi Sharma is a Scholar in Residence at the Robert Strauss Center for International Security and Law and a Lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law. Her research and teaching focus on cybersecurity law and policy. She is a member of the Internet Law Foundry and was a Yale Cyber Leadership Fellow. Before joining the Strauss Center, Chinmayi worked at Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis LLP in Washington, D.C., focusing primarily on spectrum policy and privacy matters, and clerked for Chief Judge Michael F. Urbanski of the Western District of Virginia. Prior to law school, Chinmayi was also the founder of a technology company that developed custom data management and data analytics software solutions.
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...
“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.

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

John Leonard
21 January 2022 • 6 min read

SHARE

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? ...
2022: the year of the open source tiger

Open source is set to continue disrupting the UK tech sector in 2022.

In celebration of Chinese New Year, Amanda Brock, CEO of OpenUK, provides her 2022 predictions for open source technologies in the UK.
Thank you

Visit OpenUK at : @openuk_uk / open.uk
Follow Amanda Brock at: @amandabrockUK/
linkedin.com/in/in/amandabrocktech/

©OpenUK,  2022 . OpenUK is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee
Registered office, 8 Coldbath Square, London EC1R 5HL
Registered Number GB379697512