



| IBM Open Source and Linux

# The Intersection of Ideas in Open Source and Open Standards

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# How to start a fight in the ICT industry today ...

*Define “open.”*

# Why?

- Some people want to say that everything they have been doing for years is open, even if it only a marketing stunt.
- Others take an ideological approach and have deep debates on the meanings of the word “free.”
- Yet others might agree regarding things related to the web and Internet, but are afraid of opening the door to a more general interpretation.

# Elements of “openness”

- Participation / community
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Availability
- Licensing / right to use

## The media muddles things, sometimes

- Sometimes articles refer to standards as being open source and vice-versa.
- In the past this has allowed certain groups to attack open standards in the process of attacking open source, because they didn't really like either.
- This led to customer confusion and a fair amount of damage control, which is what some groups wanted.

## Why the confusion?

- Many people who have not done software development are confused between open source and open standards.
- They don't know what code looks like and what you do with it.
- We also see
  - Open source novels
  - Open source theology
  - Open source biology

# Open standards

- A standard is like a blueprint: it tells you what you must do if you actually get around to building something.
- An open standard is the enemy of lock-in.
- Approximation:

An open standard is one that is developed and maintained in a particularly transparent way with community involvement, and is “freely” available and implementable.

# Open source

- Open source is code, actual concrete software, and it may implement open standards.
- Open source is built and maintained in a particularly transparent way with community involvement, and is “freely” available.
- Creative Commons licenses, for example, should be used for non-source code content.

# Open source helps standards

- Open source is a great way of speeding up the adoption of standards.
- Beta releases of open source software implementing a standard that is being developed can work out the bugs in each.
- Developers can use the open source code to quickly add software support for standards.

## Why can't people agree on “open”?

- The main sticking point today is around how people can re-use the code or implement the standard, the “freeness.”
- There are roughly 60 OSI-approved open source licenses.
- There are several million standards licenses (maybe not quite so many).

# Recommendations regarding open standards

- Do not try to use the same definition of “open” for everything.
  - Hardware is different from software which is different from mining and agriculture.
  - Understand that “RAND” is still common in some areas, but not in areas like software interoperability standards, where RF is common.
- Look more at what standards consortia are doing here than international organizations.

# Separate communities

- Standards groups don't usually create open source.
- Open source groups don't usually create formal open standards.
- Why?
  - Different kinds of people?
  - License issues?
  - Different concerns?
  - General use vs. specific language implementation?

# How to start another fight in the ICT industry today ...

*Define “cloud.”*



list of supporters



about



faq



blogs, wikis,  
and more

# open cloud manifesto

dedicated to the belief that  
the cloud should be open

view the manifesto!



sign up

# The Open Cloud Manifesto

- Cloud providers must work together to ensure that the challenges to cloud adoption (security, integration, portability, interoperability, governance/management, metering/monitoring) are addressed through open collaboration and the appropriate use of standards.
- Cloud providers must not use their market position to lock customers into their particular platforms and limit their choice of providers.

open cloud manifesto



[opencloudmanifesto.org](http://opencloudmanifesto.org)

# The Open Cloud Manifesto

- Cloud providers must use and adopt existing standards wherever appropriate. The IT industry has invested heavily in existing standards and standards organizations; there is no need to duplicate or reinvent them.
- When new standards (or adjustments to existing standards) are needed, we must be judicious and pragmatic to avoid creating too many standards. We must ensure that standards promote innovation and do not inhibit it.

open cloud manifesto



[opencloudmanifesto.org](http://opencloudmanifesto.org)

# The Open Cloud Manifesto

- Any community effort around the open cloud should be driven by customer needs, not merely the technical needs of cloud providers, and should be tested or verified against real customer requirements.
- Cloud computing standards organizations, advocacy groups, and communities should work together and stay coordinated, making sure that efforts do not conflict or overlap.

open cloud manifesto



[opencloudmanifesto.org](http://opencloudmanifesto.org)

# Conclusions

- Every day the world is more and more open.
- Don't let anyone tell you that there is one definition of “open standard” that works for everything.
- Don't let the “open movement” be slowed by opponents playing word games.
- Those opponents can only change the rate of change, not stop it.