

Open Source
=
Opportunity
(for developers)

Open Standards
=
Choice
(for users)

Open File Format
=
Access
(for all)

What is Open Source?

Source code to a software program (i.e. human readable software) that is

- Shared and distributed freely
- Licensed to allow use, modification and reproduction
- On a non-discriminatory basis
- Subject to peer review and public consensus

Benefits of Open Source

- Creates opportunity for developers to innovate and develop new applications on existing foundations
- Increases technical literacy
- Promotes unexpected innovations
- Enables a new generation of programmers / innovators
- Enhances local technology industry
- Creates jobs
- Grows the economy

What are Open Standards?

Specifications that

- Define & describe interfaces, file formats, protocols, etc., that
 - ◆ Outline agreed-upon conventions
 - ◆ Allow and encourage multiple competing implementations, and
 - ◆ Enable interoperability among diverse programs
- Are developed and managed in an open process
- Are subject to extensive public review

Benefits of Open Standards

- Enable and enhance interoperability
- Drive competition and lower prices
- Avoid single-vendor lock-in
- Lower or eliminate cost of changing applications (substitutability)
- Provide freedom of choice for customers

Example: Phone Jack



Any phone can work with any jack: the interface is an open standard

What are Open File Formats?

Open standards for displaying and storing data files (presentations, documents, spreadsheets) that

- Can be implemented by any application developer
- Encourage multiple competing implementations on multiple platforms
- Enable access to data files, independent of the applications that created them

Benefits of Open File Formats

- Lower Costs
 - ◆ Price competitive applications
 - ◆ Citizens will not have to buy a specific application to access government information
 - ◆ No-charge solutions are available
- Innovation and Jobs
 - ◆ Anyone can build new applications and services
 - ◆ Benefit the local economy and create jobs
- Enable access - documents are usable in the future by anyone, at any time