A Survey on Open Source Software using Questionnaire

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Abstract – **In today's era computer is the basic need of everyone. From an individual to business organizations, Industries, colleges and universities, everyone use computer for their basic purpose. Software is a main part of a computer system. Today's most of the person use proprietary and pirated software. These software are not the best options towards convenience of a user. Because proprietary software is costly, that is not afforded by every user and pirated software is illegal to use. The alternative to these software is open source software. Open source software is not widely used because of its less awareness among common man. This research paper analyzes the factors related to open source software that to aware and to check the awareness of open source software. The research paper includes a survey questionnaire that takes all the factors into count and before starting actual survey a pilot study for this questionnaire was done to confirm its acceptance.**

Keywords – **upgrade, cheaper, secure, UGC, modify, redistribute.**

I. INTRODUCTION

Open source software is software whose source code is publically distributed in a wide geographical area and available at no cost. Open source software is a collaborative effort by a group or team of developer. Because of availability of source code one can easily modify and use it according to requirements. Open source software has many advantages over proprietary software but still most of the computer user use proprietary or pirated software. Because of less awareness about the benefits and uses of open source software, it is not widely used. In this research paper all the questions related to open source software are taken. These questions are helpful to check the awareness of open source software among common man. The research paper also useful to aware a common man about the uses and benefits of open source software.

II. FACTOR CATEGORIES

This questionnaire considers all the factors related to term open source software, its usages and benefits and most probably all these factors are taken according to their suitable priority. It includes major factors and all these factors are taken as questions which can be answered in yes, no or don't know according to which we can easily consider the awareness of open source software among common man so can they can use better software with lesser cost then proprietary software.

III. CLASSIFIERS

According to the factors in the questionnaire the respondents can be classified in broad four classifiers, those are following.

A. Students
B. Employees
C. Employers
D. Common man

IV. CATEGORY FACTOR VARIABLE

Common Terms

V1. Are you familiar with term Software?
    (If no Please Quit, If Yes Continue)
    1.1. Familiar with License of Software.
    1.2. Familiar with Proprietary Software.
    1.3. Familiar with Open Source Software.
    1.4. Familiar with Pirated Software.
    1.5. Familiar with any other type of Software please mention.

V2. Do you ever use any Software?
    (If yes please attempt the following, if no go to Q3)
    2.1. Proprietary Software
    2.2. Open Source Software
    2.3. Pirated Software
    2.4. Any other type please mention.

V3. Which Operating System have you ever used?
    3.1. Windows
    3.2. Linux
    3.3. Unix
    3.4. DOS
    3.5. Mac
    3.6. If any other please mention.

V4. According to you which operating system is more secure?

4.1. Windows

4.2. Linux

4.3. Unix

4.4. DOS

4.5. Mac

4.6. If any other please mention.

V5. Are you known about the following features of open source software?

5.1. Available with source code.

5.2. Freedom to Use.

5.3. Freedom to Modify.

5.4. Freedom to Redistribute.

5.5. More Secure.

5.6. Cheaper Software.

5.7. Reliable.

5.8. Secure Future.

5.9. No Vendor Software.

5.10. Upgrade without initial developer support.

Projects and Licenses

V6. Are you familiar with following software movements?

6.1. Open Source Software Movement

6.2. Free Software Movement

V7. Are you familiar with following projects?

7.1. FSF (Free Software Foundation)

7.2. GNU (Gnu's Not Unix)

7.3. BSD (Berkeley Software Distribution)

V8. Are you familiar with following licenses?

8.1. Liberally License

8.2. Open Source License

8.3. Proprietary License

V9. Are you familiar with the following open source licenses?

9.1. MIT License

9.2. BSD License

9.3. GNU GPL (General Public License)

9.4. GNU LGPL (Lesser General Public License)

9.5. Mozilla Public License

9.6. Copyleft

Open Source Products

V10. Which of the following open source product you are already using?

10.1. Linux (Operating system based on UNIX)

10.2. Apache (HTTP web browser)

10.3. Moodle (Course Management System)

10.4. Mozilla Firefox (Web Browser)

10.5. Mozilla Thunderbird (Email Client)

10.6. Open Office (Office Suit)

10.7. Open Solaries (Unix Operating system from Sun Microsystems)

10.8. Mediawiki (Wiki server Software)

10.9. Drupal (Content Management System)

10.10. WordPress (Most important blogging platform)

10.11. Magento (Fastest growing e-commerce platform)

10.12. FileZila (FTP Client)

10.13. GIMP (Image Editor)

10.14. VLC (Media Player)

10.15. Pidgin (Instant messaging tool)

10.16. Notepad++(Windows based CSS editor)

10.17. 7-zip (to unzip folders)

10.18. Blender (3D content creation)

10.19. PDFCreater (Create PDF files)

10.20. TrueCrypt (Encryption Program)

10.21. If any other please mention

FOSS (Free Open Source Software)

V11. FOSS (Free Open Source Software)

11.1. Familiar with FOSS (Free Open Source Software).

11.2. Familiar with NRCFOSS (National Resource Centre for Free/Open Source Software).

11.3. Do you know NRCFOSS is an initiative of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Government of India?

11.4. Do you know NRCFOSS is making efforts for increasing the acceptance of FOSS at a national level?

V12. Achievements of NRCFOSS – do you ever know?

12.1. Anna University Chennai introduced the FOSS in the curriculum because of efforts of NRCFOSS.

12.2. Anna University Syllabi is applicable to around 250 engineering colleges affiliated to Anna University.

12.3. NRCFOSS developed Bharat Operating System Solutions (BOSS) GNU/Linux distribution made specifically for the India Environment.

12.4. BOSS supports eighteen Indian languages out of total of twenty-two constitutionally recognized languages in India at desktop level.

12.5. NRCFOSS has organized a series of workshops and seminars in different parts of India to popularize the idea of FOSS.

Open Source in Education

V13. Open Source Software in Education

13.1. Are you familiar with any university or organization that uses Open Source Software as their official use?

If Yes, Please mention the name of organization

13.2. Are you familiar with any university that use Open Source Software as a part of their curriculum?

If Yes, Please mention the name of University

Goals

V14. Goal of My Research – are you agree or not?

14.1. Open Source Software become a part of our education.

14.2. Every common man should be aware about the uses and benefits of Open Source Software.

14.3. FOSS programs should be conducted in every college and university.

14.4. Open Source Software should be used for commercial purpose.

14.5. Educational institutions should not spend huge money on proprietary software.

14.6. Study of open source software should be compulsory for every course in university.

14.7. Universities should replace the proprietary software by open source software for saving the money of license renewal fee, up gradation charges etc.

14.8. Should government strict for the promotion of open source software through the bodies like UGC, DEC, AICTE etc.

V. CONCLUSION

Open source software is the emerging concept towards the less budget and legal software. The lack of awareness about the uses and benefits of open source software is a large factor towards less use of open source software. This research paper includes all the questions which are helpful to aware a common man about open source software and its related terms, so that every user can use a legal software according to their requirements at a minimal or no cost. According to the survey results the priority of factor variables can be set and actions must be taken accordingly.

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[12] http://www.nrcfoss.org.in

Annexure

A Survey on Open Source Software using Questionnaire

Please take few minutes to fill out the survey. We welcome your feedback and your answer will be kept confidential.

Statement	Yes	No
1. Are you familiar with term Software? (If no Please Quit, If Yes Continue.)		
a. Familiar with License of Software.		
b. Familiar with Proprietary Software.		
c. Familiar with Open Source Software.		
d. Familiar with Pirated Software.		
e. Familiar with any other type of Software please mention.		
2. Do you ever use any Software? (If yes please attempt the following, if no goto Q3)		
a. Proprietary Software		
b. Open Source Software		
c. Pirated Software		
d. Any other type please mention.		
3. Which Operating System have you ever used?		
a. Windows		

b.	Linux		
c.	Unix		
d.	DOS		
e.	Mac		
f.	If any other please mention.		
4. According to you which operating system is more secure?			
a.	Windows		
b.	Linux		
c.	Unix		
d.	DOS		
e.	Mac		
f.	If any other please mention.		
5. Are you known about the following features of open source software?			
a.	Available with source code.		
b.	Freedom to Use.		
c.	Freedom to Modify.		
d.	Freedom to Redistribute.		
e.	More Secure.		
f.	Cheaper Software.		
g.	Reliable.		
h.	Secure Future.		
i.	No Vendor Software.		
j.	Upgrade without initial developer support.		
6. Are you familiar with following software movements?			
a.	Open Source Software Movement		
b.	Free Software Movement		
7. Are you familiar with following projects?			
a.	FSF (Free Software Foundation)		
b.	GNU (Gnu's Not Unix)		
c.	BSD (Berkeley Software Distribution)		
8. Are you familiar with following licenses?			
a.	Liberally License		
b.	Open Source License		
c.	Proprietary License		
9. Are you familiar with the following open source licenses?			
a.	MIT License		
b.	BSD License		
c.	GNU GPL (General Public License)		
d.	GNU LGPL (Lesser General Public License)		
e.	Mozilla Public License		
f.	Copyleft		
10. Which of the following open source product you are already using?			
a.	Linux (Operating system based on UNIX)		
b.	Apache (HTTP web browser)		

c.	Moodle (Course Management System)		
d.	Mozilla Firefox (Web Browser)		
e.	Mozilla Thunderbird (Email Client)		
f.	Open Office (Office Suit)		
g.	Open Solaries (Unix Operating system from Sun Microsystems)		
h.	Mediawiki (Wiki server Software)		
i.	Drupal (Content Management System)		
j.	WordPress (Most important blogging platform)		
k.	Magento (Fastest growing e-commerce platform)		
l.	FileZila (FTP Client)		
m.	GIMP (Image Editor)		
n.	VLC (Media Player)		
o.	Pidgin (Instant messaging tool)		
p.	Notepad++(Windows based CSS editor)		
q.	7-zip (to unzip folders)		
r.	Blender (3D content creation)		
s.	PDFCreater (Create PDF files)		
t.	TrueCrypt (Encryption Program)		
u.	If any other please mention		
11.	FOSS (Free Open Source Software)		
a.	Familiar with FOSS (Free Open Source Software).		
b.	Familiar with NRCFOSS (National Resource Centre for Free/Open Source Software).		
c.	Do you know NRCFOSS is an initiative of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Government of India?		
d.	Do you know NRCFOSS is making efforts for increasing the acceptance of FOSS at a national level?		
12.	Achievements of NRCFOSS – do you ever know?		
a.	Anna University Chennai introduced the FOSS in the curriculum because of efforts of NRCFOSS.		
b.	Anna University Syllabi is applicable to around 250 engineering colleges affiliated to Anna University.		
c.	NRCFOSS developed Bharat Operating System Solutions (BOSS) GNU/Linux distribution made specifically for the India Environment.		
d.	BOSS supports eighteen Indian languages out of total of twenty-two constitutionally recognized languages in India at desktop level.		
e.	NRCFOSS has organized a series of workshops and seminars in different parts of India to popularize the idea of FOSS.		
13.	Open Source Software in Education		
a.	Are you familiar with any university or organization that uses Open Source Software as their official use? (If Yes, Please mention the name of organization)		
b.	Are you familiar with any university that use Open Source Software as a part of their curriculum? (If Yes, Please mention the name of University)		
14.	Goal of My Research – are you agree or not?		
a.	Open Source Software become a part of our education		
b.	Every common man should be aware about the uses and benefits of Open Source Software.		
c.	FOSS programs should be conducted in every college and university		
d.	Open Source Software should be used for commercial purpose.		
e.	Educational institutions should not spend huge money on proprietary software.		
f.	Study of open source software should be compulsory for every course in university.		

g.	Universities should replace the proprietary software by open source software for saving the money of license renewal fee, up gradation charges etc.		
h.	Should government strict for the promotion of open source software through the bodies like UGC, DEC, AICTE etc.		

PERSONAL INFORMATION

By Students

Regular Student ☐   Distance Education/Part Time Student ☐

Gender………….. Age………….. City…….…………… Name of Institute........................….…………………….

Name (optional)……………………………………… Contact Number(optional)………………………………

Stream……………… Course…………………..

By Employees

Name of Organization…………………………………………………………………………………………..

Name of Employee (optional)…………………………………………………………………………………..

Designation…………………………….…………….Contact No. (optional)……………………….………….

Job Opportunity ………………………………………..

By Employers

Name of Organization……………………………………………………………………………….……………

Name of Employer…………………………………………..Designation…………………………….…………

Employee Strength……………………….……………Contact Number(Optional)…………………………………

By Common Man

Name (optional)……………………….……………Age…………….…………..Gender……………….……

Qualification……………………………………………… Contact No. (optional)………………………

Occupation ………………………………………………………………………..