OPEN SOURCE SYSTEMS
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IFIP was founded in 1960 under the auspices of UNESCO, following the First World Computer Congress held in Paris the previous year. An umbrella organization for societies working in information processing, IFIP's aim is two-fold: to support information processing within its member countries and to encourage technology transfer to developing nations. As its mission statement clearly states,

"IFIP's mission is to be the leading, truly international, apolitical organization which encourages and assists in the development, exploitation and application of information technology for the benefit of all people."

IFIP is a non-profitmaking organization, run almost solely by 2500 volunteers. It operates through a number of technical committees, which organize events and publications. IFIP's events range from an international congress to local seminars, but the most important are:

- The IFIP World Computer Congress, held every second year;
- Open conferences;
- Working conferences.

The flagship event is the IFIP World Computer Congress, at which both invited and contributed papers are presented. Contributed papers are rigorously refereed and the rejection rate is high.

As with the Congress, participation in the open conferences is open to all and papers may be invited or submitted. Again, submitted papers are stringently refereed.

The working conferences are structured differently. They are usually run by a working group and attendance is small and by invitation only. Their purpose is to create an atmosphere conducive to innovation and development. Refereeing is less rigorous and papers are subjected to extensive group discussion.

Publications arising from IFIP events vary. The papers presented at the IFIP World Computer Congress and at open conferences are published as conference proceedings, while the results of the working conferences are often published as collections of selected and edited papers.

Any national society whose primary activity is in information may apply to become a full member of IFIP, although full membership is restricted to one society per country. Full members are entitled to vote at the annual General Assembly, National societies preferring a less committed involvement may apply for associate or corresponding membership. Associate members enjoy the same benefits as full members, but without voting rights. Corresponding members are not represented in IFIP bodies. Affiliated membership is open to non-national societies, and individual and honorary membership schemes are also offered.
OPEN SOURCE SYSTEMS

IFIP Working Group 2.13 Foundation on Open Source Software, June 8-10, 2006, Como, Italy

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Early research studies on open source software (OSS) development often betrayed a mild surprise that loosely coordinated networks of volunteers could manage the design and implementation of highly complex software products, successfully tackling many non-trivial project management problems.

In the past few years, a wider research community has become increasingly aware of the tremendous contribution that open source development is making to the software industry, business and society in general. Software engineering researchers are exploring OSS specifically with respect to development tools and methodologies, while organizational scientists and economists are keen on understanding how open sources brought large communities of people, who are seldom acquainted, to help each other effectively.

Being ourselves involved in a number of open source projects, we could directly witness how the creation of new knowledge within OSS developments may have very different motivations and consequences from work done under traditional intellectual property rights regimes like patents, copyrights and trade secrets.

Much research work is needed to move from collecting anecdotal evidence to a rigorous scientific study of the OSS phenomenon; as researchers, however, we cannot refrain from remarking that the OSS reward system, based on peer review and discussion, is much closer to the system used for rewarding scientific research than to some corporate practices.

We believe this book to be an important step in the direction of a fuller understanding of the OSS phenomenon. It collects the proceedings of the Second International Conference on Open Software (OSS2006) held in Como, Italy, from June 8th to June 10th, 2006. OSS 2006 was the foundation conference of the IFIP TC2 WG 2.13 on Open Source Software, and attracted many researchers from all over the world interested in how OSS is produced, in its huge innovation potential in many different application fields and in OSS innovative business models. The 20 full papers of this volume were selected via a rigorous refereeing process among more than 100 submissions; 12 additional submissions, in view of their interest, were selected for publication in a more concise form.

We hope that these contributions, while attaining full scientific rigor, can still give the reader an idea of the lively interdisciplinary debate of OSS 2006.
Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of the other OSS 2006 conference officials: Kevin Crowston, Scott Hisham, Paolo Pumilia and Barbara Scozzi. Also we would like to thank the OSS 2006 international program committee and the board of reviewers for their valuable help in selecting the papers.

Como, Italy
June 2006

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