

Introducing the International Journal of Open Source Software & Processes

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This inaugural issue of the International Journal of Open Source Software & Processes (IJOSSP) marks in a way an endpoint of long discussions, and also a starting point. The first talks culminated in a proposal and a discussion at the Oxford Workshop on Libre Software in June 2004. Main topics there and in following exchanges were the necessity and role of such a journal, and the approach to scoping. As a form of end result, IJOSSP aims to publish research articles on the large field of open source software and processes, user innovation and related areas. From the beginning a strict focus on high-quality original research articles, ensured by a double-blind peer review process, was undisputed. The primary idea and mission is to enhance understanding of this field and neighboring areas by providing a focused outlet for rigorous research employing a multitude of approaches. IJOSSP adopts an inclusive approach in its coverage. Therefore papers from software engineering, management, sociology and other areas, as well as different research approaches are welcome. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Characteristics of open source software projects, products and processes
- Case studies of open source projects, their participants and/or their development process
- Communication and coordination in open source projects

- Open source adoption and quality
- Open source software development processes
- User-centered innovation processes
- Economics of a distributed innovation process
- Motivation of participants in open source projects and other distributed development efforts
- Business models for open source and other community-created artifacts
- Evolution of both open source software artifacts and open source communities
- Legal issues of open source software
- Implications of open source software for functional areas like public administration or teaching
- Usage and adoption of open source software in different application areas and/or countries
- Economic analyses of open source
- Open science and open knowledge
- Customer co-creation and user participation in (software) design
- Open source software and processes research methods, tools, and data repositories

It should be noted that despite the title, IJOSSP acknowledges, embraces and covers other respective forms and definitions of similar nature, like free software or libre software, with open source taking precedence because of slightly

wider usage and in the sake of brevity. Therefore, each occurrence of open source should be read as free/libre/open source.

One of the most problematic issues faced when considering a journal like IJOSSP is the copyright policy. Sadly, high-quality and prestigious academic publishing and open access are still somewhat at odds today, although this is changing. On the other hand, a journal dealing with open source and related topics which is closed off is both an affront to the community and its users. Therefore we are happy to report that our publisher, IGI Global, is currently implementing an open access policy which IJOSSP will naturally be joining.

In the best tradition of open source and user innovation, many people have contributed in one way or the other to this journal already, by providing inputs on orientation, theme and other specifics. Many of those also now provide further assistance in one capacity or the other, and other will hopefully join in the future, or submit their work. If the following lists of people are considered, we find that research in the topics covered by IJOSSP is indeed international (although sadly participation from some continents is still missing), and spans both academic and corporate world.

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In this inaugural issue, 5 different papers of high-quality by renowned scholars can be found. In the first paper, “Open Source Software Adoption: Anatomy of Success and Failure”, Brian Fitzgerald gives an in-depth account of the deployment process for two open source applications, only one of which was successful. This

constitutes the first longitudinal study within one organization spanning both types of results, and critical influences in the process of adoption are highlighted. The next two papers are especially suited for this inaugural issue, as they deal with tools and problems for empirical research on open source software, projects and communities. The first paper of these, titled “Tools for the Study of the Usual Data Sources found in Libre Software Projects” by Gregorio Robles, Jesus M. Gonzalez-Barahona, Daniel Izquierdo-Cortazar and Israel Herraiz, gives a survey of possible data sources together with tools for the researcher and their threats to validity. In the second paper in this group, “Integrating Projects from Multiple Open Source Code Forges”, Megan Squire deals with problems when research spans several repositories of projects, which might yield data on the same projects. The fourth paper, titled “Bridging the Gap Between Agile and Free Software Approaches: The Impact of Sprinting” by Paul J. Adams and Andrea Capiluppi, employs such an empirical analysis of code repository logs to uncover the effect of sprints on productivity in open source projects. Lastly, in the paper “Teaching Software Engineering with Free/Libre Open Source Projects” Ioannis Stamelos discusses how the major problem of involving the students in real world software projects in software engineering education can be overcome by working in a FLOSS project.

This first selection gives a glimpse at the interesting facets and the diversity of research to be published in IJOSSP. In future issues, this scope will be even broader, in a joint effort with our users and authors.

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 Stefan Koch
 Editor-in-Chief

Stefan Koch is assistant professor of information business at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration. He received a MBA in management information systems from Vienna University and Vienna Technical University, and a PhD from Vienna University of economics and business administration. Currently he is involved in the undergraduate and graduate teaching program, especially in software project management and ERP packages. His research interests include cost estimation for software projects, the free/open source development model, software process improvement, the evaluation of benefits from information systems and ERP systems.