

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

FACULTY CENTER FOR LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

The Open Source Movement

Open Source represents the notion that innovation is a collaborative process. Those who have bought into the Open Source mindset believe that the way to create the best products is to invite the best minds to see what is being done and ask for their input. These people are less concerned with who owns the rights or who is making the money and instead focus on moving technology forward.

The concept began with a publication written by Eric Raymond in 1997 entitled “The Cathedral and the Bazaar” which described the practices of the hacker community. The community relied heavily on peer review and collaboration. Raymond’s paper was an influencing factor for Netscape to announce in January of 1998 that it would release the source code for its’ web browser.

The Open Source Initiative (OSI) is a body formed in 1998 by Eric Raymond and Bruce Perens as an ideal model to promote the idea of “free software”. Its founders felt that “free software” was not an appropriate way to describe the movement that was beginning to unfold. They saw that there was an entire community behind the principle that needed to be represented and the OSI stands as that representation. The OSI is a worldwide organization with representatives in North America, South America, Europe, Japan and India.

The Open Source movement was for a long time dismissed by those with power in the computing industries. There was great fear in the idea of sharing what many had worked so hard to keep for themselves. Titans such as Microsoft considered the Open Source movement to be a “cancer”. Microsoft was not, until recently, willing to share their source code with the world. Once it became clear that this movement was here to stay, Microsoft jumped on board as if they had never doubted it.

The Internet makes the Open Source concept possible. Before the Internet Revolution, communication was nowhere near what it is today. The Open Source movement is beginning to envelop more of the world than just technology. Many Universities believe in the movement as well. There are professors who post entire lectures on the web. The idea beginning that learning and the access to knowledge should be a universal right, not a privilege.

The Open Source mindset has been from the very beginning what separated major corporations like Google from Microsoft. The Open Source movement is a core value of the Web 2.0 generation and is in the eyes of many, what divides the good guys from the bad guys in the industry.

Sources:

CNET: “A Mortal Microsoft” <http://news.cnet.com/2009-1001-961354.html>

The Open Source Initiative: <http://www.opensource.org/osd.html>

Getting Help with Technology at the University of Hartford

Faculty Center for Learning Development (FCLD)

FCLD provides consulting and instructional support to faculty and staff who are using technology in teaching and learning. The FCLD Faculty Lab in Mortensen 203a is available for faculty support and use and is equipped with instructional technology- related equipment including: PCs, Macs, scanners, and projectors as well as support staff. Faculty and Staff needing support with Blackboard or other instructional technologies, should contact FCLD.

Phone: (860) 768-4661 **Email:** fcl@hartford.edu

Website: <http://www.hartford.edu/fcl>

Student Blackboard Support

The following is student support for Blackboard only. All other support technical support issues need to be addressed to the Office of Technology Services (below).

Phone: (860) 768-4636 **Email:** bbsupport@hartford.edu

FAQ/Submit a Ticket: <http://www.hartford.edu/studentbbsupport>

Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk

For general computer and Internet/network support questions (not directly related to the classroom but rather passwords, Internet/email problems, Banner/Self-Service, campus Facebook).

Phone: (860) 768-4357 **Email:** helpdesk@hartford.edu

Website: <http://hartford.edu/ots>

Media Technology Services (MTS)

Faculty should contact MTS for assistance scheduling or implementing classroom technology (2-Way interactive video classrooms, Smart Podiums, laptops, etc.), for setting up WebEx accounts, or for scheduling and instruction for a wide variety of media equipment and resources like LCD data projectors, CD/cassette players, TVs and VCRs, digital video, and more.

Phone: (860) 768-4357 **Website:** <http://www.hartford.edu/mts>