

Open Source and Open Learning

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it's really simple

In black and white

(with some grey and occasional colour)

GNU Public License or GPL

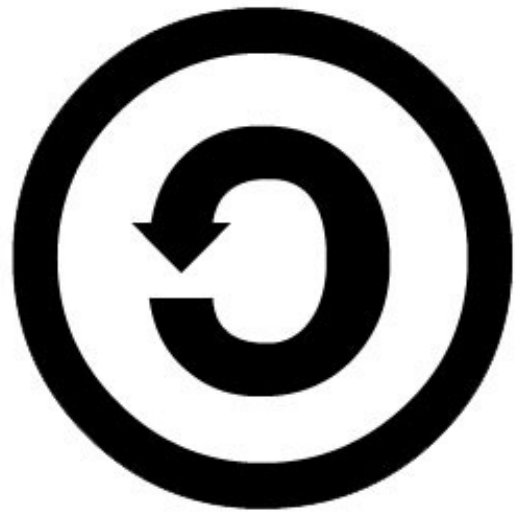
- The freedom to use the software and have access to the source code.
- The freedom to modify the software.
- The freedom to redistribute the software.
- The freedom to ensure that all modifications must be redistributable.

open

- open as in not closed
- open as in free
 - free as in gratis
 - free as in libre
- open as in access
- open as in reuse and change
- open as in over time
- open as in any place and for anyone

from open to closed

- Public domain
- Some rights retained
 - Creative commons licensing
 - Attribution
 - Commercial use
 - Derivatives
 - Share alike
- Copyright licensing - EULAs
- Closed



source

- source as in origins
- source as in components
- source as in uncompiled
- source as in unlocked
- source as in ideas
- source as in links and context
- source as in origin or starting point
- source as in flow and process

factors

- Open Source emphasizes quality
- Open Source stresses flexibility
- Open Source decreases development time
- Closed Source is characterized as non-competitive, rather than immoral

**I've a feeling we're
not in Kansas any more**

what's mine is yours

- Altruism as a viable strategy – better directed spend, reduces digital divide
- Ethics and accountability – especially for publicly funded activities
- Crowdsourcing – the many are always better than the few
- Platform and tool convergence
- Open source ecologies
- Openness as the very basis of the Western academic and scientific cultures – scrutiny
- Sustainability – no escrow or black box

**Open source underpins
the academy**

everyware

- DNS
- Linux
- Ubuntu
- BSD/Darwin (Mac OSX)
- Mozilla/Firefox
- Google
- OpenOffice
- OLPC
- Apache
- PHP
- MySQL

**Open source pervades
the academy**

the library

- Open source content
- Open source process
- Open source tools

wikipedia

- Open source content
- Open source process
- Open source tools

**Open source is
the academy**

Open Courseware

- Course materials freely available and reusable online
- The critical value is in presence rather than content – “OCW is not an MIT education, OCW does not grant degrees or certificates, OCW does not provide access to MIT faculty, materials may not reflect entire content of the course”
- Open Courseware Consortium - <http://www.ocwconsortium.org/>
- More than 100 institutions worldwide
- also Global Education and Learning Community (GELC)
- Open Source Education Foundation
- OpenLearn - <http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/>
- If you can be replaced by your PowerPoint slides ...

Open Courseware in Canada?

- Contributor? – not so much
- Major issues of faculty rights and control
- Major focus on content rather than process
- User ...?

<http://drupal.org/>

Drupal, Moodle and Sakai

<http://moodle.org/>

<http://sakaiproject.org/portal>

<http://wiki.lamsfoundation.org/>

LAMS and OpenLabyrinth

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/openlabyrinth/>

<http://www.gimp.org/>

<http://freemind.sourceforge.net/>

<http://www.scilab.org/>

OpenOffice, Freemind, Bibus, SciLab, GIMP

<http://bibus-biblio.sourceforge.net/>

<http://www.openoffice.org/>

<http://www.dspace.org/>

dSpace and Evergreen

<http://open-ils.org/>

<http://www.uportal.org/>

<http://elgg.org/>

**phpNuke, dotnetNuke,
elgg, uPortal**

<http://phpnuke.org/>

<http://www.dotnetnuke.com/>

much more than software

open source everything

- Open source curriculum
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_source_curriculum - national and international frameworks
- Open source teaching – stop, please stop, reinventing wheels – issues of reward and identity
- Open source learning – sidestep plagiarism
- Open source science – distributed and reusable data
- Open source administration and governance?

standards and specifications



interoperability

- Mutual asynchronous compatibility (syntactic and/or semantic) of two or more systems
- Data exchange – laterally and longitudinally
- Metadata exchange
- Packaging
- XML – defineable and open

integration

- Mutual synchronous compatibility (syntactic and/or semantic) of two or more systems
- Webservices
- Middleware
- Search and retrieve
- SaaS, CaaS
- Widgets
- Clouds
- All dependent on shared standards and specs

standards and specifications

- TCP/IP, HTTP, Unicode etc
- HTML, RTF, PDF, CSV, JPEG etc
- S&S in education:
 - IMS: QTI, SS, IMSLD
 - SCORM: packaging, runtime, tracking
 - IEEE: LOM
 - MedBiquitous: Healthcare LOM, MVP

nothing but?

mixed economy

- It's right where it's right, it fits where it fits
- Risk
- Complexity
- Quality
- Choice
- Support and sustainability
- **All technology is intrinsically temporary, transient**
- Underlying process and trajectory is more important
- OS = paying attention to the right things?
- I still do Mac, Photoshop, Logic, PPT

where next?

- The potential of open source approaches for education
<http://www.futurelab.org.uk/resources/documents/opening>
- Wikiversity <http://en.wikiversity.org/>
- Canadian Open Source and Research
<http://www.canopener.ca/>
- Open Source Schools (<http://opensourcechools.org/>)
- Schoolforge (<http://schoolforge.net>)
- Open Source Initiative (<http://www.opensource.org/>)
- Free Software Foundation (<http://www.fsf.org>)

where next?

- Try it out
- Get your colleagues to try it out
- Get your students to try it out
- Consider as a more ethical, sustainable, economic, appropriate, enabling and fun approach to closed models
- Consider as a reified collective and discussion
- Go from adopter to adapter
- Go from adapter to contributor

let's not be
Laurentian Open Source Anonymous (LOSAs)

**with OS most importantly ...
it's us
there is no 'them'**

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