

## Blog for Ciklum

<http://www.ciklum.com/the-rise-of-open-source-when-and-how-did-it-become-the-new-standard/>

# The Rise of Open Source: When and How Did It Become The New Standard?

Posted June 16, 2015



This past decade has seen license-free open source software (OSS) rapidly overtake the dominance of proprietary commercial software products. The latest landmark advances in enterprise computing – from mobile, to cloud, to Big Data – have been largely enhanced by open source architecture.

The results of this year's widely-regarded annual [Future of Open Source Survey](#), released in April revealed that of **1,300 responding IT and business professionals**, an overwhelming 78% indicated they now run all or part of their enterprise operations on an OSS platform – nearly double that number from just five years ago.

Other findings from this year's survey confirm today's OSS foothold:

- **93% of respondents** said their reliance upon open source increased or remained the same over the past year.

- **64% directly participate** in open source projects – a **14% increase over just 12 months** – while **88%** anticipate increasing their OSS contributions in the next few years.
- **50% estimate over half** of their company’s engineers work with OSS.
- **66% regularly explore** an open source solution before considering other options.

Besides the obvious cost savings over multiple user licenses and other charges associated with traditional proprietary software products, what’s led this enterprise exodus to OSS?

### **Quality**

A commercial software product released by a single team of in-house developers just doesn’t stand up to an open source application tested and refined by legions of developers worldwide. OSS solutions are shaped by the real-world needs of the user community, rather than the take-it-or-leave-it approach displayed by too many proprietary vendors.

### **Security**

The overall reliability – and emerging vulnerabilities – of an open source environment are under direct and constant scrutiny by a vast user/developer community. New issues are typically uncovered and code fixes circulated very quickly – often within hours, while Windows users customers may be left at Microsoft’s mercy to *eventually* patch a critical zero-day cyber-threat.

The security of an open source program is fully “auditable” at any time, where trusting a private vendor’s closed-code product is entirely a leap of faith.

### **Customizability**

Open source code can easily be tweaked to best meet a business user’s needs. Modifying the closed code of a commercial software product is invariably risky – if not expressly forbidden by its User Agreement.

## *Freedom*

Many enterprise users turned to open source solutions when they became frustrated with “playing by other people’s rules” – such as when Microsoft arbitrarily decided to pull the plug on support for tried-and-true Windows XP, forcing an upgrade, so to speak, to the generally unpopular Windows 8. Successful open source platforms are free to exist forever – with no unwanted interference.

While the shift toward open source solutions is clear, many enterprise users find themselves bottlenecked by a lack of in-house policies and procedures for deploying and maintaining an OSS platform, including possible legal requirements and essential security monitoring against constantly emerging threats. Creating a custom OSS platform “from scratch” requires a specialized development team who’ll design the most effective platform to meet your business’s unique needs. To learn more about Ciklum may incorporate OSS into your company’s custom software solutions, visit us [here](#).