open source vs. proprietary

in 10 mins or less

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What is source code?

- Human-readable computer instructions
- Source code is used by an interpreter or compiler to turn human readable instructions into machine instructions

eg.
```
  #include <stdio.h>
 int main (int argc, char *argv[]) {
    printf("Hello World!\n");
 }
```

What is open source?

-It's Free! (think of free as in freedom, not as in free beer)

-Published source code that is made available to the public, enabling anyone to copy, modify and redistribute the source code without paying royalties or fees

Examples of open source projects:

-Firefox Web Browser
-Apache Web Server(runs 66.95% of the million busiest sites)
-Linux Operation System

Why is it important?

-Allows peer review of software

-No vendor lock in

-Gives rights to the software users

-Free to make modification to suit your needs

-Do not have to rely on vendor for updates or upgrades

Why is Open Source important in the consideration of Electronic and Internet voting?

-Transparency
   -Voters can audit the process for their own validation
   -Not just a black box

-Accountability
   -Auditability

-Canadian prototype could be used as a model for other jurisdictions and regions

-Security

How can open source be secure?

-The System needs to be designed with security as a main principle from the start

-The System should not rely on secrets for security (security by obscurity)

-Allows many eyes to view the source to find problems

Proprietary Advantages

-Ready made systems available

-Someone to blame when it goes wrong