

[FREE] Open Sources: Voices from the Open Source Revolution

Open Sources: Voices from the Open Source Revolution

Von *Chris DiBona, Sam Ockman*
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Von Chris DiBona, Sam Ockman : Open Sources: Voices from the Open Source Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Open Sources: Voices from the Open Source Revolution:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a well-intentioned but naive view of softwareVon Ein KundeOpen Sources is a collection of essays by people who have been involved in a prominent way in what is being called "the open source revolution." The authors are all very bright people with good intentions and diverse viewpoints; this makes for interesting reading. However, I had a problem with the introduction. In fact, I hated it. It attempts to couch the issue of free vs. non-free software in religious terms: in the bad old days, free software only came from universities or other government-funded research. Then, a few companies saw the light and began to open-source their software; currently the industry is divided between these companies (the saved) and the rest of the companies (the damned) who will spiral into oblivion due to their proprietary selfishness. I

thought the presence of this sort of rhetoric in the introduction, which sets the tone for the rest of the book, was particularly unfortunate. The essays in Open Sources are a mixed bag. Kirk McKusick's history of Berkeley UNIX is great, as is Michael Tiemann's history of Cygnus Solutions, RMS's article about the GNU project, and Bruce Perens' article about licensing issues. Also, I really enjoyed the transcript of the infamous 1992 flame war between Linus and Andy Tanenbaum about the merits of Linux vs. Minix. On the other hand, Paul Vixie's article about software engineering is pretty random, Larry Wall's article does not seem to have a point at all, and Eric Raymond's second article and Tom Paquin's account of the open-sourcing of Netscape are too self-serving to be useful. Overall, I enjoyed this book quite a bit. However, the year that has passed since its publication has exposed some of the more outlandish predictions made by its contributors (Eric Raymond said that Windows 2000 would either be canceled or be a complete disaster). My guess is that Open Sources is not destined to become a classic. Rather, in a few years it will be viewed as an interesting but somewhat naive period piece.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Good background material to the open source movement
Von abbonema@sp-plus.nl
It's general background and overview material and even if you don't like all articles (I disliked the one by Larry Wall, sorry, Larry, I do like Perl), it's a definite buy for people interested in software development methods in general or free software development in particular. Mind you, it's not a scientific or very theoretical book, but it does have some opinions and theories in it (Richard Stallman, Eric Raymond, Bruce Perens, Tim O'Reilly). So, if you like theory on software development, it's a definite buy. If you're a hacker already, well maybe, but you might already know parts of it. Finally, there is definitely some anti-MS sentiment in there. However maybe it's just anti-baddd-software. Anyway, just so you know.... As far as I am concerned: buy, buy, BUY!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent intro to the best current SW development method
Von Ein Kunde
"SW development method" does not quite convey the story here. It is a culture that is blossoming. Think of it: for so long brilliant unsung heroes have contributed so much to our software progress only to have corporate bigwigs like Microsoft get all the credit; for so long proprietary software has had stifled innovation just in the way that proprietary hardware did; and for so long, competition has been stifled in a vital area of our economy by a dangerous monopoly which has resulted in the present crisis. Out comes the open source movement, revenge of the hackers as Eric Raymond would say, to set things right. New economics are upon us here, and this book is a lively and well-rounded perspective on this. Hopefully, however, it should be followed up by regular checks on the Net of the leaders who contributed. Already some important writings have been announced since this book was published. I should add here, however, that most of the material in the book I have never encountered on the Net before, so please read the book! BTW, a previous reviewer was really down on the book because it heavily criticizes Microsoft and it assumes some background knowledge in business and software. These are unfounded claims: I have no clue about business but was easily able to figure out the *tiny* amount of specific jargon from context. Likewise, I think any intelligent person could do the same with the technology presented here. When it does get a little more technical the publisher put that material in a separate appendix in the back. And of course this book is going to criticize Microsoft -- after all, Microsoft is extremely upset about what has been revealed in public about their business practices, courtesy of the DOJ trial, and they take this out on the open source community--see the "Halloween Documents" or the Wall Street Journal on Microsoft's Linux "hit team", for example. I would not consider the book to have a critical eye towards Microsoft so much as a description of an attempt to rescue a crucial market from the crisis that it is now in. Er, let's face it: a great new way to make money and feel good about yourself. :^)

Kurzbeschreibung
Freely available source code, with contributions from thousands of programmers around the world: this is the spirit of the software revolution known as Open Source. Open Source has grabbed the computer industry's attention. Netscape has opened the source code to Mozilla; IBM supports Apache; major database vendors have ported their products to Linux. As enterprises realize the power of the open-source development model, Open Source is becoming a viable mainstream alternative to commercial software. Now in Open Sources, leaders of Open Source come together for the first time to discuss the new vision of the software industry they have created. The essays in this volume offer insight into how the Open Source movement works, why it succeeds, and where it is going. For programmers who have labored on open-source projects, Open Sources is the new gospel: a powerful vision from the movement's spiritual leaders. For businesses integrating open-source software into their enterprise, Open Sources reveals the mysteries of how open development builds better software, and how businesses can leverage freely available software for a competitive business advantage. The contributors here have been the leaders in the open-source arena: Brian Behlendorf (Apache) Kirk McKusick (Berkeley Unix) Tim O'Reilly (Publisher, O'Reilly Associates) Bruce Perens (Debian Project, Open Source Initiative) Tom Paquin and Jim Hamerly (mozilla.org, Netscape) Eric Raymond (Open Source Initiative) Richard Stallman (GNU, Free Software Foundation, Emacs) Michael Tiemann (Cygnus Solutions) Linus Torvalds (Linux) Paul Vixie (Bind) Larry Wall (Perl) This book explains why the majority of the Internet's servers use open-source technologies for everything from the operating system to Web serving and email. Key technology products developed with open-source software have overtaken and surpassed the commercial efforts

of billion dollar companies like Microsoft and IBM to dominate software markets. Learn the inside story of what led Netscape to decide to release its source code using the open-source mode. Learn how Cygnus Solutions builds the world's best compilers by sharing the source code. Learn why venture capitalists are eagerly watching Red Hat Software, a company that gives its key product -- Linux -- away. For the first time in print, this book presents the story of the open-source phenomenon told by the people who created this movement. Open Sources will bring you into the world of free software and show you the revolution.