

Open source community hits back against SAP

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Created 14/11/2005 - 11:07pm

Submitted by srlinuxx on Monday 14th of November 2005 11:07:05 PM Filed under [OSS](#) [1]

Open-source advocates have lashed out at SAP after a senior executive's "bold and ill-informed" criticisms.

Shai Agassi, SAP's head of product development and technology, said open source represents a kind of "IP socialism" that kills innovation. Agassi later downplayed the comments, saying they had been reported out of context.

Some industry observers said Agassi's argument was extreme, pointing to counter-examples such as HTML and TCP/IP, which don't incur license fees.

Dave Rosenberg, principal analyst with the Open Source Development Labs (OSDL), said the remarks amounted to "talking smack" about open source. "SAP's Shai Agassi was at the Churchill Club making very bold and ill-informed statements about open source," he said in a weblog post.

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