

# Why and when open source products best Microsoft

By *srlinuxx*

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There are good reasons for using open source software (OSS), and I've learned those reasons through 15 years of experience with more traditional, commercial or closed source applications.

In part one of this two-part column, I'll cover problems I've had with proprietary software and my take on the total cost of ownership (TCO) debate. In part two, I'll talk about what I consider to be Microsoft's unethical practices and when not to use open source software.

In part two, I'll not only discuss what I consider to be Microsoft's unethical practices, but I'll offer advice on when not to use OSS. This short series describes my experiences with OSS and proprietary software.

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