

What Does Google Owe FOSS?

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Mobile device developers are in a holding pattern with plans to plug in the much-awaited Google (Nasdaq: GOOG) Android 3.0 upgrade. The delay is causing some bad feelings in the FOSS (Free Open Source Software) community. But it is unlikely that Google will carry many scars from the dispute.

Claiming it needs more time to solve technical glitches, Google recently announced that it was delaying the promised release of code for Honeycomb, the Android 3.0 operating system.

The delay in releasing the code has some mobile product developers worried that Google might recant and keep Honeycomb out of the open source inventory altogether. A more likely outcome could be a rift in the Android ranks. That scenario would see newer products running a restricted or closed source Android OS with better functionality than the existing open source Android devices.

So far, Google has remained tight lipped about how it views its obligations to the FOSS community.

[rest here](#) [3]

[Google OSS](#)

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[3] <http://www.linuxinsider.com/story/What-Does-Google-Owe-FOSS-72296.html>