

# Open source: Its true cost and where it's going awry by Monty Widenius

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Created 30/05/2013 - 10:20pm

Submitted by srlinuxx on Thursday 30th of May 2013 10:20:22 PM Filed under [OSS](#) [1]

Open-source advocate Michael 'Monty' Widenius, main author of the MySQL database, says changes in the movement over the past few years are threatening the viability of projects.

Company attitudes to contributing finance and manpower to open-source initiatives have been shifting recently, according to Widenius. Ever since his earliest involvement in the mid-1990s immediately preceding the movement's emergence, people have been prepared to pay for software they valued.

"Now the problem is that you have companies that are heavily using open source but refuse to pay anything back because they don't have to," Widenius said.

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