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# What's keeping you from using open source software?

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Open source software (OSS), unlike proprietary software, is software that keeps the code open so IT professionals can alter, improve, and distribute it. Although it has been around since relatively early in the history of computers, in the past several years OSS has truly taken off, in what some might see as a surprising example of a successful communal collaboration.

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[2] <http://opensource.com/business/13/12/using-open-source-software>