

10 Advantages of Open-Source for the Enterprise

Adoption of open source software (OSS) at the enterprise level has flourished, as more businesses discover the considerable advantages that open source solutions hold over their proprietary counterparts, and as the enterprise mentality around open source continues to shift.

Enterprises looking for a reason to make smart use of open source software will find plenty.

Here are our top 10.

1. Community

Open source solutions geared towards enterprise implementation have thriving communities built around them, bound by a common drive to support and improve a solution they both benefit and believe in.

The Apache Software Foundation statistics for FY2017:

- 25,154 authors sent 2,105,992 emails on 834,045 topics over the past year;
- 35M page views per week across apache.org;
- Web requests received from every Internet-connected country on the planet;
- 65+M lines of code committed



2. Crowd Power

Many hands make for light work, and the collected power of a community built out of talented individuals in concert with one another delivers not only more ideas, but quicker development and troubleshooting when issues do arise.

Apache Software Foundation has over **6,000 code Committers**.
That's a lot of developers working on your software.

3. Transparency

Open source code means just that – you get **full visibility** into the code base, as well as all discussions covering just how the community develops features and addresses bugs.



4. Reliability

With a **worldwide community** supporting a code base – rather than one team within one company – code is developed on online forums and guided by experts. The output tends to be extremely **robust, tried and tested code**.

More than **55% of companies** surveyed deploy OSS for production infrastructure.



5. Security

Similar to open source software's advantages in reliability, the code is often more secure because it is that much more **thoroughly reviewed and vetted** by the community.



6. Merit

The only motivation behind decision-making about the direction of a solution is to make **the best, most useful product possible**.

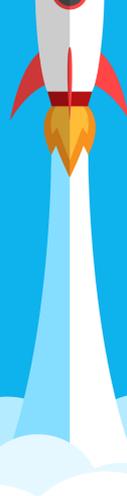
The Apache Software Foundation remains **100% Volunteer** for all code/development-related activities.



7. Faster to Market

Because open source solutions are openly available and can be explored for free, it's often much faster to investigate options and get solutions off the ground.

No. 1 strategic driver for selecting open source by Future of OSS Survey 2016 was competitive advantage.



8. Cost Effectiveness

While open source solutions deserve so much more than to be thought of as free software, the fact that they include **no licensing fees** remains a decisive advantage when looking at the total cost of deploying a solution.

\$0 the amount you pay in licensing fees.



9. Freedom from Lock-in

Using proprietary software for critical applications increases the risk of vendor or technological lock-in. Enterprises can be at the mercy of price increases and a lack of flexibility they can't easily escape.

No. 2 strategic driver for selected by companies participating in Future of OSS survey 2016



10. It's now the norm

With so many large enterprises now implementing open source solutions – and often making policies out of doing so – these businesses and the strength of their resources are now a part of those communities that support such solutions.

Apple runs over **100,000 nodes** of open source Apache Cassandra with over **10 petabytes of data**.

