Let's debate

Subject: Computer Science LSSA

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Open-source or proprietary software?

Let's debate. Argumentations:

"Affirmation, Reasoning, Proof, and Conclusion"

"Affirmation"	We think that the use of open-source software, both in the workplace and in the home environment, should be embraced and supported.
	Our first point is that, if open-source software were more popular, there would be an economic advantage.
	Our second point is that the overall quality and reliability in the production of software would be greatly enhanced.
	Our third point is that, by cutting on the monopoly of some producers, the circulation of technical material and of ideas in general would also be greatly enhanced.
"Reasoning"	In particular, in an environment like the school system, where funding is scarce, the free circulation of material would favor the diffusion of education.
	The quality of software would increase, as it would be writtend and maintained by a world community of developers.
	The contributions to software development would be available to all and easily upkept.
"Proof"	Source: The use of proprietary sotware in Italian enterprises (www.lem.sssup.it/projects/resfiles/rapporto_ict_last.pdf). This research shows that the incidence on software investments on IT investments is about 35%.
	A poll made by Barracuda Network reports that, among the benefits of the use of open-source software, the contacted enterprises list economic advantages for the 80%, accessibility to source code for the 57%, and community support for the 41%.
"Conclusion" Riassunto dei punti illustrati in relazione all'argomento assegnato	Our conclusion is that the economic advantages of using open-source software are recognized on an international level, and that the contribution of the developer community is fundamental for creating new applications.

Counter-argumentations

Four phases

"They say . . ."	They say that widespread adoption of open-source software would bring economic advantages and product flexibility, would limit some monopolies, and would favor the free circulation of ideas.
"We do not agree . . ."	Our point of view is that proprietary software has many benefits.
"Because . . ."	Source: software experts. • Most open-source software are destined to power users, so their use and, mostly, their installation, are not easy in a typical enterprise or school. • In some cases support is not free. • The quality of proprietary software is generally higher. • Many companies would have to hire experts anyway, lacking the technical competences required to operate more complex software. Source: http://smallbusiness.chron.com/advantages-three-disadvantages-proprietary-system-vs-open-platform-38010.html Proprietary software meet specific needs of the workforce, being designed on them. Source: http://www.kedah.edu.my/sahc/a_portal/portal_tekvok/ict/nota_com_sys/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20les_57.pdf Proprietary software are more stable when system error occur. Source: http://www.cnet.com/news/why-choose-proprietary-software-over-open-source-survey-says/ With open-source software, commercial and technical support are inadequate, and mostly left to the good will of experts who might be on the other side of the world and ignore the needs of foreign users.
"So . . ."	Our opponents maintain a point of view apt for expert developers; we are on the side of the common people, who need simple and universal products. The quality of support of proprietary software is generally superior. Many open-source products are distributed incomplete, needing continual updates, not always free.