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Tackling Openwashers

How to safeguard the Free Software market
against unfair competition

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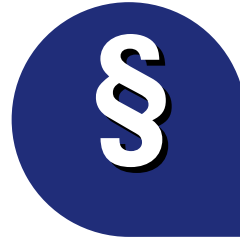# Free Software Foundation Europe

We are a charity that empowers users to control technology.

Free Software

use

The software can be used for any purpose, without restrictions.

study

The software and its code can be analysed by anyone.

share

The software can be shared without limitations. The price doesn't matter.

improve

The software can be modified by you or others to give back to the community.

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We need controllable, shapeable, transparent digital infrastructures.

To achieve this, we need Free Software in public administrations, in the education sector and on private devices.

PUBLIC MONEY

PUBLIC CODE

Why is software created using taxpayers' money not released as Free Software?

We want legislation requiring that publicly financed software developed for the public sector be made publicly available under a Free and Open Source Software licence.

If it is public money, it should be public code as well.

https://publiccode.eu

Public Money Public Code
publiccode.eu

We want **incremental change** across Europe, on all levels.

20,48 % from now

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Public Money
Public Code

publiccode.eu

We want **incremental change** across Europe, on all levels.

20,48 % from now

100 % from 2048

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We see progress, but ...

Lack of clear policies

Lack of implementation

Lack of statistics to measure progress

Lack of sustainable budgets for Free Software

Problematic competition practices

Public Money
Public Code

publiccode.eu

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We see progress, but ...

Lack of clear policies

Lack of implementation

Lack of statistics to measure progress

Lack of sustainable budgets for Free Software

Problematic competition practices

... we have to be watchdogs.

Public Money
Public Code

publiccode.eu

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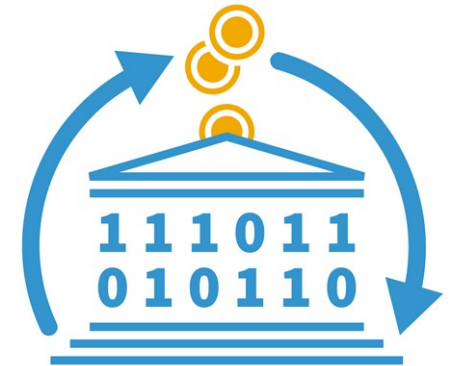
Openwashing

It is not new and will not disappear.

It harms **Public Money? Public Code!** and Free Software.

We need to recognise openwashing, talk about it and contain it.

⇄ Free Software Foundation Europe teilte

Johannes Näder 🌐 5. Juni
@johas

Thanks to everyone who already gave input on the topic of #OpenWashing !

As many companies claim to be working on "Open Source" or "Free Software" while distributing proprietary software products, we at the @fsfe would like to learn more about current market practices.

We're interested in your views and experiences on openwashing! You can submit them here:
share.fsfe.org/apps/forms/s/Z6…

Please spread the word, any input is welcome!

Übersetzen

	share.fsfe.org
📄	**FSFE Collaboration**

#FreeSoftware #OpenSource #PublicCode

↩ 6   ⇄ 74   ☆ 71   🔖   •••

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Free Software Foundation Europe teilte

Johannes Näder
@johas

🌐 5. Juni

Thanks to everyone who already gave input on the topic of #OpenWashing !

As many ~~of~~
distributin~~g~~
about curr~~ent~~

We're inter~~ested~~
them here:

share.fsfe.o~~rg~~

Please spre~~ad~~

@johas @fsfe @miklo only for a moment I was hoping for a open source washing machine...

↩ 1

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FSFE Collaboration

#FreeSoftware   #OpenSource   #PublicCode

↩ 6   ⇄ 74   ⭐ 71   🔖   ...

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← Zurück

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↩ 6   ⟳ 74   ★ 71

📖 README

OpenWasher   ✏ ☰

Open-source controller for washing machine based on STM32F103.

Control:

- ☑ Bluetooth 2.0 based on HC-05 module
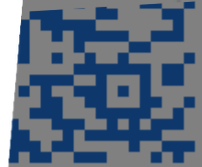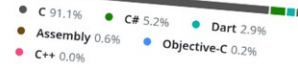- ☐ Wifi
- ☐ Front panel

Software:

- ☑ WinForms client
- ☐ Android client
- ☐ QT client

Current supported platforms:

- Arcadia without drying, collector motor - replace CPU PCB

Languages
- ● C 91.1%   ● C# 5.2%   ● Dart 2.9%
- ● Assembly 0.6%   ● Objective-C 0.2%
- ● C++ 0.0%

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Definition

Openwashing:

Creating the misleading impression of developing, offering or otherwise supporting Free Software, while actually offering proprietary software.
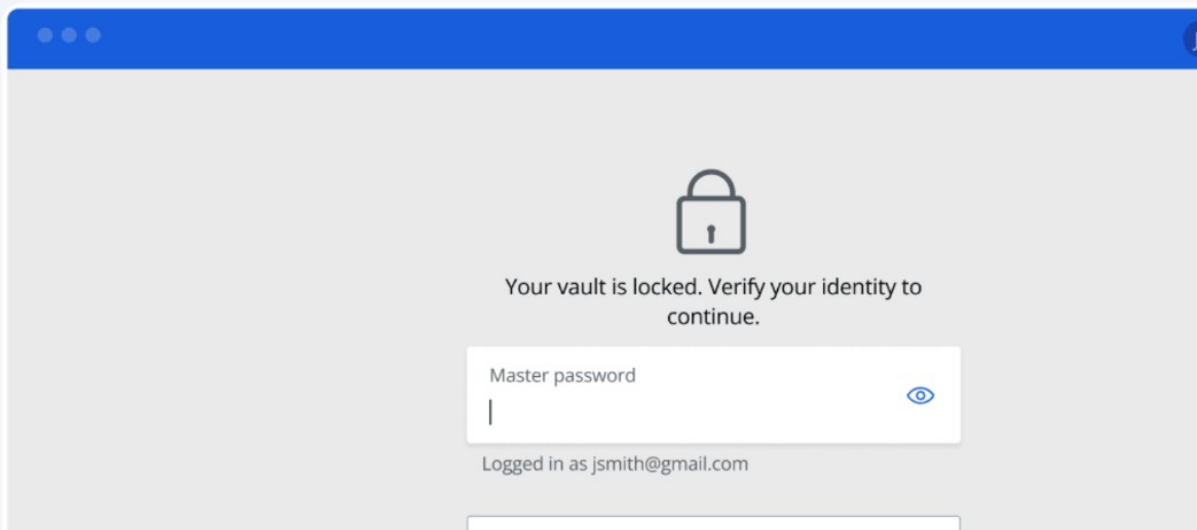
1. **Proprietary software:** software product is not (fully) Free Software

2. **Misleading communication**: The manufacturer gives the impression that this software is Free Software.

Openwashing is a form of fraudulent labelling – usually with the intention of gaining a market advantage for proprietary software products.

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Everything you need in a password manager

Secure in security

Bitwarden is the trusted open source personal password manager. Your data is sealed in a vault, encrypted end-to-end, locked down in the cloud, and transmitted only through secure channels. Bitwarden also identifies compromised passwords stored in your vault to minimize risk and keep your credentials secure.

🔒

Your vault is locked. Verify your identity to continue.

Master password   👁

|

Logged in as jsmith@gmail.com

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Files

clients / **LICENSE.txt**

Hinton Prepare bitwarden_license directory (#2663)

main

Go to file

> apps
> bitwarden_license
> libs
> patches
> scripts
.browserslistrc
.editorconfig
.eslintignore
.eslintrc.json
.git-blame-ignore-revs
.gitattributes
.gitignore
.nvmrc

| Code | Blame | 17 lines (14 loc) · 818 Bytes |

```
 1    Source code in this repository is covered by one of two licenses: (i) the
 2    GNU General Public License (GPL) v3.0 (ii) the Bitwarden License v1.0. The
 3    default license throughout the repository is GPL v3.0 unless the header
 4    specifies another license. Bitwarden Licensed code is found only in the
 5    /bitwarden_license directory.
 6
 7    GPL v3.0:
 8    https://github.com/bitwarden/web/blob/master/LICENSE_GPL.txt
 9
10    Bitwarden License v1.0:
11    https://github.com/bitwarden/web/blob/master/LICENSE_BITWARDEN.txt
12
13    No grant of any rights in the trademarks, service marks, or logos of Bitwarden is
14    made (except as may be necessary to comply with the notice requirements as
15    applicable), and use of any Bitwarden trademarks must comply with Bitwarden
16    Trademark Guidelines
17    <https://github.com/bitwarden/server/blob/master/TRADEMARK_GUIDELINES.md>.
```

FreeFileSync

Open Source File Synchronization

:(**It looks like an ad blocker has blocked the ads.** The FreeFileSync project is 100% dependent on ad revenue and donations to stay alive. Instead of the ads, and after FreeFileSync has proven useful to you, please think about supporting with a donation.

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Is FreeFileSync free for commercial use?

No, the standard version of FreeFileSync and the Donation Edition are allowed for **private use only**.
Businesses and government organizations are required to buy the FreeFileSync Business Edition.

What is the FreeFileSync Business Edition?

In order to allow FreeFileSync in a commercial or government setting, it is required to license a number of devices for installation by using the form below.

After payment you are redirected to the download page of the FreeFileSync Business Edition (with additional features: 🚗 ⛓ ✉ ⚔ 📄) and an **invoice** is sent via email at the same time.

A license costs €20 per device and allows for **unlimited use** of the FreeFileSync Business Edition. This includes future software **updates for one year**. Email notifications (which create ongoing costs for the FreeFileSync project) are guaranteed only for the duration of the update period, although there are currently no plans to end service after that.

Thank you for supporting the project!

- 🚗 **auto**-updater
- ⛓ **parallel** file copy
- ✉ **email** notifications
- ⚔ Silent installation
- 📄 Tax **invoice**

Menu items
- About FreeFileSync
- Tutorials
- Screenshots
- Download

Methods & strategies

Open wording, closed code: misleading naming or buzzwording

Pseudo Open Licensing: Misleading licensing of proprietary software

Partly Open Proprietary Software: "Open Core" / proprietary "Enterprise Edition"

Obfuscated source: hidden proprietary components or blobs

Closed source forks: Free Software intransparently turned proprietary

Closed server: advertise free client, while server is proprietary

Delayed source: new features promoted as free but are proprietary (first)

Obstructed source: users are kept from exercising their freedoms

Pseudo-open AI: training data, model, weights, software – some or all not free

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Why is openwashing a problem?

Free Software manufacturers: not awarded in procurement, loss of revenue

Free Software developers: loss of income, might face layoffs

Free Software community: mutual distrust

Free Software: reputational damage, problems attributed to Free Software

Public administrations: no control over digital infrastructures,
no interoperability, ongoing vendor lock-in

General public: deceived about the sustainable use of taxpayers' money

The goals of 'Public money? Public code!' are undermined.

Damage to the Free Software ecosystem.

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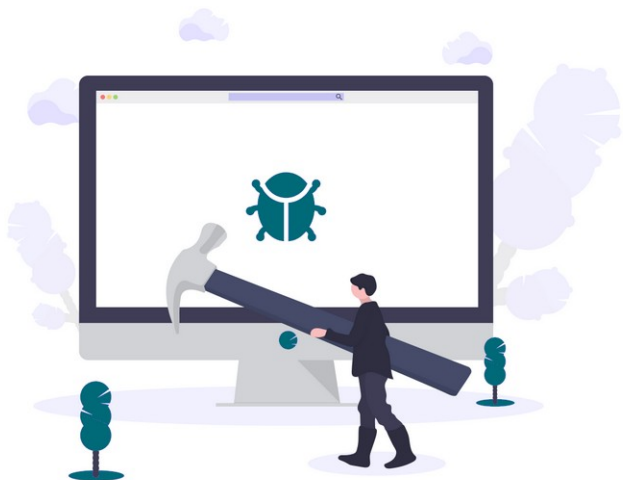
Maslow's Hammer

„If the only you have is a hammer, it is tempting to treat everything as if it were a nail."

Abraham Harold Maslow, The Psychology of Science: A Reconnaissance, 1966, S. 15.

These are not the only pitfalls in the procurement of Free Software.

Not every problematic behaviour of a bidding party has to do with openwashing.

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Other pitfalls

Free Software becomes proprietary

Single vendor, lacking a community

Weak business model

Freeloading: Offering Free Software developed by others without payments or contributions

Vulnerable components as dependencies

What can public administrations do?

Reduce the risk of awarding contracts to openwashers:

Expertise, reliable structures + institutions, tender criteria, maintain the ability to change, willingness to learn

Avoid own openwashing:

Licensing criteria, REUSE, open development, compliance/inclusion in Linux distributions, multi-stakeholder participation, expertise

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What can we all do?

Understand strategies and methods of openwashing / unfair competition

Avoid own openwashing

Raise awareness – talk about openwashing

Monitor markets and public administrations

Ask questions, educate, convince

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Openwashing assumes there is a dishonest intention.

Sometimes there is no dishonest intention: it is our job to convince these actors that they need to play fair and fix their marketing.

Thanks for raising this topic!

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👤 ssddanbrown Added dokploy case •••   cd788bc · 4 months ago   🕑 30 Commits

📁 addressed	Added metabase (addressed) and APITable cases	8 months ago
📁 cases	Added dokploy case	4 months ago
📁 files	Added sentry and codecov	8 months ago
📄 .gitattributes	Added repo base content	2 years ago
📄 .gitignore	Restructured repo	10 months ago
📄 LICENSE	Added repo base content	2 years ago
📄 addressed.md	Added metabase (addressed) and APITable cases	8 months ago
📄 readme.md	Added dokploy case	4 months ago

About

A list of cases where open source licenses are misrepresented or where "Open Source" is used in a non-open-source-definition adhering manner.

`open-source` `licensing`

📖 Readme
⚖ MIT license
⎍ Activity
☆ 139 stars
👁 18 watching
ஃ 1 fork

Report repository

📖 README   ⚖ MIT license   ☰

Open Source Confusion Cases

A list of cases where open source licenses are misrepresented or where "Open Source" is used in a non-open-source-definition adhering manner.

- Skip to the list
- Addressed cases

Information

▸ **History & Purpose**

▸ **Scope**

What can we all do?

Understand strategies and methods of openwashing / unfair competition

Avoid own openwashing

Raise awareness – talk about openwashing

Monitor markets and public administrations

Ask questions, educate, convince

**Point out and criticise openwashing
and other market practices that harm Free Software!**

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Become an FSFE supporter

to ensure that all public funding for software

is used for Free Software only!

Thank you!

https://my.fsfe.org/donate

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