Presenter bio

Simon Phipps is the current President and a board director at the Open Source Initiative, the internationally recognised organisation formed in 1998 following the coining of the term to act as steward of "Open Source" on behalf of the global community. *More*

To promote and protect open source...

As a global non-profit, The Open Source Initiative (OSI) protects and promotes open source software, development and communities, championing software freedom in society through education, collaboration, and infrastructure, stewarding the **Open Source Definition** (OSD), and preventing abuse of the ideals and ethos inherent to the open source movement. See our about and history pages for more.

Open source software is software that can be freely used, changed, and shared (in modified or unmodified form) by anyone. Open source software is made by many people, and distributed under **licenses** that comply with the **Open Source Definition**.

open source initiative ®

From https://opensource.org/

Open Source is a defined term

The global software development and deployment community refers to software as "open source" when it is made available with source code under an OSI-approved IP license conveying the rights necessary to use, improve and share the software in a manner a given community considers appropriate.

All OSI-approved licenses share basic attributes defined in the Open Source Definition (OSD). In particular "mere use" is always permitted.

The term open source applied in this way to software and OSI's authority as steward are both widely recognised in corporate and government policy as well as by the global development community..

Open Source includes patents as well as copyrights

Open source licenses go beyond copyright to deliver rights permission and rights protection for developers and users in multiple IP classes, both explicitly and implicitly.

An open source project expects all necessary rights associated with former and current participants to be licensed without further action (OSD 7).

The community has recently confirmed in relation to Facebook that the overall package of rights statements must be OSI approved to be acceptable. Additional restrictions in supplementary documents are not permitted.

OSI's License Review Process is open to any license steward, including an SDO.

Licenses become approved through OSI's process

A key goal of the OSI approval process is to allow those without access to corporate counsel to still participate confidently in open source collaborative development in service of their own use, improvement and sharing of the code.

OSI's "crystallisation of consensus" process for license review is overwhelmingly accepted in the community, serving as a nexus of trust and providing permission in advance for innovation. A license thus only becomes Approved when open public review has reached consensus *and* the OSI Board has confirmed that consensus.

Individuals, corporations and SDOs may not assert or imply OSI Approved License status outside this process.

OSI is willing to correspond with SDOs

OSI's current and former Board has decades of experience of open source and of the license approval process and is aware of many modes of both success and failure related to licensing and community.

OSI is a donation-funded break-even 501(c)(3) with limited staff and a pro bono Board. OSI is nonetheless willing to correspond with SDOs on open source matters, as well as help identify independent consultants.

To establish a corresponding relationship, please contact president@opensource.org