

Industry Success Factors for Open Source User Consortia

Summary

An open source software user consortium is a non-profit organization (foundation, consortium, working group) created for the purpose of funding and managing the development of non-differentiating open source software made available to consortium members and the general public. Its purpose is to establish a software ecosystem in which vendors and suppliers can provide products and services on an equal playing field to the software user companies. This approach to collaboration sometimes works well, sometimes it doesn't. This thesis makes the assumption that is the underlying industry and its competitive structure that determine whether it is easy or not to setup a successful user consortium. The goal of this thesis then is to determine these factors and suggest industries where user consortia might flourish.

Work Results

- Review related work (literature review)
 - **Software user consortia (helpful for dissertation work?)**
 - Success factors for collaboration
 - Optional: Industry structure and competitiveness
- Perform research
 - Qualitative survey of known examples for success factors
 - Derive theory as to success factors
 - Optional: Relate success factors to existing industries
- Expected research results
 - Theory of success factors
 - Presentation in research paper format
 - Optional: Recommendations for industries where user consortia could be successful

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