
Subject: all code open to public?

Posted by [Anonymous Poster](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2008 10:44:02 GMT

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Hi everybody,

I would like to know your opinion about the fact that all our code is open to the public. I can even quickly search for code I write, by googleing for coding habits of mine. Actually a friend of mine told me that one of the top 5 google hits for the search 'dreggn' (talking about bad habits) is a source file I wrote for PANDA.

I don't think this is such a great idea. I don't think we gain anything from putting the code on the open web. But as long as we think about some kind of licensing, it is probably the intellectual property of ours or our employers.

Not that I claim that any of the code we write is spectacularly exciting, but...

Cheers, Christian

Subject: Re: all code open to public?

Posted by [Johan Messchendorp](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2008 10:56:07 GMT

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Dear Christian,

We just started discussing the license issue for our software (initiated by the recent licensing of FairROOT). The suggestion was made to continue the discussion in Ferrara, since it is a topic of general interest.

Kind wishes,

Johan.

Subject: Re: all code open to public?

Posted by [Anonymous Poster](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2008 11:25:35 GMT

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Hi,

oops, my bad for not following the discussion properly. Very good!

Christian

Subject: Re: all code open to public?

Posted by [Pablo Genova](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2008 11:34:26 GMT

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Hi Christian,

as Johan said the discussion is postponed.
But let me just add my personal comment...

On my personal view the code should be all free and open, since we are not a private company such as Microsoft but we are working for the scientific community (open and public).

On my view the more our code is copied/reused/criticized by everybody in the world the better it is: it means that we are working very well and giving help to other experiments.

We could follow ROOT example which is all available on the web and that is, on my view, a great merit of ROOT!

Best regards, Pablo

Subject: Re: all code open to public?
Posted by [Ralf Kliemt](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2008 11:55:41 GMT
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Hi all,

Some days ago I learned that one can add a configuration file to his website and guide the Google searching bot, i.e. restricting the area, esp. source code. Supposedly this is even wanted by Google...

Cheers & hoorays,
Ralf.

Subject: Re: all code open to public?
Posted by [Anonymous Poster](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2008 14:03:48 GMT
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Hi everybody,

I am personally against unlicensed open code. We are not Microsoft, but we have (or somebody does) have intellectual property on our work. You can still decide later, that you may enable other people to use it freely (or you decide that beforehand by using GPL or so...). But people may not use it to make money or to do other closed source projects in the future.

Christian

Subject: Re: all code open to public?
Posted by [Johan Messchendorp](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2008 14:54:47 GMT
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Hi Christian and others,

I see the point of Christian. The best way to go is to settle on a short-time scale on one of the open source licenses, e.g. GPL, lite-GPL, BSD, Once we have a license for the code, we can ensure the "intellectual property" of the work. The question remains how this license should look like and how strict we make things. Personally, I believe we should not a-priori believe that all people have "bad" intentions with our software. We are a small community and we do need each others experiences.

Johan.

Subject: Re: all code open to public?

Posted by [Pablo Genova](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2008 15:02:13 GMT

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just a question... the fact that there is a licence does *not* imply that one has to pay to have it, right? I'm not expert of such things...

cheers, Pablo

Subject: Re: all code open to public?

Posted by [Anonymous Poster](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2008 15:43:13 GMT

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No, not at all. It doesn't imply that. For example the GPL implies (amongst a million other things probably) that whatever you use the code for must stay open source and must also be licenced under the GPL.

It keeps people from taking the code and to use it in closed source projects, i.e. to make money.

Christian

Subject: Re: all code open to public?

Posted by [Pablo Genova](#) on Tue, 05 Aug 2008 15:56:56 GMT

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thank you for the clarification.

Pablo
