Digital Monks Share Their Code—What would Hugh Taylor say about Open Source Software?

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Digital Monks Share Their Code:
What Would Hugh Taylor Say About Open Source Software?

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Outline

- A prophetic vision
- Transformation of culture
- Impact of media on records/society
- Industrial model to connected intelligence
- The movement to Open Source
- Open Source and archives
A Prophetic Vision…

Jigsaw Puzzle
- Separate pieces with only one solution
- Product of the industrial age

Transformer
- Interconnected “bits” can be assembled and reassembled into many different configurations
- “the pattern changes, the meaning changes, but the data – the given ‘bits’ – remain the same”
- A post-industrial model
Transformation of Culture

How do we classify knowledge?

Centralization

Assymetry

Commodification

Decentralization

Interdisciplinarity

Service
From the Industrial Model …

Expert Knowledge

Product

Consumers
...to Connected Intelligence
Impact of medium of the record

- The nature of media
- McLuhan
  - “medium is the message”
- The power of distributed capital
- The effect of group effort
Open Source: a model for the new paradigm?

- Power of a distributed peer network
- Transparency of process
- Can be freely used, modified and redistributed
- Is defined by the license which makes it available to the public
Open Source Definition

- Free redistribution
- Source code included
- Modifications, derived works allowed
- Integrity of author’s source code
- No discrimination against persons, groups, or against fields of endeavor
- Distribution of license
- Licenses not specific to a product
- Licenses do not restrict other software
- Licenses are technology-neutral
Licensing: Copyright v. Copyleft

Copyright: Protects the individual creator from unrestricted distribution of his/her work.

CopyLeft: protects the right to freely distribute a work without restrictions.

Controlled access v. Free access

Open source licenses exist along a continuum:

- Open - Proprietary
- Open in Proprietary
- Always Open
- Public domain
- Weak copyleft
- Strong copyleft
What do Harvard, University of Florida, Stanford, Cornell, MIT, UC Berkeley and San Diego, the National Archives of the UK, Australia, the Netherlands and the Portuguese National Archives all have in common?
In Open Source we see the power of the group at work

Jigsaw puzzle has given way to transformer

“… open source is part of a communications revolution designed to maximize the free sharing of ideas expressed in code.” Tim O’Reilly
Thank you!

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The Open Source Definition (Annotated) - official definition of “open source software”, with some explanations.  http://www.opensource.org/docs/definition.php

Free Software Definition - official definition of “Free software” (aka libre software; note the unusual capitalization).  http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/free-sw.html

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the GPL - Explains many issues relating to the GPL, and includes a detailed compatibility matrix for various versions of the GPL and LGPL (including some details about how they can be combined). http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-faq.html

Various Licenses and Comments About Them - Legal commentary by the Free Software Foundation (FSF) about many licenses. http://www.gnu.org/licenses/license-list.html


Make Your Open Source Software GPL-Compatible. Or Else - Explains why FLOSS should be released under a GPL-compatible license, and includes many statistics showing that the GPL is the most popular FLOSS license. http://www.dwheeler.com/essays/gpl-compatible.html


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