

OPEN SOURCE AND FREE SOFTWARE

Organizational and Societal Implications

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Abstract: Although there is evidence of wide-spread organizational and societal adoption of open source and free software (OS/FS) products, processes, philosophy and business models, our understanding of OS/FS in the organizational and societal contexts is still quite limited. In this panel, we seek to stimulate an open and productive conversation by articulating the key research questions which have informed, and emerged from, the study of the socio-cultural, legal, ethical and policy issues associated with OS/FS.

About the Panelists

Dr. Joseph Feller and **Prof. Brian Fitzgerald** are the lead organizers of the Open Source Software Engineering Workshop Series, hosted by the annual *International Conference on Software Engineering*, and have served as guest editors for OS/FS special issues of the *Information Systems Journal*, *IEE Proceedings – Software* and *Systèmes d'Information et Management* (with Frederic Adam, UCC). They are the authors of *Understanding Open Source Software Development* (Addison-Wesley, 2002) and the editors (with Scott Hissam, SEI, and Karim Lakhani, MIT-Sloan) of *Making Sense of the Bazaar: Perspectives on Open Source and Free Software* (O'Reilly, Forthcoming). Their work on OS/FS has been published in a variety of international journals and conference proceedings. Joseph Feller is a College Lecturer in Business Information Systems at the University College Cork, Ireland, and can be contacted at jfeller@afis.ucc.ie. Brian Fitzgerald is Frederick A Krehbiel II Chair in Innovation in Global Business & Technology at University of Limerick, Ireland, and can be contacted at brian.fitzgerald@ul.ie.

Prof. Jan Ljungberg and **Dr. Magnus Bergquist** are doing research on open source from a social and organizational point of view, e.g. incentive structures for cooperation and knowledge sharing. They have published their results in the *Information Systems Journal* and *European Journal of Information Systems*. Jan Ljungberg is a professor at the Department of Informatics at Gothenburg University and research leader of the knowledge management group at Viktoria

Institute. He can be reached at janl@viktoria.se. Magnus Berquist is associate professor in cultural anthropology and a senior faculty member of the Department of Informatics, Gothenburg University. He can be reached at magnus@viktoria.se.