

Analysis of Collaboration between the Market and Volunteers in the Linux Model

Global Business Research Center (Japan)
For FY2003: ¥5,216,978

Open sources like Linux depart from the conventional paradigm in two important ways: They are developed by volunteers who do not get paid for their efforts, and the technical knowledge they embody is made completely open for anybody to use, unencumbered by any claims to intellectual property rights. The goal of this project is to produce empirical evidence of the potential and the limits of the Linux model.

Three study groups have been established to look into three separate facets of the success of the Linux model, with one concentrating on the model itself, another on social networks, and the third on online software. This year, the project's second year, these groups continued their activities. Selecting two specific online software programs to focus on, each possessing all the features of the Linux model, the groups interviewed the program developers and performed a comparative analysis with conventional software, as represented by Microsoft's Windows program. The results they came up with were put together in five reports.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)