

AUUG Incorporated



Open Source: Where Should Labor Stand?

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Agenda



- About AUUG.
- Defining “Open”.
- Business Benefits.
- What should government do?
- Benefits to Australia.



About AUUG



- Australian UNIX and Open Systems Users Group.
- A society for technical professionals.
- Concentrates on Open Computing – both proprietary and Open Source.
- Vendor neutral.
- Activities:
 - Provide a forum for sharing experience.
 - Provide education.



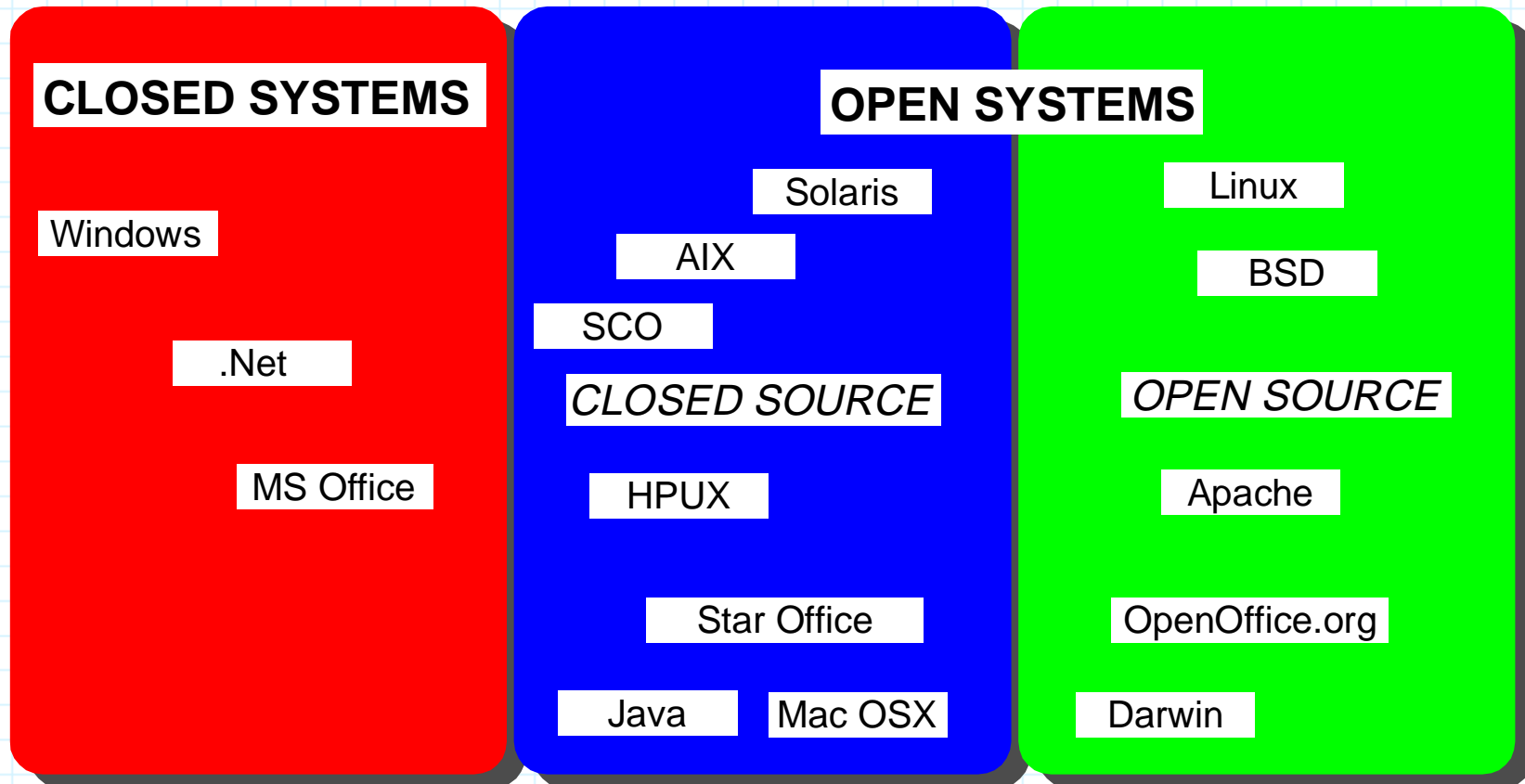
Defining “Open”



- Open Computing:
 - A system of interacting components (software, hardware and human) where interface specifications are fully defined, publicly available and maintained according to industry consensus.
- Open Source Software (OSS):
 - In addition to the above, the source code for software components is available at no cost and may be used and modified by the end user at no cost.



Open Computing Map



Open Source Software (OSS) makes it **easier** to implement Open Computing.



OSS Business Benefits



- Lower costs.
- Robustness.
- No vendor lock in.
- Ability to adapt software to need.
- No need to monitor usage or licence compliance.
- No need to track employees who take software home.



What should government do?



- In its role as some of Australia's largest IT purchasers:
 - Tender for requirements rather than technologies.
 - Mandate standards rather than products.
 - Open protocols. Open document formats.
 - Evaluate based on merit.



OSS Benefits to Australia



- Lower barrier of entry for local IT companies.
- More local employment.
- Reduce “brain drain”.
- Reduce IT imports, overseas spending.
- Lower IT costs for government.
- Local skills development.

Q & A



<http://www.auug.org.au/ocg/>
<http://www.auug.org.au/directory/>