

Benefits of an Open-source Platform from an Economical Perspective: Maemo's Case Study.

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Abstract

Open-source software development is a well-known phenomenon around the globe. Its echoes have already grabbed the attention of many economics and business scholars. The open-source benefits embedded in the development of software products are already well studied from different point of views.

In the case of software platforms, where vendors rely on third parties to develop complementary products and services, the open-source benefits are not deeply studied yet. Addressing the problem, the author has developed together with Turku School of Economics and Nokia his Master thesis "Open-source weaponry for a platform war: Inherent competitive advantage of an open-platform CASE: Maemo".

The author would like to share with the FRUCT audience his Master thesis findings on how an open-platform brings competitive advantage in a high-tech and high-competitive market under network effects. Following a case study methodology, the research assessed what are Maemo's platform open-source benefits in terms of software development, how open-source facilitates the implementation of the open-innovation paradigm, and how open-source gives part in attracting more developers to a platform competing under network effects.

The author collaborated with Nokia since Jun 2008, in the Maemo application framework team. He is now starting his doctoral studies in Turku School of Economics and writing a Doctoral dissertation entitled "Open-source platform based strategies". He would like to share his preliminary research topic with the FRUCT audience as well.