

Social, Behavior, and Economic Studies of Open Source Software

Joel West

San Jose State University

www.JoelWest.org

Twitter: openITstrat

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SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

powering silicon valley

“Free” and “Open Source” Software

- Licenses:
 - OSI says “Free” \subset “Open Source”
- Movements
 - “Free” is a movement, “Open Source” isn’t
- Industry
 - “Free” is an ideology
 - “Open Source” is a business model (often with GPL dual-licensed code)

SBE related “Positions”

1. How does FOSS as a diverse socio-technical **movement** accomplish global software development, without a traditional central authority or source of funding/resources?
6. How can the benefits of FOSS be translated into a language technology decision-makers can understand? Are there "best practices" for FOSS technology adoption or for rollovers from proprietary to FOSS models within businesses or governments?
9. How long can such a **movement** be sustained?
10. Are there conditions or events that constitute an inflection point that will mark the decline of FOSS as a socio-technical **movement**?

Real SBE questions (v1)

How does open source interact with

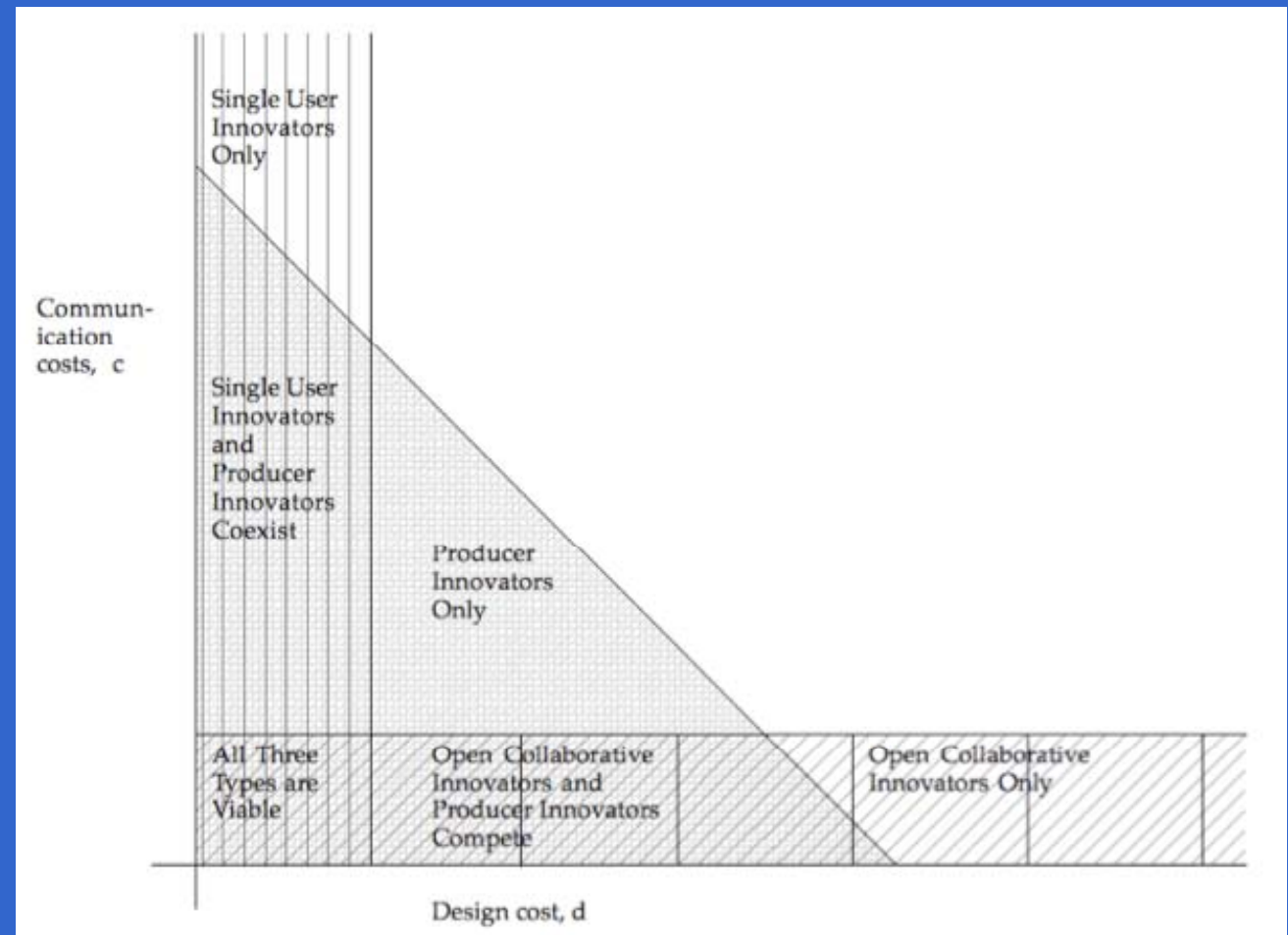
1. existing/potential individ./org. users
2. computing industry
3. computing education
4. economy(ies) and society(ies) at large
5. government policy

Some Questions I've Studied

- IT vendors supporting open source
- IT manager adoption of open source
- How open is open enough?
- Open source business models
- Open source as open innovation
- Sponsored open source communities

Sample Question #1

Carliss Baldwin &
Eric von Hippel,
SSRN #1502864,
January 2010



Sample Question #2

- WSJ April 2000: Chinese government officials “are grooming Linux as the credible alternative that China desperately needs”
- ZDNet Feb. 2010: “Once Chinese manufacturers realize that open source can give them independence, not only from Apple but from Google and every other foreign entity, China will embrace open source.”