Since free-software pioneer Richard Stallman started building the GNU operating system in the early 1980s, openness has thrived in software more than in any other industry. Today there are open source operating systems for Web servers, email, and cell phones. This success has provoked a reaction in the proprietary world, from Microsoft charging different prices in different countries to SCO asserting retroactive copyright over Linux’s open code. These moves may be bona fide threats to openness or simply the throes of an industry undergoing commoditization. In some ways, though, the point has already been made: Openness in the software industry is inspiring worlds far beyond computers. Software was just the beginning. – Patrick Di Justo and Jesse Freund

**THE PROOF IS IN THE MARKET SHARE**

Linux may be the poster child, but lots of open source projects are thriving in the marketplace. Across the tech industry, open source apps are gaining on proprietary competition.

**THE COST OF SOFTWARE PIRACY**

To crack down on piracy, corporations need help from law enforcement. What's in it for the governments? A few extra bucks. Countries with low rates of piracy get more IT tax revenue.

**THE PRICE OF WINDOWS IN THE WORLD**

It takes an average Chinese worker more than two months to earn the purchase price of a legal copy of Windows XP. No wonder both piracy and Linux have such appeal in the developing world.

**HOW A GLOBAL CODING COALITION BUILT AN OPEN SOURCE SUPERSERVER**

Open source coding is a collaboration. Here’s how one global band of brothers, led by a lead developer in China, formed to create features for the Linux Virtual Server (LVS), a program that yolks multiple servers into one superserver.

**FEBRUARY 2000**
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Programmer Simon Horman proposes modifying LVS to improve scalability for large-scale applications.

**MARCH 2000**
Sydney, Australia
While visiting his hometown, Horman begins writing the proposed code.

**MARCH 20, 2000**
Changsha, China
Horman sends his code to LVS lead developer Wensong Zhang. Zhang notices inefficiencies that drag on performance and tweaks the code.

**MARCH 30, 2000**
Varna, Bulgaria
Zhang sends the revised code to Julian Anastasov in Bulgaria. He helps Zhang address performance problems, and the proposed change is shipped back to Horman.
The desktop is where the movement finally meets the consumer. Increasingly, it’s possible to replace the programs on your computer with free, high-quality, open source apps that allow you to be productive without increasing the bottom line of some software company.

**THE FINAL FRONTIER: THE OPEN OFFICE**

In the past few years, open source software has gone from being a fringe movement that relied on a small clique of programmers to a global phenomenon. Sourceforge.net, the main clearinghouse for open source development, tracks more than 80,000 projects and 800,000 collaborators.

**THE MAKING OF A MOVEMENT**

In the past few years, open source software has gone from being a fringe movement that relied on a small clique of programmers to a global phenomenon. Sourceforge.net, the main clearinghouse for open source development, tracks more than 80,000 projects and 800,000 collaborators.