

1st International Workshop on Trust in Open Source Software (TOSS)

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Abstract. The 1st International Workshop on Trust in Open Source Software (TOSS) focuses on one of the major factors in the adoption of software solutions: the trustworthiness of OSS, which has influenced the widespread adoption of OSS in industry. Software quality aspects have been investigated for a long time in the academia but the usage/production of OSS is creating new challenges and the points of view of the industry and the academia may differ, especially on the trustworthiness of OSS. The aim of the workshop is to open a communication channel between the industry and the academia focusing on this issue and promote a long lasting discussion on it. The workshop tries to identify the different points of views and the different approaches that can result in benefits for the software industry.

1 Introduction

Open Source Software (OSS) is supported by the major players in the software industry. However, software companies are still somewhat reluctant to adopt OSS massively in their mainstream development, mainly because of lack of trust regarding OSS. There are several reasons that affect trust, including legal aspects, quality, and business models.

Trust is not an attribute that can be claimed without backing evidence. It also relies on perception, on answers to non-technical questions such as “who is behind Open Source?”, “why be confident in OSS?”, or even “how to be confident in OSS?”. If OSS aims to be considered as good as proprietary software, these questions must be addressed.

Using OSS is not an easy choice for companies, since the selection process is affected by several factors related to the quality of the source code and the quality of the production process.

OSS is often developed not only by individuals, but by communities and companies that follow a rigorous process and high quality standards which they use

in the development of commercial products (e.g., there are several commercial products that have been released as OSS). However, verifying the quality of OSS products is complex since there are almost no rules for evaluating and describing it in a way that different companies/communities can trust. A difficult challenge is the development of a set of guidelines/tools/processes that companies can follow to produce and to adopt OSS that also other companies/communities can trust.

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2 Organization of the workshop

The workshop will include three main sections:

1. Presentation of the industrial needs
2. Presentation of the research activities in the area
3. Open discussion guided by the Industrial Board

The first section will include presentations from industry identifying the main challenges and objectives for large, medium, and small companies that use and produce OSS not only as product but also as part of other products (e.g., embedded systems).

The second section will include presentation from the academia identifying the areas and the results reached in the area from the technical/legal/business point of view.

The third section will be an open discussion guided by the Industrial Board in which the presentations of the first two sections will be discussed.

3 Duration

The duration of the workshop is one full day.

4 Contributions

Participants are expected to submit a short paper or a position paper (4 pages max.) to the conference organizers.

5 Aims and objectives

The main objectives of the workshop are the following:

- Group together people from industry and the academia interested in trust and quality
- Enable knowledge transfer between academia and industry
- Allow people from industry to highlight the main problems in the area
- Discuss the elements of trust in different application domains

6 Participants

The workshop focuses on the industrial aspects of the research in quality applied to the Open Source Software, therefore the intended participants will include people from both academia and industry.

7 Program Chairs

Sandro Morasca	Università dell'Insubria	Italy
Alberto Sillitti	Libera Università di Bolzano	Italy

8 Industrial Board

Stefano De Panfilis	Engineering Ingegneria Informatica	Italy
Jean-Pierre Laisne	Bull	France
Stéphane Laurière	Mandriva	France
Gregory Lopez	Thales	France
Clara Pezuela	Atos-Origin	Spain