



Call for Papers

JITP-2010

“The Politics of Open Source”

May 6-7, 2010 - Amherst, Massachusetts

A two-day University of Massachusetts Amherst conference jointly hosted by the:

Department of Political Science

Science, Technology, and Society Initiative (STS)

Journal of Information Technology & Politics (JITP)

Qualitative Data Analysis Program (QDAP)

National Center for Digital Government (NCDG)

Approach

Free/Libre and Open Source Software (FOSS) has made significant advances, both technically and organizationally, since its emergence in the mid-1980s. Over the last decade, it has moved from a software development approach involving mostly volunteers to a more complex ecology where firms, nonprofit organizations, government agencies and volunteers may be involved. Moreover, the production paradigm continues to expand to other areas of digital content (e.g., Creative Commons, Wikipedia, Connexions, etc.). In this conference we use the phrase “open source” to capture this broader phenomenon. The Program Committee encourages disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of open source, broadly defined.

"Politics" in the conference title, can have many interpretations. Political issues closely tied to the free and open source software movement(s) include: national government policies related to the adoption of open source technologies or questions related to interoperability and open standards, software patents, vendor lock-in, and copyright. These are central themes we expect may be discussed in this forum. In this context, we welcome international submissions since differences in the political perspective appear in international contexts. However, topics related to how the concept of openness has led to various interpretations, adaptations, and applications of “open source” in other domains, and political issues that surround these broader innovations, are also welcome. Specific topics might include, but are not limited to:

General topics related to the politics of open source

- How open source software or its principles are changing politics
- Emerging transparencies in software, systems and society
- Open source in the developing world and other international contexts
- The political economy of open source
- Digital divides and open source

Open source and the public sector

- Open source software and transparency in government
- Government policies toward open source and open standards
- Regulation and open source

Open source and democracy

- Open source and democratic engagement
- Open source voting systems
- Activism, political mobilization and open source

The expansion of open source into other domains

- Understanding how open source collaboration works and how it can be extended into other areas of collective action
- Policy areas, such as the effects of free textbooks on education policy or the politics of "One Laptop Per Child"
- The political implications of open source in other cultural domains

Keynote Speakers

We are pleased to confirm Eric von Hippel (MIT) and Clay Johnson (Sunlight Labs) as the daily keynote speakers for JITP-2010.

Paper Submissions

Authors are invited to prepare and submit to *JITP* a manuscript following one of the six submission formats by **January 10, 2010**. These formats include research papers, policy viewpoints, workbench notes, review essays, book reviews, and papers on teaching innovation. The goal is to produce a special issue, or double issue, of *JITP* with a wide variety of approaches to the broad theme of "The Politics of Open Source."

How to Submit

Everything you need to know about how to prepare and submit a strong *JITP* paper is documented at <http://www.jitp.net/>. Papers will be put through an expedited blind peer review process by the Program Committee, and authors will be notified about a decision by March 10, 2010. A small number of papers will be accepted for presentation at the conference. Other paper authors will be invited to present a poster during the Friday evening reception. All posters must include a "YouTube" version of their research findings.

Best Paper and Poster Cash Prizes

The author (or authors) of the best research paper will receive a single \$1,000 prize. The creator (or creators) of the best poster/research presentation will also receive a single prize of \$1,000.

Program Committee

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