

Are French farmers a bunch of mean-spirited creeps? Are all nerds courageous, and laziness a virtue? Why did Stephen King leave a horror story unfinished? What business models survived the Internet bubble? Among the many entertaining and thought-provoking ideas presented in *Open Life*, ants screw up, and Harry Potter even casts his spell in German.

The hot topics in information technology (IT) right now are Linux and Open Source. But what does Open Source offer those, who may not see their computer as a matter of life and death? *Open Life: The Philosophy of Open Source* spotlights the people, businesses, values and practices of the Open Source world. In assessing its development *Open Life* recounts over 60 case-study-like stories that illuminate exactly what is so miraculous and wonderful in this new paradigm for producing software.

Divided into four parts, *Open Life* starts rather philosophically by comparing the concepts of openness and mean-spiritedness with a clarity that highlights the latter's devious impact on our everyday life. Part Two explores the Open Source culture from the time Linus Torvalds began writing code for his new operating system, how he behaves as a leader, and stating the virtues of a programmer. Part Three comprehensively reviews some Open Source business models and evaluates both their economic and ethical sustainability. Leaving the world of software behind, Part Four considers how successfully open business models can be applied in fields as diverse and wide-ranging as mining, literature, and fashion design.

The Finnish edition of *Open Life*, published May 2005, was praised in *Talouselämä*, Finland's main financial magazine: 'True to the Open Source culture, the book is freely downloadable on the net. It is certainly a business book well worth its price.'

In a Usenet discussion, one participant said: '...I just read the *Open Life* book, and I'm feeling a bit emotional.'

A buying customer said: 'I just printed it all from the net, but it is so good I felt I should support it by buying it [...] I've never in my whole life read a complete book from beginning to end. In school I skipped every second page. Now I read the first 60 pages and decided to still read one more chapter before going to sleep [...] but realising now it's 6 a.m. I'll just place this order and go to bed.'



## Open Life: The Philosophy of Open Source

Henrik Ingo

Lulu



**Open Life**  
**The Philosophy of Open Source**  
[www.openlife.cc](http://www.openlife.cc)

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