

Call for Papers:

Special Issue on Free/Open Source Software Processes

To appear in *Software Process – Improvement and Practice*

Guest Editors:

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Free/open source software development methods and practices are being adopted on a global basis throughout the software community. However, it is unclear whether the enthusiasm with which F/OSS is being adopted or advocated is justified or not. Specifically, it is unclear what processes and practices are specific to, or characteristic of the development, deployment, use, or evolution of F/OSS systems. This special issue of *Software Process – Improvement and Practice* seeks papers that investigate F/OSS processes from a variety of perspectives and approaches. We are particularly interested in empirical studies of F/OSS processes found in different F/OSS projects, as well as studies that employ tools and techniques for studying, mining, or modeling F/OSS processes through analysis of F/OSS source code, development artifacts, computer-mediated communications (public discussion forums, chat archives, Wikis/Blogs), Web sites, and public repositories.

Potential topics of interest include (but are not limited to):

- F/OSS development, deployment, usage, or evolution processes within or across F/OSS projects
- Processes associated with the diffusion, adoption, assimilation, and tailoring of F/OSS innovations in different communities
- Socio-technical, economic, or cultural processes that shape the development, adoption, or evolution of F/OSS systems, or the career opportunities of F/OSS developers
- Studies that compare F/OSS and conventional, closed source software engineering processes in different project settings
- Development or reuse of F/OSS technologies, processes, and practices in support of commercial software products or services
- Studies of development and evolutionary trends across large samples of F/OSS projects
- Tools and techniques for discovering, modeling, simulating, analyzing, enacting, redesigning, or improving F/OSS processes found in different F/OSS projects
- Processes that typify the success or failure of F/OSS projects

Schedule:

- Abstract submission (required): 15 January 2005

- Full paper submission: 1 February 2005
- Expected publication: Winter/Spring 2006.

Prospective authors are advised to consult the guidelines “For Authors” at the *SPIP* Web site at Wiley-Interscience to determine how to format their paper prior to submission. Authors are also encouraged, where appropriate, to consider prior studies of F/OSS published in the *Information Systems Journal* 11(4), 2001, 12(1), 2002; *IEE Proceedings—Software* 149(1), 2002; *Research Policy* 32(7), 2003; *IEEE Software* 32(1), 2004; the online proceedings of the 1st through 4th *International Workshop on Open Source Software Engineering* (opensource.ucc.ie); or the MIT Open Source research paper repository (opensource.mit.edu).