Open source is not free service

Now many companies and individuals have found a great paradigm to make money from open source: open source the code to attract more users, while provide premium service on top of the open source project.

It's really a great way to benefit the community while still earn income that they fully deserve. Meanwhile, I observe that with more full-time open source contributors are shining, the average expectation for open source projects are also becoming much higher. There have been many dramas around the main contributors been harassed by issue makers that they demand something but the contributor declined or not responded to.

In these cases, people forgot that open source by all its literal meaning, it's just that you can read their code. That's it. No guarantee, no promises. If you're not satisfied with anything about it, you can always make your own change to make it work for you. Don't expect a free service from people who might have just been interested for a while but later tired and obsessed with other things.

There should be more respect & recognition to people who are willing to share their code, which is the intellectual and physical work. It's rare for other industries to have people share so much for free.

Jingtao Wang © 2022-2025

Archive RSS feed QR Code

Made with Montaigne and by anton