

## IGF 2016 Workshop Report Template

Session Title	WS21: Open Source: A Key Enabler on the Path to the Next Billion
Date	7 December 2016
Time	15:00-16:30
Session Organizer	Satish Babu (APRALO, ISOC-TRV) and Judy Okite (FOSSFA)
Chair/Moderator	Judy Okite and Satish Babu
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Maureen Hilyard
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	Astbrink, Gunela, Women with Disabilities, Australia Crépin-Leblond, Olivier M.J., EURALO, ICANN Datta, Bishakha, Point of View, India Jayakumar, Arjun, SFLC, India McKnight, Glenn, ISOC Canada, Canada Teelucksingh, Dev Anand, LACRALO/ICANN, Trinidad & Tobago
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro: Advantages of Free/ Open Source Software (FOSS) in managing risks for the Next Billion</li> <li>• Disability and FOSS</li> <li>• Balancing FOSS and proprietary content for the next Billion</li> <li>• Open Hardware and Humanitarian Applications</li> <li>• Enabling Trust for the Next Billion</li> <li>• Open Knowledge and collaborative, distributed content creation</li> <li>• Open Source Awareness and Education</li> </ul>
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	There were no presentations
Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)	<p>The BoF session started off with an introduction by Satish Babu, wherein the advantages of FOSS in general, and its specific role for the next billion users—who were not particularly educated, were first-time Internet users, and had basic access devices—was introduced. It was pointed out that FOSS was freedom-preserving and also protected privacy, anonymity and the users' data.</p> <p>Judy Okite from FOSS Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA) moderated the rest of the session, where six pre-identified speakers presented the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability and FOSS (Gunela Astbrink)</li> <li>• Balancing FOSS and proprietary content for the next Billion (Olivier Crepin Leblond)</li> <li>• Open Hardware and Humanitarian Applications (Glenn McKnight)</li> <li>• Enabling Trust for the Next Billion (Arjun Jayakrishnan)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Knowledge and collaborative, distributed content creation (Bishakha Datta)</li> <li>• Open Source Awareness and Education (Dev Anand Teelucksingh)</li> </ul> <p>As eminent practitioners, the speakers outlined the potential as well as the challenges in the use of FOSS for easing in the next billion users.</p> <p>The floor was then opened up for discussions, which were very lively and active. Participants raised relevant issues relating to the application of FOSS, and also some of the work needed to further disseminate FOSS, particularly in developing countries.</p>
<p>Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<p>The following were the key takeaways from the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FOSS provided significant potential in mitigating risks of the new users of the next billion, and provided a robust, low-cost, freedom-enhancing, privacy-protecting set of tools for access</li> <li>• FOSS has also provided a more ethical approach to technology and beyond, influencing and inspiring several developments such as Open Design, Open Data, Open Knowledge, Open Standards, Open Formats, Open Research, Open Access Publishing, Open Politics, Open farming</li> <li>• FOSS had some limitations in user interface, and usability, which needed further workshop</li> <li>• FOSS should not be looked at as a poor mans software, it must be safe to use and the real costs must be brought into the discussions. Use Open source because you want to use it.</li> <li>• Open Source of knowledge - production of content where anybody can add to that knowledge, can use it, in different languages, offers opportunity for people not only to be users of knowledge but also producers.</li> <li>• With regards to Policy, an important question was: how do we implement Open Source policy in procurement and follow through?</li> <li>• It was important to bring in Governments as well as Industry (several industry players had already started supporting FOSS, including IBM, HP, Microsoft and Huawei) together with Civil Society and the research community to make available a set of FOSS tools that would enable the new end-users of the Next Billion to use technology and to access its full potential, while reducing costs and mitigating risks associated.</li> </ul> <p>Personal reflections of the organizers: Over the years organizing FOSS workshops, we see a maturity in the discussions: they appear to have moved from bashing to real life experiences and examples by users to more technical and policy aspects.</p>

