

Workshop: Mediterranean Research on Free/Libre and Open Source Software

*Co-located with the Mediterranean Conference on Information Systems
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Rationale:

Free/Libre and Open Source Software (FLOSS) is a growing phenomenon, changing the way in which information systems are developed, distributed and implemented. The changes in the intellectual property regime, as well as in the organizing practices and in the technology produced, stimulate new questions and new answers to old questions. In the last few years, a large number of researches focused on the motivations of FLOSS developers, on how do they organize themselves and on how is it possible to produce high quality software in loosely coupled contexts.

New emergent approaches, focusing, for example, on the practises and the materiality of FLOSS, are contributing to the growing level of academic discussions on FLOSS, as well as to its understanding, and to improving IS development and FLOSS diffusion.

The aim of this workshop is to discuss with researchers and practitioners, mainly coming from the Mediterranean region, if there are new topics to be considered or new approaches in the study of consolidated topics. The workshop flavour is that of the Social Studies of Information Systems, so we solicit contributions by researchers coming from social sciences and information systems fields, as well as from practitioners. The workshop is intended as a dialogue between different disciplines and perspectives.

The workshop will focus on new approaches related to the following, non exhaustive, list of topics:

- new approaches to the study of FLOSS and related phenomena
- developers and companies motivations: new approaches
- organizing communities: new approaches

- developing high quality FLOSS software: new approaches
- FLOSS as a socio – technical phenomenon
- intellectual property issues and FLOSS
- designing FLOSS software and communities

Workshop Description:

The workshop format is a full day, with presentations and discussions. Perspective participants should send a brief (150 words maximum) description of their focus of interest in the workshop topics. Participants wishing to give a presentation during the workshop are required to send an extended abstract of the presentation subject (1000 words maximum). All submission must include contact information and affiliation, and must be sent to floss@mcis2006.org by September 20th. Notification of acceptance will be sent on September 23rd.

The registration to the Workshop is free for MCIS 2006 participants. Without MCIS2006 registration, the workshop cost is 80 Euro.