

OPEN ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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DEFINITION OF OPEN ACCESS

From invitation:

Open access literature is usually defined as "digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions".

During this event various aspects of open access will be explored, amongst others, publishing in an open access journal, editing an open access journal, the use of open source software to facilitate greater sharing of information, a presentation by Mr Mark Shuttleworth, and more.

Personal position

- Operating in a 90% Windows world, where most of the people pay for software
- Mac convert for about 2 years
- Starting to appreciate the advantages of Open Source more and more
- Standing with one leg in the “pay for software” world and the other leg in the “Open Source” world

Why the change of heart?

- NioCAD
 - R8,2 million from Innovation Fund about 3 years ago
 - R12 million from IDC about 1 year ago
 - Spin-off company in August 2009
 - Develop professional EDA software for superconducting integrated circuits in 2½ years – equivalent to CADENCE software for semiconductors (~\$80k per seat)

Why the change of heart?

- Write all software? – Impossible!
- Development environment – Eclipse Java platform – Open Source!
- GUI – Open Source!
- Version control – Open Source!
- SPICE circuit simulation engine – Open Source!

Advantages of Open Source

- It is Open Source! – Full access to source code.
- E.g. modified SPICE source code to incorporate superconducting Josephson junction model

In summary...

- We will not get away from paying for software.
- Expensive software is inhibiting research in academic environments, but OK in commercial environments.
- Open source software is the PERFECT SOLUTION for learning/teaching environments