

# Debian and Post Open

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# About Post-Open

- For a while now, I've been working on Post-Open, a proposed successor paradigm to Open Source. You can read about it at **PostOpen.org**
- The goal is to pay developers and fix the bad power differential between developers and wealthy corporate users.

# Post-Open

- Post-Open helps the people we *should* be helping, individuals and smaller companies, and requires payment from companies with more than USD\$5 Million per year revenue. Payment allows use of all Post-Open Software, not just one program.
- Funds are apportioned to the developers based on paid user reports of what they are using and developer contributions measured from git repositories.

# Post-Open

- Of course not everyone's work can be measured by lines of code, and there are some people who might have to account for time, etc.

# Helping the Common Person

- The common person, someone who isn't a software specialist, mostly uses Open Source as infrastructure to proprietary software, and may not even know that they ever use Open Source.
- There are a few outliers, like LibreOffice and Mozilla. They have paid developers.

# The Motivation Problem

- Open Source developers mostly write software for themselves and people like them.
- Getting paid seems to be a sufficient motivator for developers to write software for the common person.

# Post-Open Protects Open Source

- The Post Open Zero Cost License makes clear that it is not Open Source, and prohibits misuse of “Open Source” to describe Post Open.
- OSI may dilute the Open Source brand with their *Open Source AI License*. That’s not under my control, or probably yours.
- Post Open has a better way of handling AI.

# Where Do Developers Come From

- Existing Open Source software can be dual-licensed Post Open.
- Users who pay for Post-Open-Only software must then also pay for the dual-licensed Open Source.
- Open Source projects would start to make money.



# Where Do Paid Users Come From

- Not the existing big companies.
- Small companies would start with the Zero Cost license and become paid users as they grow.

# Post-Open Progress

- There is a Post-Open Zero Cost License which just went into lawyer review.
- There is a Paid Contract for the > USD\$5M companies which is very new.
- I just started writing the Operating Agreement.
- The apportionment process is only ideas so far.

# How Does Debian Participate?

- Obviously it is not yet possible to make a distribution out of all Post-Open Licensed software. That could take a long time.
- Debian's Compilation Copyright could possibly be dual-licensed as Post-Open, while individual software packages would mostly remain under the present licenses.

# If Post Open Works...

- The potential to get paid might be a sufficient incentive for the development of lots of new software.
- Debian, and Linux, are based on the Unix API from 1970. It really is time to move on.
- Operating Systems research has mostly stagnated. Maybe we can fix that.