OPEN SOURCE LICENSING EVOLUTION

DIFFUSION
OCTOBER 2019

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BORIS MANN

- 15 years ago, worked on building out the Drupal community, built the first commercial company around Drupal, helped form Drupal Association

- Last year, focused on Ethereum community, helping out with the Ethereum Magicians, Core Devs

- Fission is building developer tools: decentralized Firebase with user controlled data

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WHAT DOES OPEN SOURCE MEAN?

- The problem with the term open source is that everyone means something different when they use it.

- Some people just mean licensing.

- Some people think of a particular community's set of practices.

- Others think that it means some kind of fuzzy democracy and mob rule.

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DEFINITION OF OPEN SOURCE

1. Legal innovation of licenses

2. Way of working together on code, collaboratively, asynchronously, remotely

3. Ideology of code re-use & sharing

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OPEN SOURCE DEFINITION

- Maintained by the Open Source Initiative

- https://opensource.org/osd

- Last modified in 2007

Open source is not a business model

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CHOICE OF LICENSE

- Distribution/adoption

- Free labour from contributors

- Lock it open

- No one but my company can easily commercialize it

- Copyleft: GPL, AGPL

- Permissive: Apache, MIT

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WHY IS APPLE MOVE FROM BASH TO ZSH?

- Licensing of course!

- Apple has been shipping an "old" version of bash with Mac OS for a long time, because it is GPLv2, and newer versions now use GPLv3

- Zsh uses an "MIT-like" license, plus some GPL shell functions
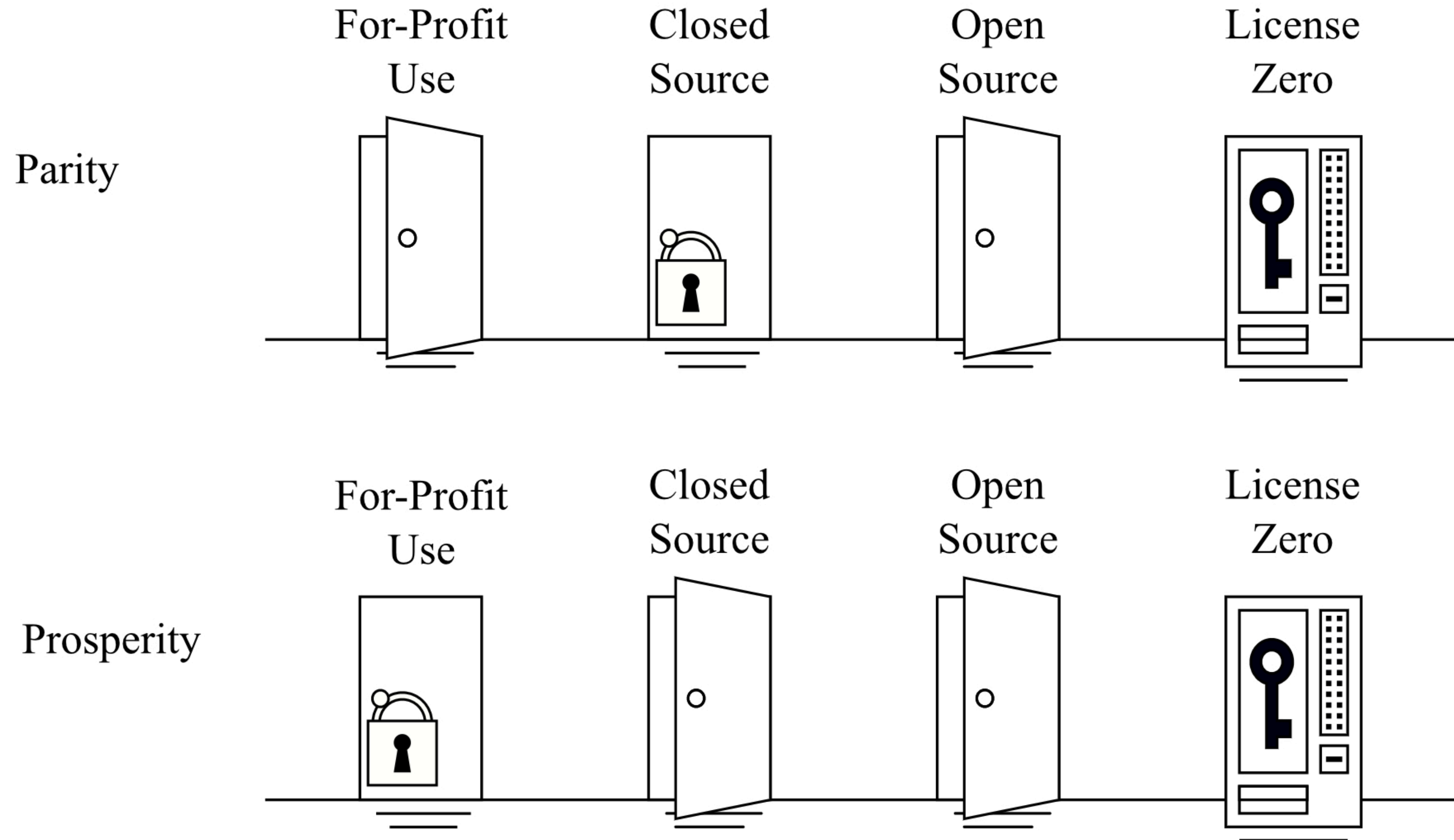
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LICENSING INNOVATION

- For the first time in 15 years, we're starting to see licensing innovation again

- Cloud providers making record profits vs. open source projects

- except it's not that simple…a lot of those projects are VC-funded businesses

Do you think current open source software licenses are the best we'll ever have?

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XLC: CROSS LICENSE COLLABORATIVES

- Solves a problem with one person or organization owning the copyright (and potentially trademarks) of a project, often represented by contributor license agreements.

- "Maintain your projects' licenses and create shared moneymaking opportunity without any company, foundation, or dictator"

- "developers can hack cross-licenses and contributor license agreements to manage and monetize their work cooperatively, through cross-license collaboratives." https://writing.kemitchell.com/2019/10/05/XLC.html

996.ICU

- The name 996.ICU refers to **"Work by '996', sick in ICU"**, an ironic saying among Chinese developers, which means that by following the "996" work schedule, you are risking yourself getting into the ICU (Intensive Care Unit).

- Anti 996 License — derived from MIT

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DATA ETHICS

- We are starting to see people care about data — specifically, **their** data

- What requires software developers or companies to act in certain ways with data?

- From principles (Fair Data Society, Local First Software) to licenses (Cryptographic Autonomy License, Icepick)

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A <u>constellation provider</u> rather than a cloud provider, built on open source

We are building a "decentralized Firebase", a backend-as-a-service that can run from your laptop, uses emerging Web3 tech, and gives developers the tools to keep data user-controlled.
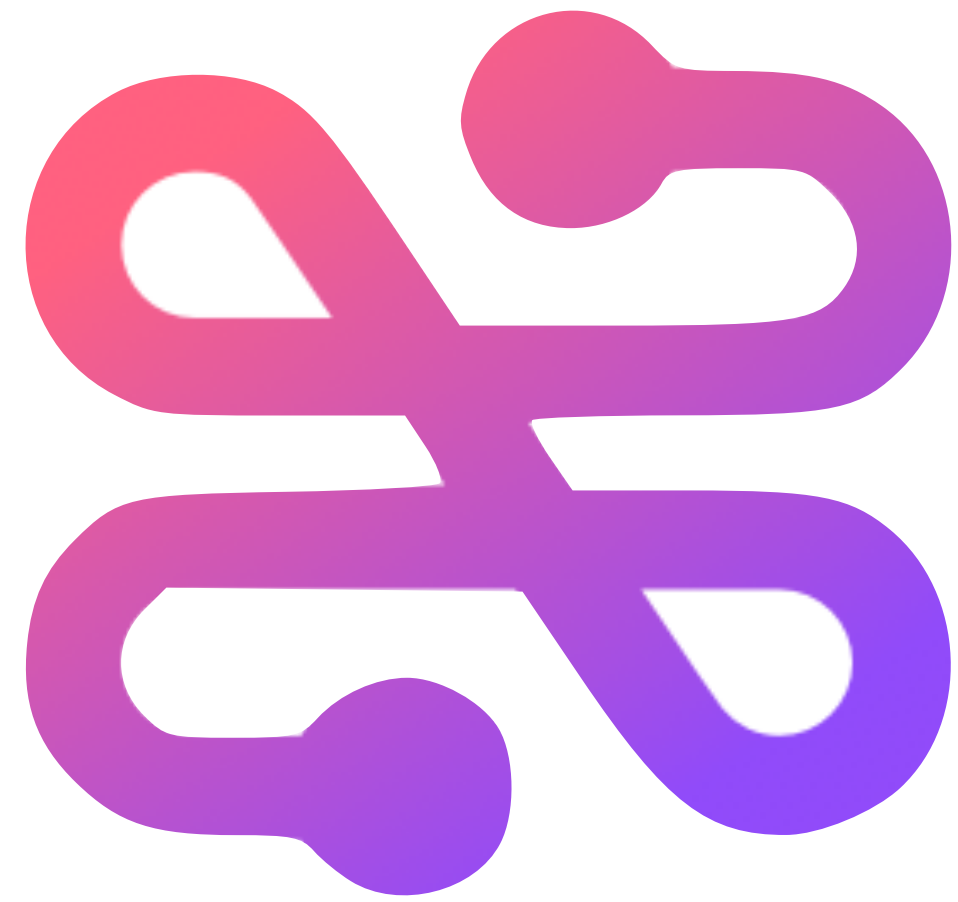
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