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Economic Benefits of Free and Open Source Software: An Evaluation for Health Sector

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ABSTRACT

In the present world of information and communication technologies (ICTs), free and open source software (FOSS) has been drawing more attention in spite of the hegemony of the vendors of the (proprietary) software industry. FOSS provides considerable economic benefits for individuals, firms and economic sectors as well as some other advantages. This paper investigates these benefits laying emphasis on health sector. To this aim, three main types of economic benefits are characterized and analyzed for health sector: decreasing cost of ownership, enhancing security and achieving vendor independence. Also, the paper puts forward some concrete proposals for Turkish public health sector in the light of some cases from the world.

KEYWORDS free and open source software; health sector

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