

# Open Source - it isn't just about being nice

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Michael Tiemann objects to the distinction between "open" and "free" software we suggested in the article entitled 'Take your covenant and shove it', Samba tells Novell.

Here's Michael's reply in full:

*With these statements, you completely mis-characterize Open Source software and the Open Source movement.*

By contrast, [protecting users from patent-encumbered software] isn't something that all "open source" advocates have felt worth is going to the stake for. Open source is a superior development methodology, and to assure its success one may need to deal with the devil. Just as some open source companies have felt comfortable linking to, and distributing closed source code, other have been able to license patent-encumbered code without the qualms of free software developers. It's simply a question of expediency.

[Full Story](#) [2].

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## Links:

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/72>

[2] [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/11/17/open\\_source\\_tiemann/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/11/17/open_source_tiemann/)