

Linux Grabs 75% of All Open Source Investment

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The Linux operating system is the recipient of 75% of all vendor investment in open source software, according to a new report from the Harvard Business School, which also indicates that vendor support for open source is primarily motivated by boosting their proprietary offerings.

The preliminary draft report suggests that \$2bn was invested by vendors in open source software between 1995 and 2005, with \$1.5bn plowed into Linux, \$317m into the Firefox browser, \$76m into the OpenOffice.org productivity suite and \$48m into the MySQL database.

The only other projects to receive significant vendor backing, according to the study, were the PHP scripting language with \$24m, the Tcl scripting language with \$15m, and the JBoss middleware stack with \$10m.

Although numerous investments since 2005 would change the picture, and the Eclipse tools project appears to be a notable omission.

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