

# Kicking Around Open Source, Part 1: Blog Hot Spots

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Sure, you can walk into any big-box bookstore and see several shelves full of volumes about open source software -- about why you should use it, how to use it, and what to do when you stumble on problems. Likewise, the Web sites of Linux-related companies and organizations are chock-full of white papers and articles analyzing one or another's position on open source hot topics.

However, the real action for discussion of Linux and the hundreds of other open source software packages out there occurs in real time among ordinary people unconstrained by the limits of print publishers or Web site approval processes. Blogs and podcasts are the preferred communication channels for open source enthusiasts, and that comes as no big surprise.

"The very nature of open source development is driven by collaboration," Michael Goulde, senior analyst with Forrester Research, told LinuxInsider. "What really is needed is a vehicle for 24/7/365 communication."

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