

# The Seven/Big/Days/Bang Mashup

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Recently I've taken note of the rise in friction between those who want to create open source software for its own sake and those who want to evolve open source software into something that can be used for commerce.

Let's call them, respectively, Creationists and Evolutionists.

Creationists in the open source community are often (wrongly) labeled as "hobbyists." This name has always bothered me a bit. It's not wholly inaccurate, but it also seems to imply that the developers and users in this category are not to be taken seriously. Their skill in creating really good software (free or open) is somehow diminished by the sheer joy they experience in the actual creation process.

On the other hand, there are the Evolutionists, those users and coders who do nothing but take themselves seriously. To them, open source is almost all about success--usually measured in legal tender--and getting software out to the marketplace. They are good at what they do, which is take open source code and moving it through a business/development process that evolves that code into discrete product releases that can be marketed and sold. They are usually referred to as the "suits."

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## Links:

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

[2] [http://www.linuxtoday.com/news\\_story.php3?ltsn=2008-05-02-017-26-OP-BZ-CY](http://www.linuxtoday.com/news_story.php3?ltsn=2008-05-02-017-26-OP-BZ-CY)