

Open-source vending machine 'gaining momentum'

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It looks like a vending machine but it doesn't spit out chocolate or coffee. Instead, it's providing free, open-source software (Foss) in more than 30 locations in South Africa.

The bright orange, refrigerator-sized machine is equipped with an internal computer that burns CDs, a process also known as 'toasting' in the open-source community, hence the name: Freedom Toaster.

The machine is up and running in schools, libraries, science centres and retail outlets, according to The Shuttleworth Foundation, which is sponsoring the project.

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