

Open Source Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts

Printable Trivia Pack

Open Source trivia explores the collaborative software movement that grew from hacker culture and free-software ideals into a global force in computing. Expect factual, approachable questions spanning classic projects, influential contributors, and the funny, surprising milestones behind code shared for anyone to use, study, and improve.

HARD OPEN SOURCE TRIVIA

1. At the 1998 strategy meeting where the phrase gained traction, in what California city was that gathering held?

Answer: Palo Alto

2. Who is widely credited with suggesting the term "open source" in 1998?

Answer: Christine Peterson

3. Which company made a pivotal 1998 move by releasing the source code for its browser?

Answer: Netscape

4. What organization was founded in 1998 specifically to coordinate the open-source Netscape codebase?

Answer: Mozilla Organization

5. Which Mozilla leader is noted for having held top leadership roles at Mozilla?

Answer: Mitchell Baker

6. From 2010 to 2012, who served as president of the Open Source Initiative?

Answer: Simon Phipps

7. Which open-source advocate served as chair of the Open Source Initiative board?

Answer: Van Lindberg

8. Who held the role of president of Mozilla Europe?

Answer: Tristan Nitot

9. Berkeley Software Distribution originated at which university?

Answer: University of California, Berkeley

10. In what year did the first Berkeley Software Distribution release appear?

Answer: 1978

11. Ian Murdock wrote which foundational Debian text in 1994?

Answer: Debian Manifesto

12. Which license had version 1.0 approved by the Open Source Initiative in 1999?

Answer: Apple Public Source License

13. The Open Source Initiative approved what license in 2004: the one abbreviated CDDL?

Answer: Common Development and Distribution License

14. Which license was first published in 2002, adding a network-use angle to the open-source license conversation?

Answer: Affero General Public License

FUNNY OPEN SOURCE TRIVIA

1. Which red cartoon daemon has been cheerfully haunting BSD as its mascot?

Answer: Beastie

2. Before PHP became a familiar web scripting name, what did PHP originally stand for?

Answer: Personal Home Page

3. Larry Wall picked what gemstone-sounding name for his programming language released in 1987?

Answer: Perl

4. Mozilla's dinosaur mascot keeps it simple. What is the dinosaur actually named?

Answer: Dino

5. Which open-source project has promoted releases with songs, because plain release notes apparently weren't dramatic enough?

Answer: OpenBSD

6. What's the term for the very brave act of using your own software internally?

Answer: dogfooding

7. The command name grep comes from which older ed command pattern?

Answer: g/re/p

8. awk sounds like a keyboard sneeze, but its name actually comes from whose surnames?

Answer: Aho, Weinberger, and Kernighan

9. In programming examples, which classic placeholder name shows up like an uninvited but traditional guest?

Answer: foobar

10. APT may sound brisk and efficient because it is. What does APT expand to?

Answer: Advanced Package Tool

11. Debian 12 sounds less like an operating system and more like a book club member. What is its release name?

Answer: Bookworm

12. Ubuntu 20.04 picked an alliterative animal codename. Which one?

Answer: Focal Fossa

13. Which Ubuntu release name belongs to version 18.04: Bionic Beaver or Xenial Xerus?

Answer: Bionic Beaver

FUN OPEN SOURCE TRIVIA

1. Who created Git in 2005, giving developers a version-control tool that became basically unavoidable?

Answer: Linus Torvalds created Git in 2005.

2. What does the famously recursive name GNU expand to?

Answer: GNU expands to "GNU's Not Unix."

3. If Vim introduced itself formally instead of modestly, what would its name expand to?

Answer: Vim stands for "Vi IMproved."

4. Which major compiler hit its first release in 1987?

Answer: GCC was first released in 1987.

5. Which desktop environment was announced in 1996?

Answer: KDE was announced in 1996.

6. Which desktop environment first released in 1999, a few years after KDE's announcement?

Answer: GNOME was first released in 1999.

7. MySQL AB was founded in which country?

Answer: MySQL AB was founded in Sweden.

8. Which database was created in 2009 as a fork of MySQL?

Answer: MariaDB was created by a fork of MySQL in 2009.

9. Which lightweight database first released in 2000?

Answer: SQLite was first released in 2000.

10. What is the name of PostgreSQL's elephant mascot?

Answer: PostgreSQL's elephant mascot is named Slonik.

11. Which project proudly goes with a pufferfish mascot?

Answer: OpenBSD uses a pufferfish as its mascot.

12. Debian release names come from characters in what film series?

Answer: Debian release names come from characters in the Toy Story films.

13. If someone says they're running Ubuntu 'Jammy Jellyfish,' which version are they talking about?

Answer: "Jammy Jellyfish" refers to Ubuntu version 22.04.

OPEN SOURCE FAMILY TRIVIA

1. In what year was the Free Software Foundation founded?

Answer: 1985

2. Which city is home to the headquarters of the Free Software Foundation?

Answer: Boston, Massachusetts

3. True or false: The Open Source Initiative was co-founded in 1998.?

Answer: True

4. What was first published in 1998: the Open Source Definition or Firefox 1.0?

Answer: The Open Source Definition

5. Bruce Perens helped write which important open source guide?

Answer: The Open Source Definition

6. Who founded Debian in 1993?

Answer: Ian Murdock

7. What website platform was first released in 2003?

Answer: WordPress

8. Which co-founder is linked to WordPress?

Answer: Matt Mullenweg

9. In what year was the Apache Software Foundation established?

Answer: 1999

10. The Linux Foundation is based in which U.S. city?

Answer: San Francisco

11. Linux originally came from which country?

Answer: Finland

12. Ruby was created in which country?

Answer: Japan

EASY OPEN SOURCE TRIVIA

1. In what year was the GNU Project announced by Richard Stallman?

Answer: 1983

2. Which project did Richard Stallman announce in 1983?

Answer: The GNU Project

3. Linus Torvalds first released which kernel in 1991?

Answer: The Linux kernel

4. What kind of system is Git?

Answer: A distributed version control system

5. Which browser is developed by Mozilla?

Answer: Firefox

6. Apache HTTP Server is best described as what?

Answer: A web server program

7. Which license is known as a permissive software license: MIT License or GNU General Public License?

Answer: MIT License

8. True or false: BSD licenses are generally considered permissive.?

Answer: True

9. The GNU General Public License is what type of software license?

Answer: A copyleft software license

10. Which project is a collaborative world map with openly usable geographic data?

Answer: OpenStreetMap

11. If a team wants a widely used tool for continuous integration, which open source project fits that description?

Answer: Jenkins

12. Which program is used for 3D modeling and animation?

Answer: Blender

13. Need to edit a photo pixel by pixel? Which program here is primarily for raster image editing?

Answer: GIMP

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