



Programming Club IITM

OSS - 1

Open Source Session - 1

Exploring, Contributing and
Growing with the
Community



What is Open Source?

- Every software you use must have source code which makes it run.
- This source code can either be or not be available to the public.
- A software company which creates a particular software may choose (happens in most cases) to hide the source code from the public by licensing it (Closed Source).
- On the other hand, the source code of Open Source Software are available to the public over the internet.



Understanding with an example:



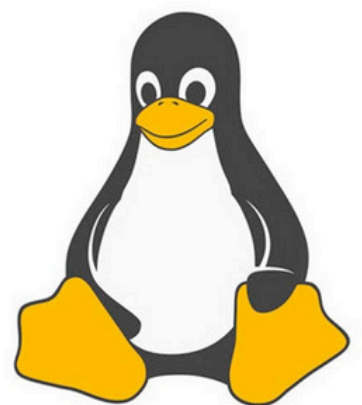


What is Open Source? ...Cont.

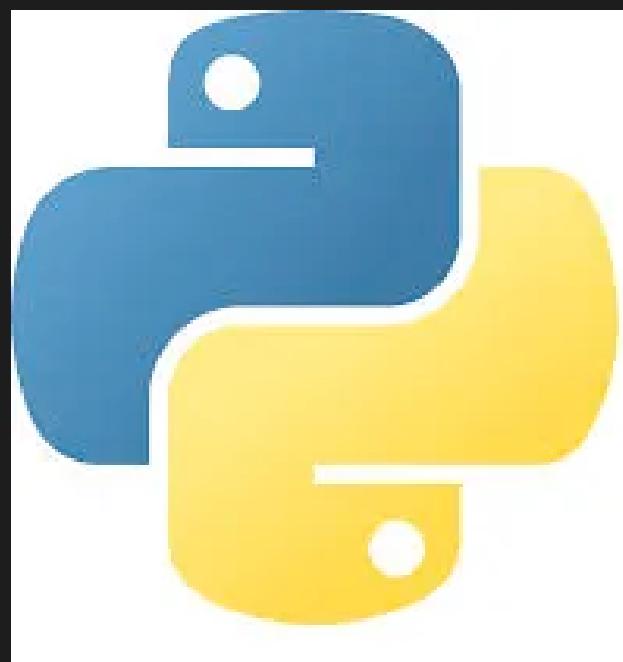
- Anyone on the internet has the right to view, modify and distribute the source code of an open source software.
- Open source software are built on the principles of transparency, collaboration and community.
- There are different types of open source licensing, some of them are MIT, GPL (General Public License), and Apache.



Popular Open Source Software



Linux™



git



Popular Open Source Software





Why Open Source Matters?

- Encourages Innovation and Fast Development
- Increases Software Reliability (Community Review = Less Bugs)
- Promotes freedom – no vendor lock-in
- Builds a learning culture for skill development



Why Should Students Care?

- Hands-on learning beyond textbooks
- Exposure to real-world software practices
- Opportunity to work with global developers
- Enhances your resume and credibility
- Builds confidence and problem-solving skills



How to Start?

- Start Small
- Fix typos, improve documentation
- Report bugs or suggest features
- Explore Good First Issues on GitHub
- Learn Git & GitHub Basics (fork, clone, commit, pull request)
- Join the Community (Software Dependent)
- Be Consistent – even small contributions matter

[Beginner Friendly Repos](#)



One Contribution Path

- Step 1: Choose a project you use or like.
- Step 2: Understand its README & Contribution Guidelines.
- Step 3: Look for “good first issue” or “help wanted” tags.
- Step 4: Make your first pull request.
- Step 5: Get feedback, learn, and grow.
- Step 6: Be patient.



Some Tips & Tricks

- Avoid taking up issues for which you have zero idea of.
- It is highly possible that you get stuck in between, try asking for help through the dedicated communication channels which a lot of repositories have.
- Always follow the coding style used by the project.
- Submit your code as part of a merge request/pull request.



HACKTOBERFEST

[Link to Site](#)

- An annual October event encouraging open-source contributions.
- Organized by DigitalOcean and partners.
- Register on the Hacktoberfest website.
- Make 6 pull requests to eligible repos during October.
- Rewards: Swag, T-shirts, or plant a tree.
- Great way for freshers to kickstart contributions.



What's special for IITM students?

*Leaderboard + Prizes specifically
for IIT Madras Students*

Join Discord Server to be a
part of the Leaderboard



SCAN ME



Google Summer of Code (GSoC)

- A global program by Google to support open source.
- Students get to work on real-world OSS projects for stipends + mentorship.
- Duration: Varies (90/175/350 Hours).
- Learn from experienced developers.
- Build a strong portfolio.
- Recognition from the open-source community.
- Applications usually open in March every year.



Advantages of being a GSoC Contributor

- Real life experience of software development.
- Exposure to pioneers in open source field.
- Community building from around the world.
- Major point in resume that recruiters look for.
- One of the best ways to earn in summer.



What's special for IITM students?

**GSOC MENTORSHIP BY
PROGRAMMING CLUB WITH THE
HELP OF PAST GSOCERS**



Guests for the session



Advik

GSoC 2024, LPython



Sanika

GSoC 2025, Project Mesa



Achintya

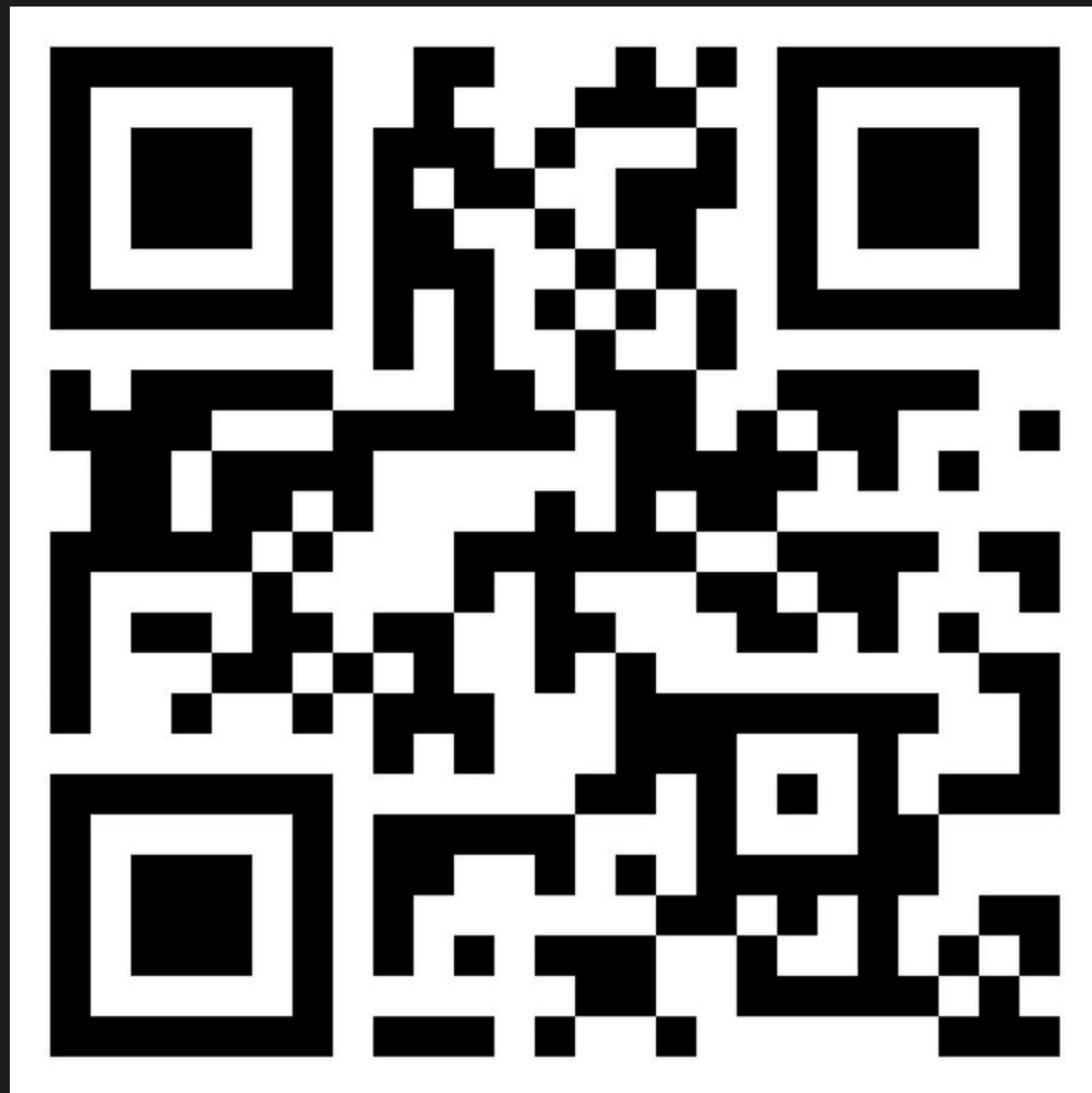
GSoC 2025, OWASP
Foundation



GSoC Mentorship – What's in for you??

- Guidance from past GSoCers.
- Interaction with Insti's best software developers.
- Help in proposal building.
- Part of exclusive open source community in IITM.
- I don't know what else do you need :D

Last year was the first time for this mentorship - and we got 4 successful GSoC contributors with just 2.5 months of mentorship. Guess how much more we can do this year !!!



**GSoC mentorship
application**



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Thank You