

# Defining “Open Standards”

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# Definition

def·i·ni·tion

*noun*

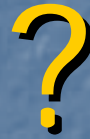
... a statement expressing the essential nature of something ...

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary  
[www.m-w.com/dictionary/definition](http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/definition)

# Open Source Definition

[www.opensource.org/docs/definition.php](http://www.opensource.org/docs/definition.php)

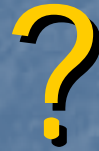
# Open Standards Definition



# Open Source Principles

1. Licensees are **free to use** open source software for any purpose whatsoever.
2. Licensees are **free to make copies** of open source software **and to distribute** them without payment of royalties to a licensor.
3. Licensees are **free to create derivative works** of open source software **and to distribute** them without payment of royalties to a licensor.
4. Licensees are **free to access and use the source code** of open source software.
5. Licensees are **free to combine** open source and other software.

# Open Standards Principles



“There are over 1,000,000 supported standards -- and more are being developed all the time. ”

Andrew Updegrave

[www.consortiuminfo.org/newsblog/](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/newsblog/)

Which of those are open?

“The ITU-T has created open standards since 17 May 1865. By and large, these have nothing to do with open source software.”

Email on internal ITU IPR discussion list

**What is the relationship between  
Open Source and Open Standards?**

The term “open standard” has been used recently to describe a standard that may be copied, used and distributed for no fee and/or whose embedded technology is irrevocably available on a royalty-free basis.

This definition has created some confusion among standards developers and users generally because it is contrary to the process-based definition of “open” and “openness” long held by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and many other recognized standards bodies who understand the term to describe a collaborative, balanced and consensus-based approval process for the promulgation of domestic or international standards.

Patricia Griffin, Vice President and General Counsel, ANSI

[http://public.ansi.org/ansionline/Documents/Standards Activities/Critical Issues Papers](http://public.ansi.org/ansionline/Documents/Standards%20Activities/Critical%20Issues%20Papers)

# A Breed Standard

The Scottish Terrier is a small, compact, short-legged, sturdily-built dog of good bone and substance. His head is long in proportion to his size. He has a hard, wiry, weather-resistant coat and a thick-set, cobby body which is hung between short, heavy legs. These characteristics, joined with his very special keen, piercing, "varminty" expression, and his erect ears and tail are salient features of the breed. The Scottish Terrier's bold, confident, dignified aspect exemplifies power in a small package.



“Open Standard”

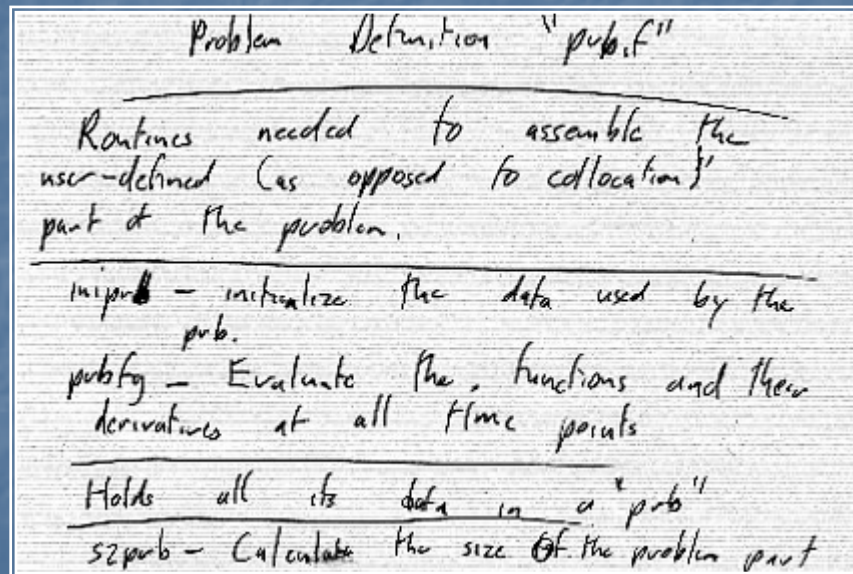
Process or Result?

Both?

Patents & Copyrights?

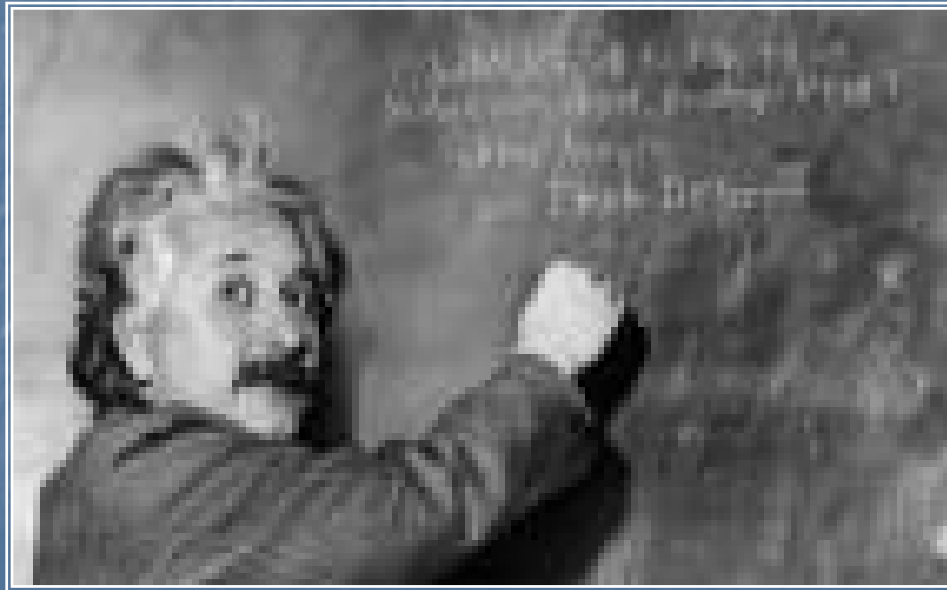
# The Standards Process

## 1. Common problem identified



# The Standards Process

## 2. Experts invent and explain solution



# The Standards Process

## 3. Community agrees on a common solution



# The Standards Process

## 4. The standard is published.





# The Standards Process

## 6. The standard is used.



An Open Standard

must be open

at all steps of the process

- 1. Everyone should be free to implement open standards in both proprietary and open source software.*
- 2. Open standards should be available to everyone on royalty-free terms.*
- 3. Open standards should be developed using a collaborative, balanced and consensus-based approval process.*
- 4. Open standards should be developed under formal and binding commitments for the disclosure and licensing of copyrights and patent claims.*
- 5. Open standards should be made available under reasonable reciprocal licenses that require licensees to share under the same terms their own patent claims reading on the standard.*
- 6. The specifications for open standards should be available to everyone on open source copyright license terms.*

You can find an open source copy of this presentation at:

[www.rosenlaw.com/OpenStandards.pdf](http://www.rosenlaw.com/OpenStandards.pdf)

You can find an open source copy of the accompanying paper at:

[www.rosenlaw.com/DefiningOpenStandards.pdf](http://www.rosenlaw.com/DefiningOpenStandards.pdf)

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