

## Open Source Software Development: Can it be too Open?

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Software plays an ever increasing role in the critical infrastructures that run our cities, manage our economies, and defend our nations. In 1999, the Presidents Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC) reported to the United States President the need for software components that are reliable, tested, modeled, and secure supporting the development of predictably reliable and secure systems that underscore our critical infrastructures [1]. Free/Open source software (F/OSS) constitutes a viable source for software components. Some believe that F/OSS is more reliable and more secure than closed source software (CSS)—due to a phenomenon dubbed “many eyeballs” [2][3]—but is this truly the case? Or does F/OSS give the cyber criminal an edge that he would likewise not have? In our paper [4], we explored F/OSS from the perspective of the cyber criminal. That paper along with our completed report on F/OSS from the perspective of the end-user, the designers, and maintainers of F/OSS [5] has opened up other questions about the need for security, reliability, and trust in the products we rely upon to support those critical infrastructures and the increasing reliance on F/OSS development to build that software.

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