



Enabling freedom of action in
Open Source technologies for
the world's largest patent
non-aggression community.

A background image showing a network of white lines and nodes overlaid on a brown, textured globe. The network lines are interconnected, forming a complex web across the globe's surface. The globe is centered in the lower half of the image, with the network lines extending towards the top and sides.

The 5 Top Reasons Companies Join Open Invention Network

More than **3,500+** **organizations** from startups to global
Fortune 500 enterprises — from over 100 countries, across all industries —
enjoy the many benefits of free membership in the world's largest patent
non-aggression community in history.

1 | REDUCES PATENT RISKS

OIN safeguards our members from patent risk associated with the use of Open Source Software (OSS).

Since our inception in 2005, OIN has been at the forefront of helping our members reduce patent risks as they relate to Linux and adjacent OSS. We do this by creating a voluntary system of patent cross-licenses between member companies. Our ever-growing patent pool facilitates cross-licensing and provides defense against companies or individuals that use patents against the Linux and core Open Source technologies.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY

"OIN helps protect the Linux ecosystem by building a variety of defenses against patent attacks. OIN affords us a chance to work with OIN in reducing Intellectual Property threats to Open Source Development and innovation."

- Mozilla

"OIN is one of the key methods through which Open Source leaders and innovators can deter patent aggression."

- Canonical

"OIN has taken a leadership role and worked tirelessly to improve intellectual property protection for Linux system and Open Source software. Alibaba and Ant look forward to continued partnership with OIN and the international open source community to foster innovation and reduce IP risks."

- Alibaba & Ant Group

2 | OFFERS CUSTOMER & PARTNER PROTECTION

With OIN membership, your customers and partners will rest assured about you and your products.

OIN membership provides a measure of comfort for our member companies' customers and partners as evidence that they are doing all the "blocking and tackling" required to ensure their products and services are benefitting from patent risk mitigation protections afforded by the OSS community through OIN.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY

"With Open Source Software, we are quickly creating robust and long-lasting solutions for our customers."

- Ginzinger

"We believe in daily advances to improve our customers' overall experience."

- Great Wall Motor

"Open Source enables us to scale rapidly and offer the best Quality-of-Service available."

- Rakuten

"We do not directly incorporate Open Source Software (OSS) in our products, our customers do. It is important for us to support Open Source initiatives that are critical to the continued success of our clients."

- TAIYO YUDEN

3 | HELPS WITH ATTRACTING TOP TALENT & EMPLOYEE RETENTION

OIN membership demonstrates a company's commitment to Open Source technologies and the obligations required to be an authentic participant in a global Open Source community.

Developers today believe that openness and collaboration across domains is the groundwork that nurtures Linux and open source development. They are more likely to work for — and many people actually expect — companies to provide a culture that fosters innovation through transparency, cooperation and collaboration.

OIN membership provides a measure of comfort to current and prospective employees that the company which they work for is authentic in terms of its support for the social and cultural norms of innovation. These include corporate foresight and trends, an innovation plan, a strong portfolio, a transparent culture, dedication to continuous improvement and high-quality products and services, as well as supporting processes, such as open innovation, knowledge management and intellectual property strategies.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY

"Linux and Open Source are critical elements of technology development."

– Huawei

"We encourage ongoing Linux development which ensures the continued improvement of technology and services."

– Guest-Tek

"Our work in collecting, preserving and making Open Source code available to developers, academics and government entities, will enable developers to continue to innovate."

– Software Heritage

4 | OIN COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP IS FREE

By design, OIN membership is free. There is no money exchanged.

Eight companies understood the importance of Open Source as a modality to support unrivaled levels of innovation and together, created OIN. IBM, Red Hat, SUSE, Google, Toyota, Sony, Philips, and NEC became funding members of OIN, subsidizing the costs of establishing and growing a worldwide community in which members cross-license Linux and related Open Source patents and applications to other members.

The license is free and available to companies, organizations, and individual developers as long as they agree not to assert their own patents against the Linux System, made up of core Linux and adjacent open source technologies. In addition to the community cross-license, OIN community members receive a royalty-free license to the OIN-owned patent pool, which is expansive and covers many strategic technologies.

As a result, participation in OIN involves no monetary cost.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY

"It makes perfect sense to be a part of an Open Source community that protects the rights of all members within the community, especially to reduce our patent risk around Linux related technology."

– Kontron

"OIN protects the Open Source community through a patent cross-license or Linux and related Open Source technologies."

– Google

5 | PROVIDES FREE SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE

Not only does OIN support members and those under attack from patent aggressors, we also challenge patent applications as appropriate and leverage our relationships to collect and share prior art when needed.

OIN routinely works with companies to lower patent risk related to OSS. It does this by continually expanding its coverage area, helping defend against litigation and pre-litigation assertions and maintaining the largest pre-issuance submission program designed to prevent the grant of overly broad patents. In addition, OIN is a founding member of Unified Patents' Open Source Zone, which reduces risk associated with OSS-relevant patents owned by Patent Assertion Entities (PAEs).

Prior Art Assistance

To date, OIN has helped members with over 45 cases with prior art assistance by identifying and sharing prior art for use against Patent Assertion Entities (PAEs), or corporate patent aggressors.

Defensive Patent Acquisition

OIN has expended in excess of \$15M to acquire Linux-centric patents owned by PAE's that were being used in active assertions or litigation - 15% of ours circa \$100M total patent acquisition investment to date.

Claim Scope Reduction

OIN is among the leading users of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA) pre-issuance submission program, having helped to get more than 25 overly broad patent applications rejected and significantly reducing claim scope in another 40 plus patent applications

WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY

"We believe the protection OIN offers the Open Source community helps increase global contributions to — and adoption of — Open Source technologies. We are honored to stand with OIN as an active participant in its program to protect against patent aggression in core Linux and other important Open Source Software (OSS) technologies."

– Microsoft

"We encourage companies that are leveraging the collaborative technology development model of Open Source, to join the OIN community as an important step for them as it relates to Intellectual Property (IP) management in core Linux and adjacent open source technologies."

– Linux Foundation

"Open Source Technology enables new levels of innovation and helps us to underpin our ongoing growth."

– Toshiba

"Protecting Open Source is critical to us, our users and the on-going health of the Internet."

– Google