open invention network®

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

ABOUT:

Open Invention Network (OIN) is the only institution focused on mitigating patent risk in Open Source Software (OSS).

OIN maintains the world's largest and oldest patent cross-license. By safeguarding against patent threats, OIN has encouraged the adoption of OSS, the most significant driver of innovation in the 21st Century. The OIN patent license and member cross-licenses are available royalty-free to any party that joins the OIN community.

MISSION:

We enable freedom of action for Open Invention Network community members and users of Linux/OSS-based technology through our patent non-aggression, cross-license in the Linux System, which defines the commitment of all community members.

VISION:

We will execute our mission by growing our community membership and engaging with companies of all types — from start-ups to Fortune 100 enterprises — across diverse industries.

- ❖ We will continue to grow our worldwide membership and the Linux System over time.
- ❖ We will continue updating the Linux System through a conservative, consensus-driven process to keep up with technological advances.
- ❖ We will actively monitor for patent-related threats to Linux and adjacent Open Source technologies and encourage open source community Intellectual Property (IP)-related initiatives.
- ❖ We will continue to promote and educate our community on complementary defensive IP strategies and support key Open Source initiatives.

KEY APPLICATIONS:

Apache, Eclipse, Evolution, Fedora Directory Server, Firefox, GIMP, GNOME, KDE, Mono, Mozilla, MySQL, Nautilus, OpenLDAP, OpenOffice.org , Open-Xchange, Perl, PostgreSQL, Python, Samba, SELinux, Sendmail, Thunderbird

GOVERNANCE:

Led by CEO Keith Bergelt, in coordination with OIN's Board of Directors, who are senior executives from OIN's Funding Members.

FUNDING MEMBERS:

- ❖ Red Hat/IBM, NEC, Philips, Red Hat, Sony & SUSE (2005)
- ❖ Google (2013)
- ❖ Toyota (2016)

WHAT WE DO:

- ❖ Deliver royalty-free access to the Linux System patents of our community members through cross-licensing commitments.
- ❖ Leverage our relationships to collect and share prior art when needed.
- ❖ Challenge patent applications as appropriate.
- ❖ Provide collective intelligence from a global community.
- ❖ Support our members and those under attack from patent aggressors.

MEMBER BENEFITS

- ❖ Provide members a **patent cross-license to over 4,500 core Linux and Open Source Software (OSS) packages** in our Linux System definition which also protects these packages against patent attacks.
- ❖ Leverage our relationships to collect and share prior art to help OIN community members defend themselves. We've **assisted members with over 65 cases**.
- ❖ Unified Patents Open Source Zone **challenged 50 Patents with excellent success**. OIN, IBM, Microsoft & the Linux Foundation funded and later joined by Meta & Mercedes-Benz.
- ❖ Deliver royalty-free access to Linux System patents in a **community that owns more than 3 million patents and applications** in total.
- ❖ **Support key Open Source projects** including Automotive Grade Linux (AGL), Hyperledger, Open Container Initiative (OCI), LF Networking Fund (Open Daylight, ONAP, OPNFV & others), LF Energy & Open Charge Alliance.
- ❖ By enabling OSS, we **advance the collective intelligence of a global community**, promoting greater diversity of thought, perspective and talent.
- ❖ **Protect against & mitigate patent litigation** risks for our members, as well **as protect Open Source through patent collaboration**.
- ❖ Provide access to an **exclusive OIN Community Member insignia & feature new members on our website** under Recent Members.
- ❖ **Provide *INSIDER*** — a bi-monthly eNewsletter that not only keeps you informed about OIN & Open Source news around the world, but also features OIN member news.