Linux System definition
openinventionnetwork

Linux System Definition | Next Table

New Open Source Package & Application Nomination Guidelines

(October 2026)

Overview:

This guide is intended for nominators of new Open Source packages and applications for inclusion in the Open Invention Network (OIN) Linux System definition's next Table. It will help ensure you are providing all the information necessary to correctly process your nomination.

Technology, Referenced by Source Code Packages:

Please specify the technology to be covered *(examples: Linux kernel, OpenStack, Tizen).* If a technology should be covered by the Linux System definition, all relevant packages should be listed with the exact source and version to be included.

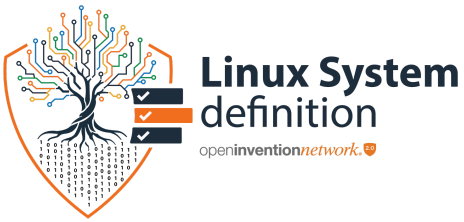
As technology evolves, the list of packages is updated approximately every 18-24 months for OIN to continue providing full coverage and the protection of these Open Source patents.

The description of the technology should explain the technical scope of packages to be included.

GUIDELINES FOR INCLUSION

Relevance:

Most — but not all — packages in the Linux System definition aim at covering reusable system software, middleware software, related tools and modules that are an essential element of typical Linux-based Open Source solutions. Packages that are part of the standard or minimal installation of a commercial Linux distribution and suitable for a specific application are good candidates.



License Information:

Only packages and technologies under Open Source Initiative (OSI) approved Open Source licenses *(or public domain if the source code is generally available)* can be added to the Linux System definition. Licenses should be specified using their **SPDX License List**

Adoption:

Traditionally, the Linux System Definition Technical Committee waits to include software in the Linux System definition until it has achieved a certain level of adoption. Packages are considered widely adopted if they are available in the default repositories of major distributions or are standard parts of specific software stacks *(for example, the Python XML module)*.

Please note this information in the "Nominator Comments" field in the OIN Linux System Definition: Next Table Nomination Worksheet.

List of Packages:

A technology is represented by a list of concrete upstream source code packages, ideally under the name used by the upstream project. The source code can be referenced by a Git repository location with a named *(tagged)* version, or a URL download.

The Linux System Definition Technical Committee typically approves reusable packages which other Open Source projects potentially depend on. End-user applications are less common, with OpenOffice and LibreOffice as notable examples.

Please List All Relevant Packages, Including the Following Information:

- The full package name that identifies the code
- The released version to be included

- The URL of the home page of the community developing the package
- The URL where the project offers packages for download (like an FTP server or Git hosting service).
- The URL where the package can be downloaded, or the Git repository and tag that matches the nominated version
- The license under which the software is released
- A short description of the package and/or application
- If a project has multiple components, please list each component separately on the OIN Linux System Definition Next Table Nomination Sheet.

The **Detailed Listing** of the Linux System definition on the Open Invention Network website provides a good reference.

REVIEW PROCESS & HOW TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS

Nominations **must be made** using the Linux System Defintion Next Table: Nomination Worksheet and sent via email to linux-system-nominations@openinventionnetwork.com**.**

The OIN Technical Committee will review all nominations and select source code packages for inclusion in a consensus-driven process. There is not any guarantee that a nominated package will be included. A rejection of a package also does not mean that it does not constitute interesting Open Source Software (OSS), only that the package does not fit into the OIN Linux System definition with its specific requirements of maturity and adoption.

The OIN Linux System definition is usually updated once every 18-24 months.

★ **Should versions that provide the same functionality, for example for different programming languages, all be entered as different packages?**

The OIN license agreement covers patent claims that read on the Linux System definition. Implementations that mirror the exact same functionality do not need to be added individually. It makes sense to list them in the nomination, since they may be grouped into one "super package" that references the different implementations. If the package variants add significant extra functionality, they should be considered separate nominations.

★ **How are future package versions handled?**

Once a package is included, updates in future versions of the included package that are distributed by the same maintainer as listed on the OIN website for the included package, and do not add new functionality, are covered in the OIN Cross License. "New" functionality means changes other than changes for purposes of compatibility (*for example, standards compliance)*, performance enhancement (*for example, increased execution speed),* usability, localization, and internationalization.

This clause is part of the OIN 2.0 License Agreement. There are advantages under the OIN 2.0 License Agreement to submit all future versions for inclusion, and it is a common practice to do so. Significant version updates usually do contain new functionality. They should then be submitted for a version update.

★ **Is public domain software acceptable?**

The Linux System definition contains a small portion of public domain software. This is an exception, not the norm, that is applied to be able to include functionality considered important. For example, the time zone-data package contains information about the different time zones in the world, which is public domain information but commonly shipped as part of Linux distributions. The source code or original data will need to be available for a nomination to be considered. If you have an interest in suggesting public domain code or data for inclusion in the Linux System definition that matches these requirements, please submit a nomination.

kf5-threadweaver

This example shows the information necessary to process a nomination. Please note the license should be on the **SPDX License List** if one is available.

- **Package name:** kf5-threadweaver
- **Version to be Included:** 5.49.0
- **Project URL:** https://www.kde.org
- **Download URL:** https://phabricator.kde.org/source/threadweaver/
- **Version download URL:** https://phabricator.kde.org/source/threadweaver/history/master @ v5.49.0
- **License:** LGPL-2.1
- **Description:** ThreadWeaver is a helper for multithreaded programming. It uses a job-based interface to queue tasks and efficiently execute them. The developer divides the workload into jobs, states the dependencies between the jobs and ThreadWeaver will work out the most efficient way of dividing the work between threads within a set of resource limits.
- **Nominator Comments:** ThreadWeaver is used extensively by the KDE desktop environment, a popular Linux Desktop.