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Opening doors on open source software

Dated June 29, 2005**The Indian Express**

C-DAC joins hands with 17 institutes from world to know more about developers

After designing supercomputers and numerous software applications in India, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), is all set to be part of a global initiative called Flossworld in which 17 institutions from 12 countries will join hands to study the trends in open source software development.

"In an nutshell, the project is about trying to make a detailed profile of an open source software developer," says Dr. M. Sasikumar, senior research scientist at C-DAC's Open Source Software Resource Research Centre (OSSRC), Mumbai.

According to him, the Flossworld project envisages to explore the 'philosophy' of the open source software development movement that has gained momentum over the last decade.

Funded by [European Union](#), the project will explore the cultural, community and professional backgrounds, as well as demographic traits like age group of open source software developers.

Parameters like motivational factors, software development patterns will also be explored. "It is an effort to go behind the core fundamentals of software development methodologies," explains Sasikumar.

The Flossworld study will focus on areas like open source software users, developers as well as policy makers like government agencies which are actively involved in using the applications.

"A significant area will be the study of open source usage in e-government applications," adds Sasikumar. On the cards are workshops where open source code developers from the country and abroad will share their experiences. The study will also help to take operating systems to users, as they will be part of the study.

Says Sasikumar, "The biggest advantage of this study will be that we will have quantitative data on the various OS software development trends". C-DAC will also include parameters like the effect of language in software development in India.

What is Floss ?

Floss or Free/Libre/Open Source Software is led by Maastricht Economic Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (MERIT), Netherlands. Institutes from Brazil, China, Bulgaria, Malaysia, South Africa, Croatia will be participating in the project.

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