

openinventionnetwork[®]

Open Invention Network (OIN) was founded by Red Hat, IBM, Sony, NEC, Philips and Novell in 2005 to support every organization that builds or uses Linux-related technology. The cornerstone of OIN is a community of almost 750 companies and projects that fosters a Linux System patent-aggression "no fly zone." Everyone inside pledges not to use Linux patents aggressively against each other, and this simple pledge acts as the starting point for a lasting non-aggression norm over Linux technology.

Early OIN community participants included IBM, Red Hat, Sony, Philips, Novell, NEC and Google. Recent participants include Mozilla, Cisco Systems, LG Electronics, Fujitsu, Yahoo, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and HTC. Many projects are part of our community too, with examples including CentOS, Gentoo Foundation and GNOME. There is no fee or payment required to join the OIN community.

OIN also holds a defensive portfolio of approximately 850 US and International patents and patent applications that covers key technology areas like e-commerce, web pages and biometrics, and is directly applicable to every major technology market. OIN creates and buys patents to protect the Linux community from third party aggression, and occasionally sells these patents to companies facing threats. OIN licensees obtain a free, unrestricted license to OIN's patents on joining the OIN community to counter any potential negative effect from this program.

OIN undertakes activities beyond the community of non-aggression that may also be of interest. One key example is that we help to provide more oversight and quality in the existing innovation process and to formally record inventions that are available without restriction to everyone. OIN supports Peer to Patent and Post Peer to Patent, and has made a substantial investment in defensive publications. OIN has a dedicated website where people can register, submit their innovations, and will pay to review, record and file them. The completed publication is added to the IP.com Database, which is in turn used by patent and trademark offices to search for prior art.

For the modest commitment of agreeing to non-aggression over the Linux System, participants receive the same pledge in return from all community participants, unrestricted licenses to everything OIN holds in its own defensive portfolio, and an avenue to potentially obtain assistance if Linux-related patent challenges arise in the future.

Our Frequently Asked Questions page is here:

http://www.openinventionnetwork.com/about_faq.php

An overview of our community agreement is here:

http://www.openinventionnetwork.com/pat_license.php

A list of the patents we own and freely license to every community member is here:

http://www.openinventionnetwork.com/pat_owned.php

The Defensive Publications website is here:

<http://defensivepublications.org>

You can see a full list of our community participants here:

<http://www.openinventionnetwork.com/licensees.php>