

Title	How to find confidence in Openness? Boost your safety and security
Author keywords	current research information systems research information management open source solutions DSpace-CRIS 4Science
Abstract	<p>This presentation explores the relationship between openness and security from different perspectives, showing the major achievements of DSpace-CRIS in this area. We chose to explore this topic because, in the Open Source world where DSpace-CRIS belongs, reputation - as we know - matters more than anything else, and it is very fair to show concrete results applied to security. We want adopting institutions to feel safe and secure.</p> <p>First of all, it should be noted that the term "security" of a CRIS system does not refer to a single function in isolation from the others, but to the global ecosystem of implementation (and maintenance/upgrade) of the entire software. Is simply being open source a guarantee of security? No. However, it is worth noting the fundamental point that distinguishes open source from the commercial model of software: the commercial model involves code secrecy. The secrecy of the code prevents it from being modified and corrected in a timely manner, something that happens very quickly thanks to the support of the DSpace-CRIS community.</p> <p>We would like to dispel the false myth that commercial software can be less of a target by not exposing its vulnerabilities: keeping proprietary source code secret makes financial sense for owner-sellers as a way to encourage customers to buy products and support, but this can hardly be considered a strong security measure.</p> <p>Proprietary codes have, first of all, very long development cycles, and proprietary dynamics often shift bug-fixing priorities over very long periods of time (with a limited number of developers working on it): open source software, especially if also maintained and developed by one or more commercial companies, is very exposed and visible (the example of DSpace, one of the most adopted IR software in the world), and this generates worldwide attention to constant and improving code development in a very short period of time, with no constraints of any "work cycle".</p>
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first name	last name	email	country	affiliation	Web page	corresponding?
Irene	Buso		Italy	4Science		✓