

CHALLENGES IN SOFTWARE ADOPTION WITHIN UKRAINE'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

In today's educational world, software plays a crucial role in shaping the development of students' skills and technological literacy. With a wide range of software options available, there is likely to be a program application for nearly every challenge you may encounter, designed to meet your specific needs. This powerful tool is known as software. There are two types of software: proprietary and open source.

“Open source software is software with source code that anyone can inspect, modify, and enhance” [1]. Proprietary software, on the other hand, is closed from a user and only rights holders can view and modify it. While proprietary software dominates the educational landscape in Ukraine, the reliance on such software limits students' exposure to diverse technologies. This narrow focus may hinder their ability to adapt to a rapidly evolving tech industry where familiarity with open-source tools and platforms is increasingly valued.

For instance, consider the prevalent use of proprietary software like "AutoCAD," "Photoshop," and "MS Office" in Ukrainian universities, overshadowing potentially beneficial open-source alternatives. Although this preference for proprietary software isn't inherently negative, it does present certain disadvantages for both the education system and the country at large.

Financial Strain and Opportunity Costs: The adoption of proprietary software imposes significant financial burdens on educational institutions, diverting funds away from other essential resources such as updated laboratory equipment, teacher training, and educational initiatives. Instead of investing in proprietary licenses, these funds could be allocated towards enhancing the overall learning experience and fostering innovation.

Innovation and Creativity Constraints: Proprietary software often comes with strict usage guidelines and limited customization options, which can stifle innovation and creativity among students and educators. Conversely, open-source software encourages experimentation and collaboration, fostering a culture of innovation that is essential for the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

In an increasingly interconnected world, proficiency in open-source technologies enhances Ukraine's competitiveness in the global marketplace. By equipping students with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate open-source ecosystems, educational institutions can empower the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs to compete on a global scale [2].

Moreover, reliance on proprietary software teaches not of freedom but of dependency. On the other hand, open-source software teaches that we have the freedom to choose our operating system (like Linux, instead of Windows), our office software, and other tools crucial for digital literacy and technological advancement.

In conclusion, while proprietary software has its merits, its exclusive adoption in educational settings may impede progress and limit opportunities for students. Embracing open-source solutions not only offers cost-effective alternatives but also fosters a culture of innovation, creativity, and technological proficiency that is vital for Ukraine's future success in the digital age. It's time to prioritize flexibility, innovation, and accessibility in software choices to ensure a brighter future for Ukrainian education.

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(eds) From Digital Divide to Digital Inclusion. Lecture Notes in Educational Technology. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-7645-4_25.