OPEN SOURCE
+ SOFTWARE

Software owned by private companies such as Microsoft is known as proprietary software, and the source codes are often private and protected.

Open source software is a term referring to computer software in which its source code is available to be used and changed by users and developers.

The main advantages of using open source software would be the **availability**, **adaptability**, **lower costs** and **improvability**.

Despite being free of licensing fees, the cost of maintaining open source software in some cases can be fairly high as there is not a fixed source of developers.

http://www.unlu.edu.ar/~tyr/tyr/TYR-2004/poster--open_source_software_evolution.gif