

A photograph showing several warfighters in silhouette, wearing helmets and carrying equipment, standing in a dark tunnel. They are looking towards a bright opening at the end of the tunnel, where some foliage is visible. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights from the opening and deep shadows within the tunnel.

IS OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE WORTH THE RISK?

The quality of your data determines the quality of the information available to support the mission

The warfighter deserves better

3 Hidden Risks of Open Source Software to DoD and IC

1 If things go bad, no one is safe

As vulnerabilities are found in open source software, they are published publicly to the National Vulnerability Database. This seems like an advantage because it flags the issue and gives community developers the opportunity to quickly resolve the issue. Conversely, this provides a massive opportunity for bad actors to exploit the issue. When hackers realized that Equifax was using a version of open source with a high-risk vulnerability in 2017, they were quick to exploit.

2 The real cost of open source: the devil is in the details

Although open source software is often touted as a free alternative to proprietary software, that is often not the case. The true cost usually becomes apparent only after a substantial, upfront time investment made by developers. At this point, the customization costs required to stitch together multiple forms of software and update to fix newly found vulnerabilities are self-evident.

3 The hieroglyphic and ever-changing nature of open source licensing agreements

All open source licenses are not created equal. There are over 200 open source license types in existence today. And, they are not all compatible. Even if the various software being used are compatible, there is no guarantee that this will be the case in perpetuity. Most open source organizations are completely against the combining of licenses. When stitching together open source software, you are increasing the risk of hitting roadblocks and legal action.

“In most instances, agencies should rethink the blanket use of open source software given the vulnerabilities that are rampant within the industry. If anything can be learned from the private sector, it is that open source is not nearly as secure or free as it has been made out to be.”

- Brigham Bechtel, Chief Strategy Officer, MarkLogic

Get the Best of Both Worlds With MarkLogic Data Hub Platform

MarkLogic is a proprietary software but provides a free developer's license, giving the developer the ability to download, install, and run the full capabilities of MarkLogic within minutes. Additionally, some of the software is available as open source.

It is the most secure modern database, with more security certifications and granularity than any competitor. Instead of stitching together a bunch of separate products, everything is already unified in a single, integrated platform that provides a consistent, real-time view of data.



Increased Agility

4-12x faster results with less risk when things change



Lower costs

Millions saved with lower IT, development, and operational business costs



Secure

Sharing Petabytes of data around the world every day



About MarkLogic

Data integration is one of the most complex IT challenges, and our mission is to simplify it. The MarkLogic Data Hub is a highly differentiated data platform that eliminates friction at every step of the data integration process, enabling organizations to achieve a 360° view faster than ever. By simplifying data integration, MarkLogic helps organizations gain agility, lower IT costs, and safely share their data.

Organizations around the world trust MarkLogic to handle their mission-critical data, including 6 of the top 10 banks, 5 of the top 10 pharmaceutical companies, 6 of the top 10 publishers, 9 of the 15 major U.S. government agencies, and many more. Headquartered in Silicon Valley, MarkLogic has offices throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Australia.

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