

# Open and Closed Source

Section: 2.2

# Open Source: Car with a Manual

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Let's say you and your friend have bought a car. These are new-age cars so you both are equally clueless about how they work. Your car comes complete with a manual that explains how the car works, the features, and how to take care of it.

On the other hand, your friend's car comes with none of the things you got. All they got were the car keys.

This is essentially the difference between an open-source and a closed source software/tool.

# Open-Source Softwares

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Developers of open-source software upload the working code (the blueprint of the software) online, available for everyone to see, and also allowing for an audit of their code.

Open-source software developers allow for the code they upload to be checked regularly for security issues and this is often by other software developers. This allows for a thorough audit, which gives confirmation on the security of the software.

Closed source software are those that do not share their code with anyone. There are no external audits and no checks of how data is being stored, and conversely, how it's being sold. This secrecy is the main reason why closed source software and apps cannot be trusted fully.

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# Use of Open-Source Softwares

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Open-source software is often operated by data activists and people who believe that private data shouldn't be sold and moved forward without the consent of the user.

In terms of data protection, open-source fairs better.

The next section will take this theoretical knowledge of open-source software to demystify WhatsApp's end-to-end encryption claims