

# Business Values of Community Source: The Construct and a Research Framework

Research-in-Progress

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## Abstract

Community source development has emerged as a new way of developing enterprise applications, leading to a unique type of open source development involving collaborative investment decisions by multiple institutional partners. But research on the business value of community source is lacking. In this paper, we classify the adopters of community source into four types according to the degree of involvement in community source: founding partners, development partners, deployment members and non members. We further identify the dimensions of business values of community source for each type of adopters. A research framework is developed to explicate the varying levels of institutional benefits by adopting community source for the four types of adopters, and several propositions are also generated. Our framework demonstrates the relationship between the business value dimensions and different degree of involvement in community source. This study should help institutions to make more informed decisions in IT investment.

**Keywords:** Business value, Open source, Community source, System deployment, Kuali project