GRASSROOTS POWER: HOW SOURCEFORGE DEVELOPERS ELICIT CHANGE FROM GEEKNET, INC.

Sung Won Kim
University of Oklahoma

Abstract

SourceForge.net is an open source software (OSS) internet portal where developers gather to collaborate on software development projects. SourceForge.net is wholly owned by Geeknet, Inc. publically traded company seeking to make a profit. The primary research question of this paper is to understand how power is transferred from Sourceforge.net, the company, to the software developers who help to provide content for the site. This paper argues that the developers have their own base of power and together with their social embeddedness, will be able to elicit changes, obtain information, and acquire resources from the SourceForge.net Company.