

Open Software Manifesto

Rethinking Open Source for Human-Scale Technology

Open-source software was born from a radical idea: that knowledge should be shared, systems should be transparent, and users should have the freedom to modify the tools they rely on. From the GNU Project to the free software movement, this philosophy has shaped the digital world we live in. Today, openness is no longer niche – it's the default in scientific research, education, and modern infrastructure. For example in the natural sciences, open-source research instrumentation projects such as OpenPCR, OpenFlexure, Ethoscope, OpenCTD, and FrescoM (to name just a few), have brought transparency and reproducibility to laboratories and fields worldwide.

These projects demonstrate the power of openness. Yet, experience shows that openness alone is not enough. Many open-source software systems – especially those backed by large institutions – have grown so complex and convoluted that meaningful participation is effectively out of reach for individuals. Projects labeled “open” often demand gigabytes of tooling, years of domain knowledge, and coordinated teams just to contribute. Access to source code alone does not ensure the power to understand, modify, or repair. Even to run, modern capable hardware is often required.

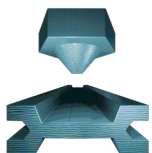
At DEV Joni, we envision *accessible openness* – one rooted in clarity, simplicity, sustainability, and genuine user ownership. Our software and tools are intentionally human-scale: understandable by a single person, modifiable without gatekeepers, and instructive by design.

Inspired by the Unix philosophy “Do one thing and do it well”, the KISS principle “Keep It Simple Stupid” and the infamous “If it ain't broke, don't fix it” – we create software systems that are:

- **Understandable** – Clear in architecture, modest in scope, and easy to follow
- **Hackable** – Modifiable without elaborate toolchains or insider expertise
- **Instructive** – Built to be read, learned from, and reused by all skill levels
- **Deliberately Minimal** – Doing less, but doing it with precision and reliability, enabling smooth performance on older hardware while running lightning-fast on the latest systems
- **Human-Scale** – Tools that even one person can own, shape, extend and maintain
- **Sustainable** – Designed for longevity, repairability, and reduced waste
- **Modular** – Small, well-defined components that can be combined or extended as needed
- **Transparent Beyond Code** – Openness in structure (how), purpose (why), and operation (what)
- **Ethical** – Free from hidden surveillance or bias, built to resist corporate centralization and grounded to preserve technological self-determination

We believe the next frontier in openness isn't simply *more* open-source, but *better* openness: smaller systems, clearer interfaces, ethical transparency, and real user control. We aim to build communities around our tools, where collaborative learning and knowledge-sharing are core values.

This is the mission of the DEV Joni: to empower individuals, labs, and educators with tools that bridge the digital and physical worlds – tools that are open not just in source, but also in spirit.



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Hyrynsalmi, Finland | 15 May 2025 (15:15 UTC+3)