**Could we do Open Source Safety?**

What does “***Open Source***” mean: a phrase coined by Tim O'Reilly that is used to describe the nature of systems that are designed for user contribution. The most exciting work tends to happen in the fertile ground where two or more disciplines overlap. Or it happens where one intrepid designer or team simply decides to combine them. The term "the architecture of participation" is also used to describe the nature of systems that are designed for user contribution. Architecture of Participation is a Web 2.0 concept in which a community of users contributes to the content or to the design and development process.

The open source license encourages a shared community approach to the development, extension, and patching of open source software. Most open source projects have a dedicated group that moderates and directs the core software development and ensures that needed new features are being developed, bugs are being fixed, and the supporting documentation remains current.

The compiler translates the source code into the binary language that it can read and execute. Compilers not only make it possible for computers to run the program but also make the programs more efficient by optimizing the file sizes and checking for errors.

In general, open source software gets closest to what users want because those users can have a hand in making it so. It's not a matter of the vendor giving users what it thinks they want--users and developers make what they want and they make it well. This is because its shared development harnesses the benevolent brilliance of thousands around the world who are continually developing, improving, and evolving its core. It's a worldwide community, getting together to build something awesome, regardless of distance, language, and culture.

The world of knowledge is quite opaque: The people with the problem don't know where to look for the solution. So they spend a lot of money and time discovering something that's already available. If you describe the problem in terms of its applications, the only solutions you get are from people working in that industry. I ask us to consider, is this not descriptive of many of the challenges we face in safety issues.

Many times things that work in one application could have application in another if only the second group knew about the first groups’ solution or vice versa. It is important that both parties join in the network and share their expertise. Our organization provides a GREAT OPPORTUNITY to share our expertise. In my opinion we safety practitioners have a social and maybe a moral obligation to seek out people who could profit from the results of our battle-tested solutions. Do not sit on the sideline; get in the game, share!