



Evolving to Openness

The Role of Open Standards and Open Source

Dr. Robert S. Sutor
Vice President
Standards and Open Source

www.sutor.com/newsite/blog-open/



Let's start with a simple question

Let's start with a simple question

What is an open standard?

Let's start with a simple question

How much time do you have?

It's the wrong question. The right question is ...

When is one standard more open than another
and what criteria are you using?

Openness is relative.

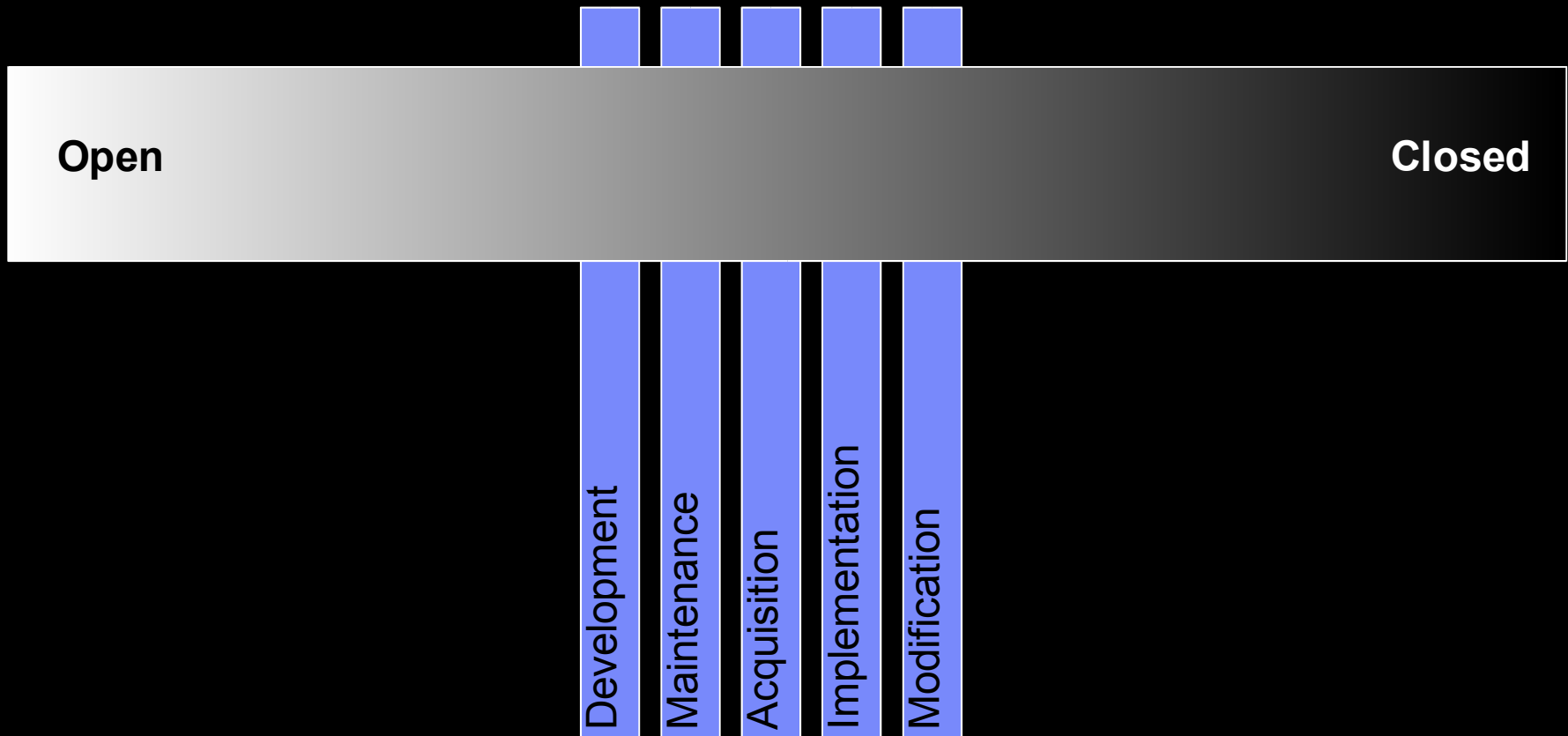
Open standards vs. open source

- Many people who have not done software development are confused between “open standards” and “open source”: they don’t know what code looks like and what you do with it.
- A standard is like a blueprint: it tells you what you must do if you actually get around to building something.
- An open standard is one that is developed and maintained in a particularly transparent way with community involvement, and is “freely” available and implementable.
- Open source is code, and it may implement open standards.
- Open source is developed (implemented) and maintained in a particularly transparent way with community involvement, and is “freely” available.

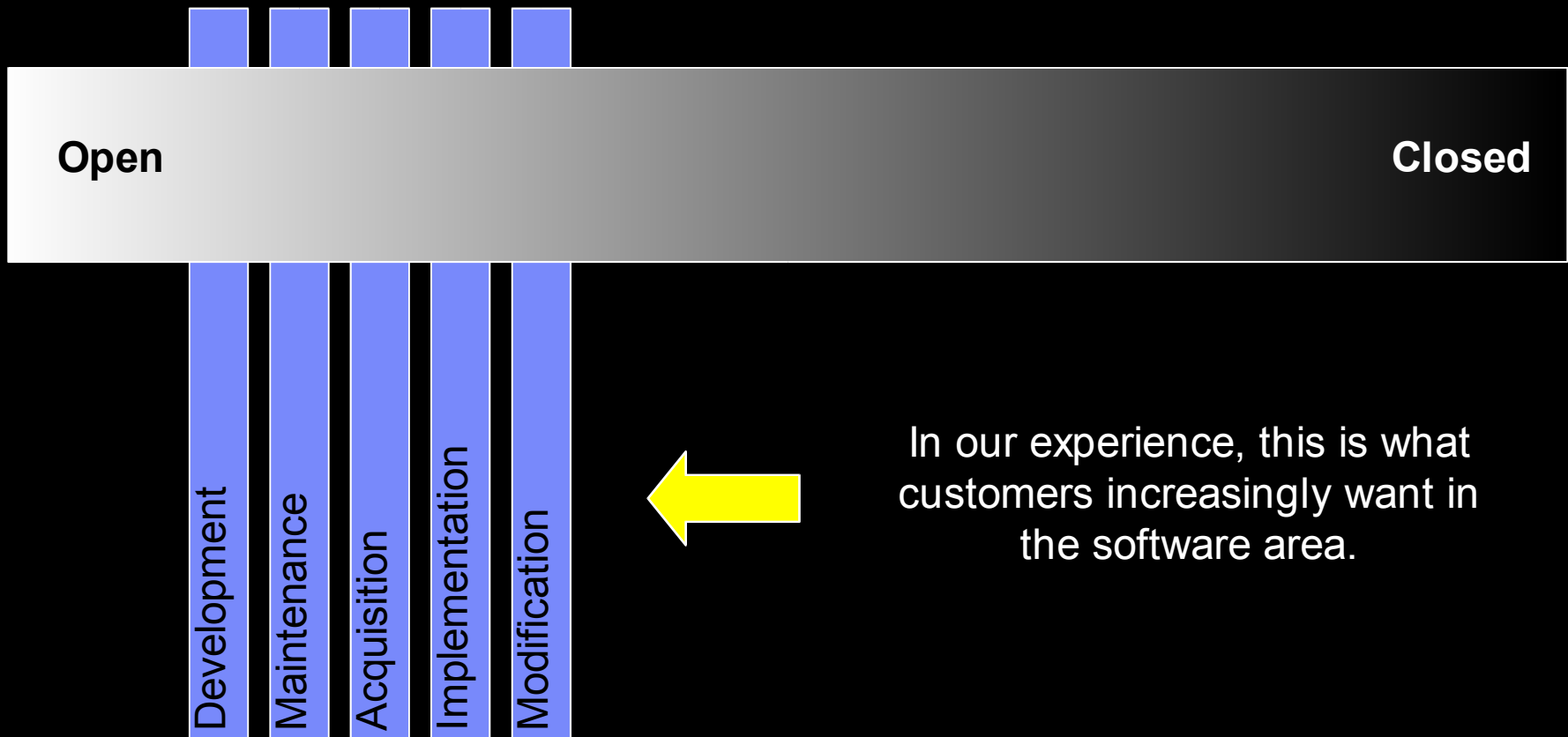
Open standards vs. open source

- Many people who have not done software development are confused between “open standards” and “open source”: they don’t know what code looks like and what you do with it.
- A standard is like a blueprint: it tells you what you must do if you actually get around to building something.
- An **open** standard is one that is developed and maintained in a particularly **transparent** way with **community** involvement, and is “freely” **available** and **implementable**.
- **Open** source is code, and it may **implement** open standards.
- Open source is developed (**implemented**) and maintained in a particularly **transparent** way with **community** involvement, and is “freely” **available**.

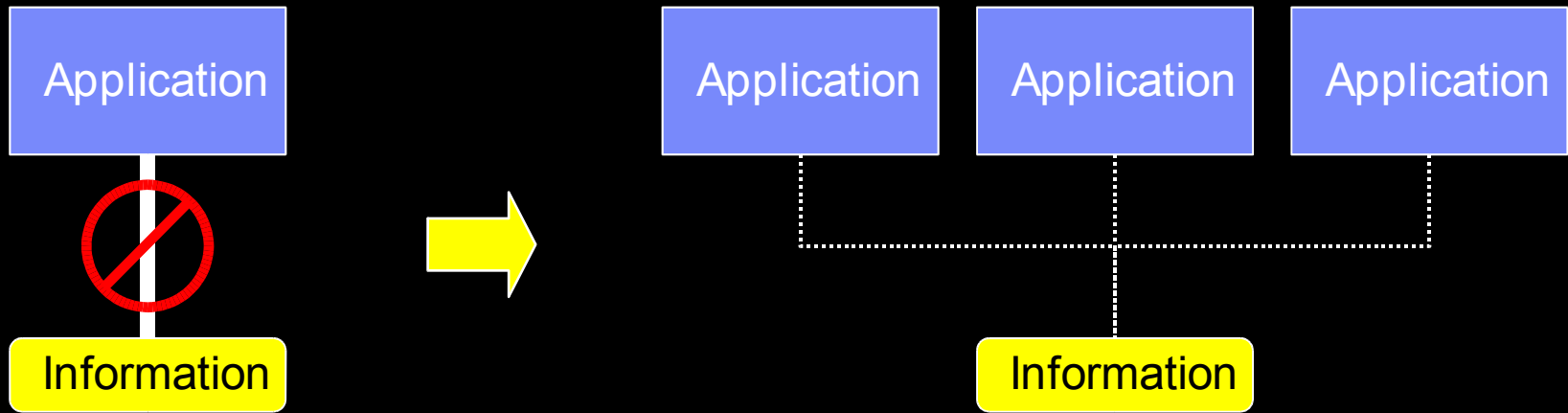
What criteria do we use for openness?



What criteria do we use for openness?



We have a big change taking place



Old Style

Information is closely linked to the application that created it.

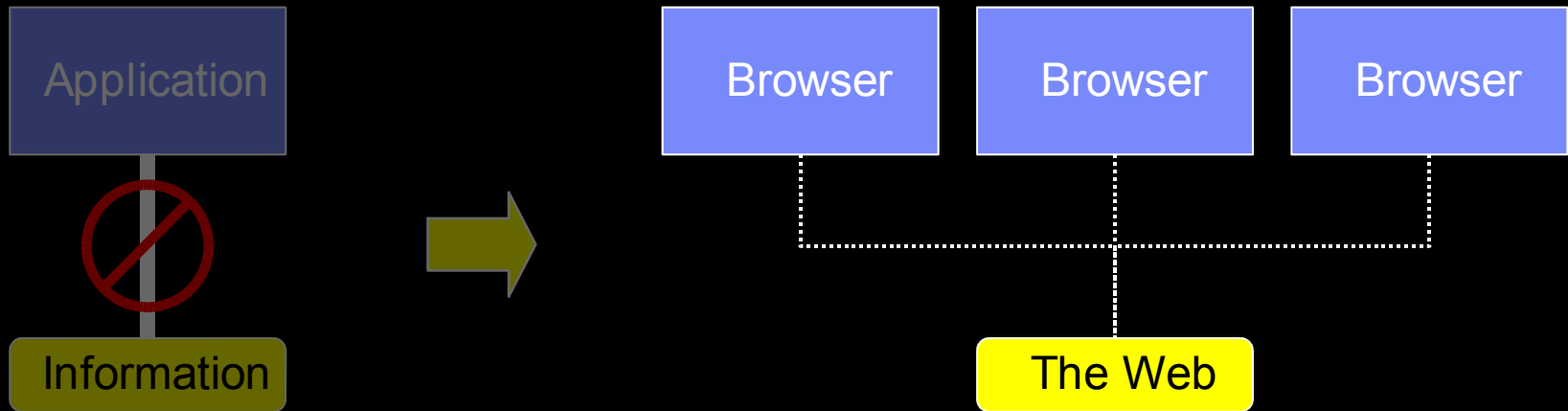
Control is with the software developer *not* the customer.

New Style

Information is represented using a real open standard not under the control of a single vendor, and multiple applications can create and access it interchangeably.

Control is with the customer *not* the software provider.

We started to see this in the 1990s



Old Style

Information is closely linked to the application that created it.

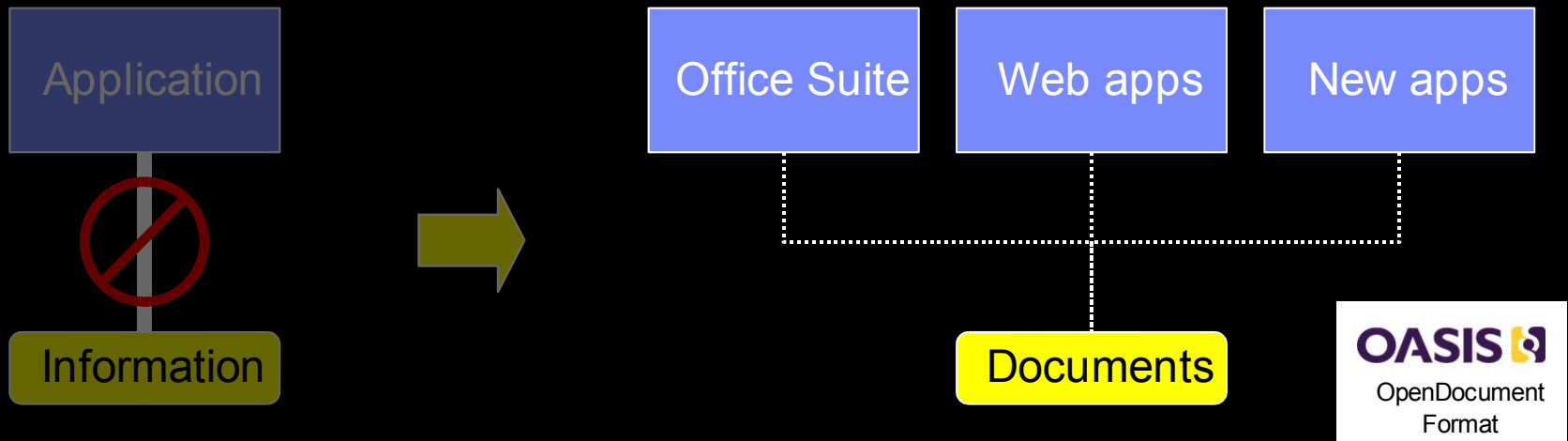
Control is with the software developer *not* the customer.

New Style

Information is represented using a real open standard not under the control of a single vendor, and multiple applications can create and access it interchangeably.

Control is with the customer *not* the software provider.

The trend will accelerate in the 2000s



Old Style

Information is closely linked to the application that created it.

Control is with the software developer *not* the customer.

New Style

Information is represented using a real open standard not under the control of a single vendor, and multiple applications can create and access it interchangeably.

Control is with the customer *not* the software provider.

Why does IBM consider open source important?

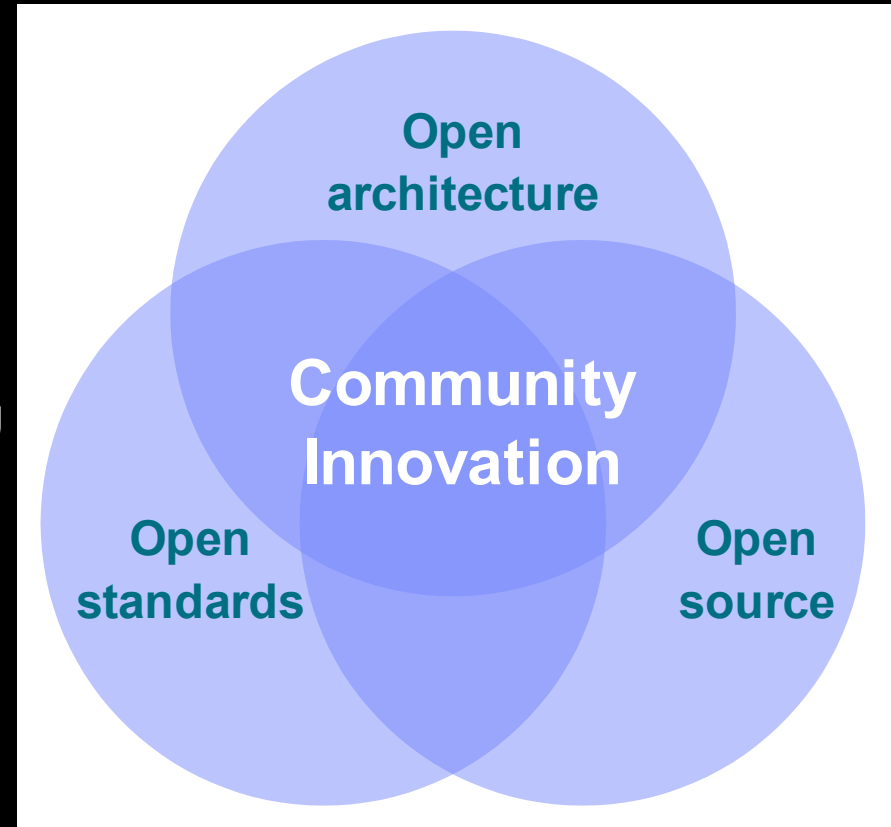
- **OSS is a good approach for driving emerging standards**
 - Popular open source projects can become the common implementations
 - Can have wide distribution and deployment
 - Can accelerate SOA adoption

- **Open Source Software (OSS) can be a major source of innovation**
 - Innovation can happen anytime, anywhere, and might be downstream
 - Development through “open communities” leads to potentially broad ideas and creativity

- **OSS is a source of competition and disruption in marketplace**
 - Office productivity applications
 - Operating systems (Linux for servers, desktops)
 - Software development environments, ...

This is all part of “open computing”

- **Open standards**
 - Improving data sharing by simplifying integration of disparate technologies
 - Promoting interoperability by using open published specifications
- **Open architecture**
 - Increasing collaboration by easily extending business processes, for example, SOA
 - Innovating on top of common hardware specifications
- **Open source**
 - Promoting innovation by leveraging community development



Recommendations for governments

- Watch out for those who try to use “open” as a marketing term to mask their same old proprietary ways.
- Aggressively avoid trade secrets and proprietary software APIs and protocols: they will lock you in and take control away from you.
- Create an open standards position paper, explicit procurement policies, and an interoperability framework.
- Start now on pilot projects that will demonstrate the value of open standards and open source quickly and in a low risk way.
- Leverage your purchasing power to get open standards-based solutions and also get vendors to support true open standards.
- Explicit set a policy and a deadline for using the OpenDocument Format.