Introduction to the Minitrack on
Open Source Application Software

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Open source infrastructure software such as operating systems, firewalls, virus scanners etc. can already be seen as established in organisations. Open source application software though is an upcoming field – this applies especially to application software in organisations. Application software for profit- and non-profit organisations such as enterprise software systems support managerial decisions, business processes, economic exchange, and enhance organisational capabilities, e.g.

- enterprise resource planning systems (ERP-systems),
- customer relationship management systems (CRM-systems),
- business intelligence systems (BI-systems),
- document management systems,
- knowledge management systems,
- workflow management systems and
- business process management systems.

Further types of application software enable enterprises to create and deliver new products, services, and business concepts. The role of this type of software is therefore crucial for organisations. On the other hand, the costs for these software systems are immense (e.g., licensing, configuration, modification, adoption, maintenance). Consequently, there is a growing number of organisations using open source application software in order to reduce IT-casts.

Although the positive impact of open source application software on the reduction of IT-casts is obvious, there are hardly any reliable studies on the economic efficiency of open source application software. Furthermore, the unique characteristics of open source application software (e.g. development by software communities, licensing, forking) give rise to a huge range of issues (e.g., maturity, modifiability, dissemination, software support). In the past, though, the field of open source application software for profit and non-profit organisations has been neglected.

This minitrack aims to overcome this gap. It therefore invited theoretical, empirical and practice-oriented submissions that address important research questions relevant to open source application software. Along these lines, we have identified the following themes associated with this topic:

1. **Attributes of Open Source Software Requirements - The Effect of the External Environment and Internal Social Structure**

   deals with the characteristic modes of social and structural distributions on open source software communities and how the distributed cognitive mode of each community can be explained by the attributes of faced requirements emanating from the environment.

2. **Open-Source Development Tools for Domain-Specific Modeling**

   extends a systematic literature review to cover decisions with respect to model-driven development tooling.

3. **Business Applicability of Open Source Customer Relationship Management Systems**

   presents a methodology to identify practice-oriented open source enterprise software systems.

The minitrack co-chairs would like to express their appreciation to all authors and reviewers for their contributions in making this minitrack a success. We look forward to continue building this research community in the coming years.