

## Re: is free, open source software ethical?

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Lisp/comp.lang.lisp/2008-03/msg00229.html>

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Many other economists will tell you that's ideological drivel.

And some scientists will tell you that the earth is 4000 years old.

Ideally, in a free market, everybody charges the minimum price needed to provide some goods or services, optimally allocating resources in the process.

Not necessarily. The consumer does not care what the cost of production is. He only cares about the marginal utility of the product to him.

dumping vendor remains the last on his market. After that, he can raise the prices above the true market price, as long as he keeps it low enough that the usual market entry barriers keep new competition from arriving.

In other words, he is able to sell the product for a lower cost than the competition will be able to. Sounds like a good deal to the consumer.

free market. It didn't matter much though, transportation was so expensive that no real free market existed anyway.)

A free market is just people voluntarily exchanging goods and services. Whether this is silk traders from 500BC, oil traders in 2008 or intergalactic gold traders in 3000, they all follow the same principle – that division of work and specialization enabled by trade raises productivity and hence wealth.