

Open Source Hardware Survey

| Do you have any feedback or comments about the survey? | |
|--|----------------|
| Answer Options | Response Count |
| | 226 |
| <i>answered question</i> | 226 |
| <i>skipped question</i> | 1865 |

| Number | Response Text | Categories |
|--------|--|------------|
| 1 | I know only two genders: male and female. | |
| | What's the purpose of the survey? | |
| 2 | no. | |
| 3 | I intend to release projects as OSH, but I have yet to finish any of them. So I intend to put the OSH logo there, but I haven't yet. On this question I could choose Yes/No, so I picked Yes :) | |
| 4 | M-m-m... it's quite Western, you know, First-World. | |
| | Don't remember seeing "self-taught" mentioned. Education is not available everywhere. | |
| | Also, nothing about communication. 24/7 Internet is not available everywhere. | |
| 5 | Great survey with excellent questions!! | |
| 6 | More questions, and please give us the raw data of the study so we can analyse the data using proper methods (multivariate analysis of variance & factor analysis) | |
| 7 | None other than that it's odd I didn't see it earlier. Hopefully it will have gotten wider attention than has been obvious to me, and not just to "people reading this particular blog, and on that particular forum". | |
| 8 | How do I get started with open source hardware? | |
| 9 | one of the questions was unclear - I mentioned that in the section below. (about hardware only being available as open source) | |
| 10 | I liked it. good questions. You should get some good info. | |
| 11 | no | |
| 12 | a little bit long! | |
| 13 | I probably shouldn't have taken it. ;) | |
| 14 | THANKS!!!!!! | |
| 15 | Seems very interesting. I would like to see the results. | |

- 16 your welcome. =)
- 17 Well done.
- 18 No
- 19 Nope! Hope you are having fun reading through all of these!
- 20 No.
- 21 Thanks for doing this!
- 22 I was confused by the choices "pursuing" and "incomplete" for the educational background. The difference was not so clear to me
- 23 This is a great survey, I hope it helps the push of open-source hardware.
- 24 Look forward to the results!
- 25 Great survey! look forward to reading the results
- 26 most open hardware not from big places are crap
- 27 I think question seven could have been splitted in a few more questions, and some questions could have only popped up according to previous answers.
- 28 This should be yearly like the Git users survey! The statistics are always really nice to see from that.
- 29 Good thorough survey without being long and tedious.
- 30 Not sure if I qualify for the survey, but what the hell!
- 31 When thinking about educational resources, don't forget the homeschool kids! There are some brilliant, untapped minds in that demographic, just waiting to be introduced to the open source community.
- 32 I like it.
- 33 No
- 34 good luck
- 35 THANK YOU OPEN-SOURCE!!!!
- 36 na
- 37 Oh I guess I left these in the other box.
- 38 well done!
- 39 Not sure what it means to "develop" open-source hardware. I've made a number of circuits both from scratch and on top of existing open designs, but I've not open-sourced them as they're very much beginner/learner projects. However if asked I would always share. I put "NO" to this question but feel the YES/NO paradigm was a bit limited.
- 40 Nice amount of questions. Not too many.
- 41 A version of this would be nice to have as a check list for launching an open hardware community project.

- Maybe an option to select.
- 42** Do you have a one man hackerspace?
Are you thinking about making a open hackerspace? (because some of us out there actually have a machine park that would have ordinary tech people drool in ave.
And some of us is thinking of maybe sharing this oneman lovelines with others with a mind like ours that do not have access or money to bye or use machines.)
- Website idea.
So in regards to open source hardware, you could have a place on the website where people could team up. Select country, city and see if there is someone in your naborhood, that would like to share machines and facilities.
- 43** Provide an "out for those not currently working on an open source project. It seems that in my case, I promote open source but am not directly involved ina a particular project so It felt alienating around the 3rd page... This will cause some users to bail out...
- 44** none
- 45** None.
- 46** a little too long...
- 47** i look forward to having an association and to putting the logo on the [open source hardware project] prototype
- 48** Great Survey and Good Luck for Open Source Hardware Association
- 49** Well-designed.
- 50** I am happy to see not just strides but leaps occurring on the OSHW forefront. Please keep up the momentum!
- 51** it is a great way for people to share all the good idea.
- 52** Thank you for doing this
- 53** Thanks for hosting a wonderful survey and I hope it turns out well!
- 54** very good survey

55 I think the Open Source Hardware Initiative has some of the greatest potential payback for investment, period. Having seen crisis medicine and desperation engineering in Haiti, I can appreciate the level of impact some of these projects can have. Being able to have the complete schematics, programming language, and technical sheets for a product is priceless when it needs to be repaired. Being able to hop onto the internet and have knowledgeable experts ready and willing to coach you on fixing/improving the product will save lives and provide incredible support to communities who have access to it.

As a learning tool, I can't even begin to tell you how much this has helped me.

56 Bit long :-)

57 have a nice day

58 looooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo
ooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooong

59 Keep up the great work!

60 Not sure what you are trying to learn. I was just thinking that an open source hardware organization could network or team with professional organization like the IEEE, ACM, APS, ACS, ASME, USA Science & Engineering Festival, etc, educational institutions like MIT, and gov't groups like NSF to promote itself to and educate students.

61 It contains too many questions actually

62 just because it is about open source, doesn't mean everyone wants to share information about everything.

63 Thanks for making the survey. I can't wait to see the results.

64 NA

65 I would have answered a question or two in the "user" section of the survey differently had I known what was coming in the "designer" section.

66 It's almost unreasonably long.

67 pretty comprehensive

68 I thank spark fun for being awesome. May the electromagnetic force be with you.

69 Seems quite complete, maybe too centred on electronics. Many other kinds of open hardware exist such as reprop, plastic extrusion & moulding, or CNC machining. Convergence of all those forms of open hardware and fabrication capabilities sharing seems a promising way. Hackerspaces & fablabs propose an interesting model.

- 70 nice survey, btw :)
- 71 good job=)
- 72 I would like to see the final results of his survey.
- 73 Thanks for being interested! :)
- 74 Less typing questions. Better responses from lazy or busy people. But kudos on that they are not mandatory.
- 75 Very good survey, short and to the point without a lot of boring secondary questions. I look forward to taking it next year..
- 76 Being & remaining OPEN
- 77 I'm longing to see the results!
- 78 not much up to now
- 79 cool story bro
- 80 Enseñen a trabajar, crear y dar sin esperar nada a cambio.
La vida recompensa a quienes trabajan para educar.
- 81 No.
- 82 I liked the survey, felt quick and straight to the point, good job.
- 83 "The hardware I want only exists as open-source" seems hard to rate on a scale like that.
- 84 publish the results
- 85 It's good to have a chance to take this survey!
- 86 Nope.
- 87 a bit too intrusive about demographics
- 88 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OXfAPPckQU
- 89 nope
- 90 maybe the best survey I have ever done
very interesting questions
well designed
maybe a little too long
- 91 Nope
- 92 bit long? Oh well, I have no better use for my time.
- 93 Excellent idea... Will the results of the survey be posted anywhere?
- 94 Open source hardware and software makes the world go round. Just look at how many things we use daily.
- 95 It was kind of long and I was hoping there would be cake and grief counseling at the end.
- 96 I think you should open source the survey results and see what exciting things the community comes up with.
- 97 this is a well-laid-out survey. and I found it particularly fun to fill out.

- 98** Thanks for doing this assessment of the OSHW community! I think it will benefit all of us!
- 99** no
- 100** No.
- 101** nope
- 102** great idea, i think that open-everything movement should consolidate and such surveys are small steps in gaining knowledge about this movement.
- 103** It's important. Thanks.
- 104** its too long! but necessary.
- Hope my answers help.
- 105** Orange on gray is not the easiest colors on the eyes.
- 106** No
- 107** I did not realize it was this comprehensive. Please excuse the very brief explanations.
- 108** Love the survey.....
- 109** didn't feel like giving some of the answers, even though I feel like they'd be interesting to see from the community
- 110** Well constructed questions!
- 111** Thanks for this initiative.
We've got to get organized people!
- 112** Overall, nicely put together survey. I would consider explicitly digging into some of the software side of open source hardware in a future survey (for example, where/why is it easier/harder to code against than proprietary hardware).
- 113** no
- 114** Surveys are generally no fun, somewhat misleading but I wanted to participate and see the results of this one. Mainly because I think this gen-x will be responsible for getting the USA back to what it does best.
- 115** Thanks ...
- 116** T'was a bit long. Perhaps John or whomever created it has a career in creating surveys for industry magazines ;-)
- "Are you in charge of the purchasing decisions for the following types of components: resistors? capacitors? Linear regulators?..."
- 117** Not too much, just that some of the "how important" questions didn't all make sense
- 118** nope
- 119** ...
- 120** Thanks for taking the time to do the survey!
- 121** I think the results of this survey will be interesting...

- 122** thank you for your interest
- 123** Nope, but thanks for your work in the open source field!
- 124** No
- 125** Good survey
- 126** very goog thing
survey in education, in technology, in society... is very important.
- 127** [this comment contained information that may identify the respondent and was removed to protect their anonymity]
- 128** Great idea!
- 129** Thanks for putting together a survey! I'm glad someone is taking the time to research our little world.
- 130** Good work :)
- 131** Try to fit it on less pages. Whether thats reducing the number of questions or putting more questions on a single page.
- 132** Open questions are hard. Much easier to do tick boxes etc, rather than fill out a big blank box.
- 133** degree table is not international. what sis an associate degree ?
- 134** Very well thought out!
- 135** A bit long
- 136** Missing Fablabs as an option on one of the earlier questions, next to the maker and hacker spaces.
- 137** ...
- 138** feels like it covered sufficient areas for me.
- 139** Hope for the best
- 140** It seems very much aimed at the business demographic which is fine but might scare off hobby/makers. Well done for arranging this I look forward to the results, open I trust!
- 141** no
- 142** Please provide a list of some well-known open-source projects.
- 143** not really
- 144** no
- 145** A little long but I am glad you are doing this. Sorry for not answering the middle questions I had to run so I skipped a few.
- 146** The study / degree questions fit well to USA, but I can't tell what degree I'm studying, because of the difference in educational systems.
- 147** focused to the US.
- 148** No :)
- 149** Long live the open hardware :)
- 150** Nice initiative! Will be fun to see the result

- 151 None
- 152 would have done more, busy at work. :-/
- 153 Keep up the good work.
- 154 Some questions are better answered through a phone interview or meeting or else. But it was really comprehensive and hit most if not all the key points.
- 155 No
- 156 thanks for all your efforts and inspiration!!
- 157 not at this time
- 158 no
- 159 please send me the results of this survey.
- 160 Good survey! :-D
- 161 The word "free" (as in freedom) is not mentioned once. "Open Source" is a confusing term that misses the point entirely, if you do any activism about freedom. I surely won't forbid anybody else to use it, but if the hardware community would be more careful in "double branding" the movement, it would make it far more easy for activists to do our job...
- 162 great
- 163 good initiative
- 164 Nope.
- 165 some answer sets didn't fit the associated statement. makes it harder to answer correctly. "The hardware I want only exists as open source" doesn't jive well with unimportant to very important range answer.
- 166 I think I have said enough.. hope it is useful.
- 167 Just because Bill Gates says that sharing / Open Source is Un-American does NOT mean he knows what he is talking about.
- 168 I really believe that there should be more tie-ins to open source software because it has a strong place in the open source hardware community, but otherwise it seemed like a very good survey. I look forward to seeing the results!
- 169 Left in previous boxes.
- I HATE SURVEYS.
- You are lucky, I vowed to do 4 a year, you are #2!!!
- 170 Happy to participate!
- 171 Nope
- 172 Make it less USA based, I don't know what the hell a associate degree is, and I didn't go to high school
- 173 Not at this time

- 174** The "important/not important/etc" should have a "Not Applicable" option
- 175** Not sure the difference between the first three categories on the first question.
- 176** I love Jeri Elsworth.
- 177** Games are for children. Use your skills for something worthwhile and to the actual betterment of humanity.
- 178** s'alright.
- 179** Nil.
- 180** Wow, is this survey long or what!?!
- 181** has too much weird questions
- 182** Nice survey.
- 183** I don't know what you meant by making an open source project. Design one from scratch and sharing with open source distribution or just buying and using other people's products and designs?
- 184** Yeah! the "Next" button has reset me back to the start several times! Buggy, closed-source software...
- 185** no
- 186** Your survey assumes that respondents have many completed, released projects. I do not. I post my findings on my website/blog as they happen and don't really pursue any kind of '1.0' release of anything.
- 187** No.
- 188** Thanks for gathering this information, I'll be interested to learn more about this great community.
- 189** None
- 190** Too many 'fill in by writing'.
Race and ethnicity? ohh please...
- 191** It's insanely long.
- 192** There are several related questions scattered around. They should be together.

The direct questions like age, gender, company etc. should come in the beginning. In answering the longer questions I added in that information because I thought it was relevant and hadn't been asked yet.

Some of the questions in the importance rating question sets don't make sense given the response options. They should be rephrased such that each of the possible answer choices is a valid answer to each question.

- 193** "Race" fields seem US-centric
- 194** I only found this because I subscribe to the twitter account. Is it spread out enough?

- 195** I think the survey is very well done.
I was only a little uncomfortable with the section on "Race" and "Ethnicity" which I find irrelevant to an open community, and I do not understand how that information could be of any help...
- 196** well, you need to consult with a sociologist or someone who is familiar with survey methodologies, there are mistakes in question/answer formulation, in general, survey does not shine as professional, sorry to say that ;)
- 197** Can't wait to see the results!
- 198** Question 15 seems quite strange: what would one's racial/ethnic background have to do with open hardware ? :/
- 199** the second important/unimportant list was some what vague... but other than that no it's a good survey
- 200** You should consider removing the question about race/ethnicity. Legal penalty for this kind of question can get pretty high at least in France.
- 201** no
- 202** school level is only understandable by us natives
- 203** [this comment contained information that may identify the respondent and was removed to protect their anonymity]
- 204** useful to ask for contact details, to start building an open database of interested people - might help facilitate groups in areas where they are not currently active.
- 205** Good work at keeping survey sensitive (having "other" options in traditional either-or questions, such as gender).
- 206** Too long
- 207** Nicely laid out and very thorough survey.
- 208** Thanks for all the work put into the community.
- 209** Less essay questions.
- 210** It was cool.
- 211** Questioning the licenses (think it was ~q18) it is not possible to select "have not already, but would do it under this and that circumstances" ... but maybe this only affects me as i have not released anything yet ... same applies to "have you made money with open source designs..."
- Really great survey otherwise!!!!
- 212** I hope to see the results of this survey have a positive impact on the OSHW community!

- 213** Could the OSH also shed some light on the TAPR Open Hardware licenses? Granted, TAPR OH licenses tend to be for larger projects where patent and material design are more significant. Still, the TAPR licenses seem more relevant to certain projects depending on the OSH --they might not be aware of the added protections. Perhaps dedicate a page to comparing the advantages of each. Just that I really appreciate the work y'all
- 214** do. One of the things that really bothers me about electronics design as an industry is that no one seems to be actually having fun with it. You get so locked into the idea of "job" that it takes someone coming in from outside to remind you of just how amazing it is that so much can now be accomplished so easily. You really put a lot of energy and life back into electronics. And if that means that the field starts seeing a slew of "engineers" with little formal training, and only practical experience with making things that actually work? Well, that's how we started out. That's how everyone who actually made a meaningful contribution to electrical engineering would have been described. And to the degree that we've gotten away from it, and become more about the formal discipline, and less about "Hey, look what I can do.", it's done us no favors whatsoever.
- 215** [this comment contained information that may identify the respondent and was removed to protect their anonymity]
- 216** Great job Catarina! Can't wait to see the data.
- 217** It's great! Best of luck with the results
- 218** Nope -- glad you are doing this, though I'm not doing many hardware projects right now.
- 219** Nope.
- 220** Great to see the survey happen. Too bad I don't have time to fill it out in detail right now. Great work. Keep it up!
- 221** Thank you for running this survey -- I'd love to see the results published when you're ready!
- 222** Nope.
- 223** Nope. Keep up the good work guys(gals)!
- 224** Should have asked what hardware is used: arduino, beagle, etc... because I think right now Atmel and arduino are dominating, dangerous thing. Would be good to know how much domination

- 225** Just thankful for the possibilities of Opensource! Stoked to begin contributing.
- 226** Many of the multiple-choice questions were missing *really* obvious answers.

WAY too many of the open-ended questions were way too vague.

And, THIS question belongs at the end of the survey, not in the middle. The next page has flaws, too.