Open Source Risk Management Certifies Linux Kernel Free of Copyright Infringement
OSRM to Indemnify Linux Kernel Users Against Potential Copyright Litigation

NEW YORK, April 19, 2004 — Open Source Risk Management (OSRM), the only vendor-neutral provider of Open Source risk mitigation and coordinated legal defense services, today certified the Linux kernel as free of source code that could provide a basis for meritorious copyright infringement claims. After a rigorous six-month process of examining the individual software files in the Linux kernel and tracing their origins, OSRM found no copyright infringement in Linux kernel versions 2.4 and 2.6. As a result, OSRM will offer clients legal protection against copyright litigation for these versions of the Linux kernel.

   "We decided to go straight to the heart of the matter and evaluate whether we could defend the Linux kernel. We determined that we can; and we will. Our clients will receive legal protection equal to, if not beyond, what they receive with proprietary software licenses," said Daniel Egger, founder and chairman of OSRM. "Along with many others, we agree that lawsuits like SCO's are legally weak; but we recognize the business issue for Linux users is that even cases without merit cost significant time and money to defend. This is not about bad software; there is nothing inherently more risky about using Open Source. This is about providing a united defense against those trying to profit from a legal system that permits frivolous but expensive claims."

OSRM is providing the first and only vendor-neutral Open Source indemnification, offering legal protection for a fee of around 3% of maximum desired coverage; a price comparable to IP defense insurance rates. For example, $1,000,000 in coverage would cost $30,000 per year. As a vendor-neutral entity, OSRM is able to objectively assess legal risks, and offer protection that still allows clients the freedoms of Open Source like modifying and sharing code.

OSRM's method for providing protection differs in important ways from that of an insurance company. OSRM proactively works with clients to assess and mitigate their risks, and then helps implement a set of best practices for mitigating legal risks around their use of Open Source. Clients also benefit from all the resources of OSRM's Open Source Legal Defense Center, including shared legal research, documentation and other legal services. Unlike insurance companies, which provide funds for hiring lawyers, OSRM itself hires and provides specialized lawyers for its clients. These lawyers are chosen from OSRM's carefully selected panel of leading intellectual property defense litigators; all of whom have extensive experience with the

many highly technical Open Source legal issues.

For more information about this program, visit www.osriskmanagement.com.

About Open Source Risk Management

Supported by top Open Source leaders and intellectual property (IP) legal experts, Open Source Risk Management (OSRM) is the industry's only vendor-neutral provider of Open Source risk mitigation, indemnification, and coordinated legal defense services. OSRM helps organizations assess potential legal risks around their use of Open Source, and design risk mitigation solutions based on a set of best practice protocols. Additionally, OSRM provides indemnification for legal claims against Open Source, currently offering legal backing for the Linux kernel versions 2.4 and 2.6. Through its Open Source Legal Defense Center, OSRM also works in tandem with highly specialized software IP lawyers to offer coordinated legal defense services.

For more information, please visit http://www.osriskmanagement.com.

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