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Editorial: Open Source Software, Cybersecurity and Ebusiness

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Editorial

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As ICT usage continues to mature in Africa, issues pertaining to open source software (OSS), cybersecurity and ebusiness remain at the forefront. This issue of the journal is focused on papers addressing these areas of the information systems domain. The research article by Nigussie Tadesse Mengesha examines the dynamics of learning and resource sharing between actors in the implementation of open source software in Ethiopia. Adopting an interpretive case study approach, the author investigates two OSS-based IS implementation projects to uncover the practice-based learning and resource sharing evident among locally situated and globally dispersed developers and users. The study posits a trans-situated learning model as an appropriate lens to understand the learning dynamics in OSS implementation projects. The results of the study indicate that OSS implementation depicts a complex interaction of resources and actors at institutional (public sector), national (or local) and global level. Further, the OSS license and the Internet serve as vital information infrastructure that facilitate and sustain a distributed practice-based sharing of experience, knowledge and resources between locally co-located and globally dispersed users and developers. The trans-situated learning model gives insight into how loosely coordinated distributed developers/users collaborate, network and learn to develop indigenous technological capacity and facilitate OSS or IS implementation in DCs.

This issue combines the three special issue calls set out last year on open source software, cybersecurity and ebusiness. We are grateful to the guest editors of this issue, namely Richard Boateng, Longe Olumide, and John Effah for the coordination and management of all the articles submitted to the special issue calls.