

Conflicted over openSUSE

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I've found myself conflicted over Novell's recent pact with the devil as much as or perhaps moreso than many others have said. openSUSE has sorta been my pet project to follow since they announced they were [opening up SuSE to the community](#) [2]. But now that they've taken this controversial step and are even including M\$ code, what are open source supporters to do?

They have definitely turned many community members completely off and boycott Novell sites, sections, and movements have emerged. I understand that side of the coin, but have not been an open-source purist since my migration to Linux. I have used closed-source drivers, have dabbled with applications under Wine, and have been using win32 codecs and M\$ fonts since the beginning. So, am I to get upset over M\$ Office compatibility code making its way into openSUSE?

That act in and of itself is probably not the death knell but the overall impression of dealing with 'the enemy' that their original deal has made. For me the worst thing about M\$ has not been their buggy systems and apps but how they are so patent and sue happy. It pisses me off to no end for someone to try and patent something they never "invented" or trying to sue some little guy for using codes/ideas they have no moral right to "own."

So, it's not that openSUSE has made a deal with the devil so much, but what that deal is and what it means to the open source community.

Buuuut, the problem is that I still really love the openSUSE operating system. This is almost as bad as trying to decide to dump that cheating boyfriend. Of course, you *have* to dump him, but damn, you sure don't want to.

It's been said that openSUSE isn't Novell, but I don't subscribe to that. Novell proprietary and open sourced code makes it into openSUSE. M\$ compatibility code will make it into openSUSE. For me, it's hard to separate the two.

Is Novell cheating on us? Yes. Should we dump them? That's the question. To help with my problem I've started a [poll on the subject](#) [3] figuring I'd let my readers/visitors decide. Are they still interested in openSUSE? It's early in poll, but so far there's no run-away victor. **Yes, Continue** is ahead, but not by an over-whelming majority. An earlier [should we boycott openSUSE poll](#) [4] didn't result in a clear answer. Opinions were divided almost right down the middle with **No** slightly ahead.

So in addition to the above, I face an unexpected dilemma. I find myself 'rooting' for the Yes, Continue. So, I've created for myself yet another conflict. What if **Naw, Fuggetaboutit** ends up with a significant lead? Will I abide by the ruling of the poll? *Can* I abide by the ruling of the poll?

Damn you Novell. You're sleeping on the couch tonight Buddy!

[Linux](#)

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