

FUD Alert: OSDL Sacrifices Credibility to Make a Point

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Bad statistical reports are commonly used to manipulate people, most notably, in politics, but it can happen in a wide variety of consumer venues as well. Don't take any report from anyone at face value if you're going to depend on the results. Look underneath and behind the results in every case, and make sure you aren't being played.

Let's start this with some history. Microsoft, in its aggressive move against open source Get Linux or Windows Managed Hosting Services with Industry Leading Fanatical Support. Latest News about open source, created a program called "Get the Facts" which provided a list of well funded resources that positioned Windows favorably against Linux.

OSDL raised objections to this research, successfully for the most part, attacking the funding source -- Microsoft, and did a decent job of getting folks to not read the reports. Microsoft, meanwhile, went to increasingly greater efforts to improve the quality of the reports which, honestly, did little to address the distrust surrounding any vendor-funded research.

Now, you would think that if OSDL was going to do a research report of its own it would produce one that couldn't easily be challenged or, worse, invalidated, because of obvious bias. You would think that the group's leadership would realize that doing exactly what they accused Microsoft of doing would damage their own credibility -- to Microsoft's benefit. If you had made these assumptions, however, you would have been wrong.

The study released by OSDL was prepared by Enterprise Management Associates. Since I contend that it is not worth the paper it was printed on, let's cover some basics.

[Full Story](#) [2] at technewsworld.com.

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