

ACM Member News



Wenwu Zhu's research on multimedia cloud computing is both topical and ground-

breaking; he is exploring how a cloud can perform distributed multimedia processing and storage, and provide quality of service provisioning for multimedia applications and services.

This research also focuses on how to allocate computing and communications resources between the cloud and clients, which includes mobile phones for multimedia applications, and services for good Quality of Experience.

Zhu was recruited to his post in the Computer Science Department of Tsinghua University under China's "1,000 People Plan" to enlist top academics and researchers; he previously was senior researcher/research manager at Microsoft Research Asia. Zhu is the inventor or co-inventor of more than 40 patents, and has published more than 200 refereed papers on multimedia communications and networking, and wireless communications and networking.

He says he is interested in "how to use social information to reduce the intention gap in the multimedia search and how to use social information to predict emotion for the individual person."

Zhu was part of a group of Chinese computer scientists and academicians awarded the ACM SIGMM award for Best Technical Paper in 2012, for the paper "Propagation-based social-aware replication for social video contents."

"I see a convergence of cloud media, social media, and mobile multimedia," Zhu says. "Cloud can help with mobile phones, which have very limited computing and storage capabilities. The cloud can become a 'base' and a 'powerhouse' to provide content and user information for mobile phone applications and services."

—Laura Didio

Open Source Opens a Host of Questions

Open source software has become a dominant force in the technology industry, and its impact on the legal and ethical landscape is profound. As more companies and individuals embrace open source, a host of new questions arise regarding intellectual property, liability, and the future of software development. This article explores the challenges and opportunities presented by the open source movement, from the perspective of legal and ethical considerations. The rise of open source has led to a re-examination of traditional legal frameworks, particularly those related to copyright and patent law. As open source projects often lack formal legal structures, questions about ownership and control become increasingly relevant. Furthermore, the transparency of open source code raises concerns about security and the potential for misuse. On the other hand, open source also offers significant benefits, including increased innovation, collaboration, and the ability to audit code for vulnerabilities. The legal and ethical implications of open source are complex and multifaceted, requiring a nuanced understanding of both the technology and the law. This article aims to provide a comprehensive overview of these issues, highlighting the key challenges and potential solutions. The open source movement is not just a technical phenomenon; it is a social and legal one as well. As the industry continues to evolve, the legal and ethical questions it raises will only become more pressing. This article seeks to provide a clear and concise analysis of these issues, offering insights into the future of open source and the role of law and ethics in shaping that future. The open source movement has the potential to revolutionize the way we think about software, but it also has the potential to create new legal and ethical challenges. It is essential that we understand these challenges and work to address them in a way that promotes the best interests of the community and the industry as a whole. This article provides a detailed look at these challenges and offers practical advice for navigating them. The open source movement is a double-edged sword, and it is our responsibility to ensure that it is used in a way that is fair, ethical, and sustainable. This article is a call to action, urging us to engage with these issues and work together to find solutions that benefit everyone. The open source movement is a testament to the power of collaboration and shared knowledge, and it is our hope that this article will help to ensure that its benefits are realized for all.

Further Reading

Patrick Lin, Keith Abney, and George A. Bekey (eds.)

Robot Ethics: The Ethical and Social Implications of Robotics, MIT Press, 2012, 386pp., <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/31199-robot-ethics-the-ethical-and-social-implications-of-robotics/>

Richards, Neil M. and Smart, William
How Should the Law Think About Robots? (May 10, 2013). Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2263363> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2263363>

Legal Challenges in an Age of Robotics, Stanford University, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P02194412LA>

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