

Abstract (by Barry Maxfield)

Open source initiatives that allow the most remote and economically disadvantaged people to become part of the world's communications networks.

This paper examines the advantages of open source code platforms as low cost options allowing ICT communications systems in the developing high altitude, remote areas of the Andes Mountains of Peru. There are advantages that can be gained in the areas of health, agriculture, trade and democracy for the high altitude Women of the Andes by embracing these technologies for themselves and their families. Open source is ideal for this use as it is available at extremely low cost and the software can be modified at the most local level for adoption by particular situations of a region. Hardware also has flexibilities that allow it to be adapted to areas where there is limited or no telephone, internet or even electrical infrastructure.