Open & Proprietary Solutions

Which to choose? Why do we keep meeting this question?

Understandably, vendors are always keen to gain a competitive edge and users demand rapid development of custom solutions to quickly meet their needs. Frequently this involves developing new technologies, using a proprietary solution, to deliver the innovative thinking. This helps to keep our industry moving forwards and satisfying customer needs.

However, the potential downside is that being "out in front" with a proprietary solution means that the solution often doesn't enable newer user requirements to be included or to allow multi-vendor systems to be designed.

NMOS An Open Solution	Proprietary and Closed Solutions
- It works, it is simple, available and free of charge. - Suppliers are building NMOS into their products today. - It has been developed by a broad group of respected technology leaders. - It has been developed by both vendors and end users. - It provides fast development cycles with backward compatibility in a truly open source community. - It enables audio and video vendors to direct their resources to product innovation, not on the repetitive task of writing bespoke interfaces. - It has been conceived to support system builds and refurbishments over the long term. - It is supported by an AMWA community of enthusiasts that help each other. - Through AMWA membership rules, the IPR is well handled. - It is software-driven with a path forward to virtualisation, cloud and true IT thinking.	- Controlled by a single vendor. - Enables a tightly integrated, highly efficient workflow but also brittle and difficult to adapt. - Not well suited for large scale, multi-vendor applications. - Adopted into limited market applications. - Not standards based. - Feature sets usually incomplete for industry-wide adoption. - Device drivers form a business model for a commercial company. - Functionality is limited to the developments of that company.

One final, important factor of proprietary solutions is the possibility that, for sound commercial reasons, a vendor might withdraw from one specific market, leaving those customers with installed products and infrastructure but without long-term support.