# SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

**Coimbatore-35.**
**An Autonomous Institution**

**COURSE NAME : 19CSE314  OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE**

**III YEAR/ VI SEMESTER**

**Unit I**

**Introduction**

# INTRODUCTION

➢ Open source software refers to programs whose source code is freely available for anyone to view, use, modify, and distribute.

➢ The key characteristic of open source software is that it allows collaboration and community involvement, where developers from all around the world can contribute to improving the software.

➢ Open source software promotes transparency, innovation, and often can be more secure because it's continuously reviewed by many contributors. Some open source projects are also backed by a strong community that provides support, development, and documentation.

# INTRODUCTION

Characteristics of OSS :

➢ **Source Code Accessibility**

    The source code is made publicly available to anyone. This allows users to see how the software works, modify it, and share their changes.

➢ **Freedom to Modify**

    Users can modify the software to suit their needs. This includes fixing bugs, adding features, or improving the software's performance.

➢ **Freedom to Distribute**

    Users are free to distribute the software and any modifications they've made. This allows others to benefit from the improvements or customizations.

# INTRODUCTION

**Characteristics of OSS :**

➢ **Community-driven Development**
Open source software is often developed collaboratively by a community of developers. Users can contribute to the codebase, report bugs, and suggest features, fostering an ecosystem of continuous improvement.

➢ **Licensing**
OSS is released under a license that defines the terms of use, distribution, and modification. Common open source licenses include the **MIT License**, **GNU General Public License (GPL)**, and **Apache License**.

➢ **No Vendor Lock-in**
OSS typically avoids vendor lock-in, meaning users aren't tied to a specific company or service provider. This gives users more control over their software environment.