What’s up with all these researchers using our open source software?

In this lightning talk we’ll blitz through what makes the technology we developed at reelyActive attractive to researchers, and what part, if any, open source plays in this. Also, why did we as a for-profit startup choose to publish and not patent our own innovations? Finally, what have researchers achieved in hospitals, service stations, construction sites, experimental stores, preschools, and even buses—and what could these possibly all have in common?

Jeffrey Dungen, Co-founder & CEO of reelyActive
What’s our open source software?

Ambient data from any radio-identifiable devices captured by any infrastructure in any physical space.

Middleware

Embedded software

Who/what is where/how?

What am I nearest to?

CRSC/CCLR 2022

Jeffrey Dungen
Published in Nature?

Pretty cool given that we never set out to develop research software!
What’s the attraction for researchers?

And what part—if any—does open source play?

Are you asking me?

Yes!
“Because it is open source, we can adapt it to our research needs.”

— Prof. Fabiano Armellini
“Our research project combines blockchain and IoT for traceability, and open source technologies like Pareto Anywhere provide the freedom and flexibility to experiment with such novel integrations.”

— Prof. Luis Antonio de Santa Eulalia
OSU researchers ‘kid-proofed’ their badges by adapting DirAct’s open source code.
“The open-source platform allowed us to develop a solution [that extended well beyond our original mandate.]”

— Prof. Mazdak Nik-Bakht
« Avec mes étudiants je fais de la recherche. Nous sommes intéressés par les applications, mais aussi par ce qui se trouve derrière l’application. Comment elle fonctionne? Quelle est la logique de programmation? Comment miser sur le code existant pour développer autre chose, etc. …et pour ça, il faut avoir accès au code 😊 »

— Prof. Ygal Ben-David
What can we conclude?

Research is about **curiosity**, and **open source eliminates** all artificial barriers to **curiosity**.

Researchers were as delighted to have **access to the developers of the code**, as access to the code itself.

[www.reelyactive.com](http://www.reelyactive.com)  
[github.com/reelyactive](https://github.com/reelyactive)