

Forward for a Comprehensive Policy on User Innovation

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Introduction

1. The concept of user innovation has become increasingly important in the context of the knowledge economy. It refers to the process by which users of a product or service develop their own innovations, often in response to unmet needs or specific requirements. This process is distinct from traditional product development by firms, as it is driven by the users themselves and often occurs in a decentralized manner.

2. The importance of user innovation is highlighted by the fact that it can lead to the development of novel and often superior products. For example, the development of open-source software, such as Linux, and the creation of user-generated content, such as Wikipedia, are both examples of user innovation. These innovations have had a significant impact on the economy and society, and their importance is likely to continue to grow in the future.

3. However, the development of user innovation is not always straightforward. It often requires a supportive environment, including access to resources, information, and a culture of innovation. In addition, user innovation can be hindered by barriers such as lack of knowledge, limited resources, and a lack of incentives. Therefore, it is important to develop policies that support user innovation and create an environment in which it can thrive.

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