

Towards Open Source Software Communities



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What is OSS and OSS Examples

- Netscape, Mozilla
- Linux, Linux-Distribution Debian
- GNU-C, C++, ... Compilers, Debuggers
- TeX, LaTeX, OpenOffice
- MySQL
- GIMP Image processing
- KDE desktop, PGP
- Apache Web server

Wikipedia

Discrimination of the Terminology of OSS

- Open Source Initiative (OSI) (organisation founded 1998)
- Free Software Foundation (FSF)
- Public domain
- GNU-General Public License
- DEBIAN Free Software Guidelines
- Mozilla Public License
- F(L)OSS (Free/Libre Open Source Software)
- or just OS Open Source (protected)
- Certification, gray areas
- However, a number of conditions:
 - e.g.: no discriminations, not platform specific, neutral

Why Open Software?

- Development process
 - More efficient
 - More reliable
 - Less expensive
 - Less bugs
 - Multi-lingual/-cultural
- Maintenance, Update
- Compare the workforce of hundreds of thousands of users/developers against the possible number of staff members on a payrole

(Side) Effects

- Independence of software distributors (monopolies)
- High market penetration
- Continuing development and maintenance process improved
- Long term availability
- Quasi standards
- Overcome limitations caused limited access to IT
- Contributes to the „Financing ICT4D” approach
- Big IT companies develop for OSS products (Sun, IBM, RedHat, google, etc.)

Conclusions and Discussions

- Paradigm Shift
- Digital world / digital natives
- => Fundamental right, digital literacy
- New globalization phenomena being connected worldwide, 24h 365d per year
- Access to information and knowledge key issue of economic growth
- => Social movement, new political party “Pirates”
- Business case(s)?
 - Just services and consulting?



Thank you for your Attention !

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