

Comparing Assessment Methodologies for FLOSS

OpenBRR and QSOS

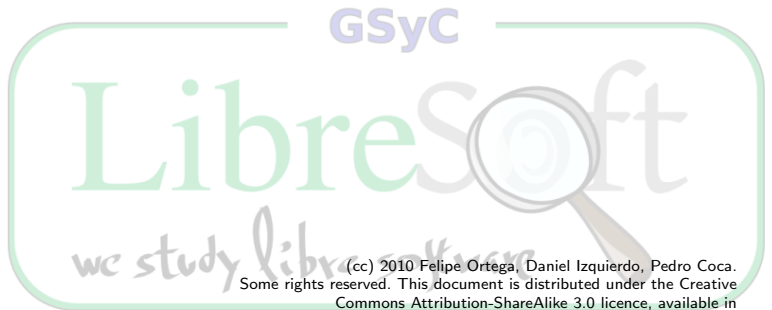
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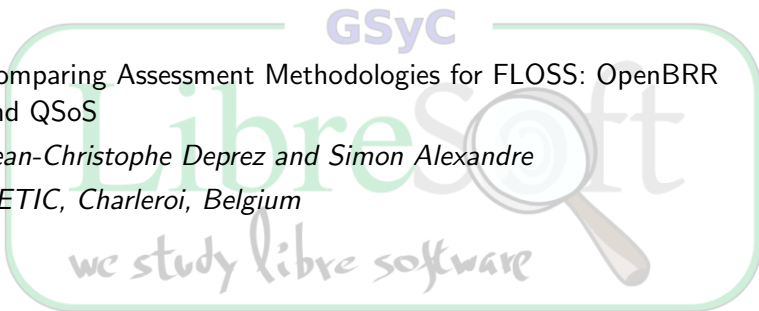
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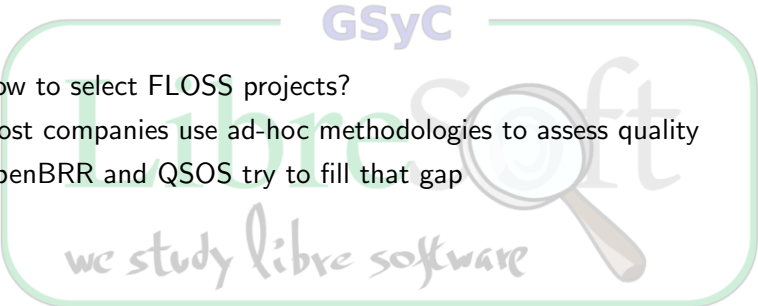


Based on

- Comparing Assessment Methodologies for FLOSS: OpenBRR and QSoS
- *Jean-Christophe Deprez and Simon Alexandre*
- *CETIC, Charleroi, Belgium*



Introduction

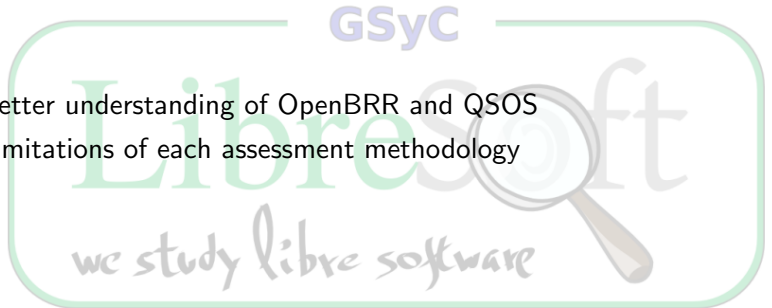
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- How to select FLOSS projects?
 - Most companies use ad-hoc methodologies to assess quality
 - OpenBRR and QSOS try to fill that gap

Introduction

- Light weight methodologies
- QSOS (Atos Origin)
- OpenBRR (Carnegie Mellon West, CodeZoo, SpikeSource and Intel)
- Currently at a RFC stage.

Motivation

- Better understanding of OpenBRR and QSOS
- Limitations of each assessment methodology



Motivation

- Comparison of:
 - Overall Approach
 - Scoring Procedures
 - Evaluation Criteria



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QSOS and OpenBRR

- Start from a list of projects given by the FLOSS integrator.
- QSOS 1.6 provides a list of criteria and "Quality Attributes".
- Scoring is provided by the QSOS given criteria.
- In QSOS The evaluator can adjust the importance of each criteria.

QSOS and OpenBRR

- OpenBRR performs a quick assessment: "Pre-screening".
- OpenBRR tailors the evaluation template.
- Data Collection, Processing and Translation.

QSOS Main Criteria

- Intrinsic durability (Maturity, Adoption, etc)
- Industrialised solution (Services, Documentation, etc)
- Integration (Packaging, etc)
- Technical adaptability (Modularity, code modification, etc)
- Strategy (License, Copyright, Independence, etc)

BRR Main Criteria

- Functionality
- Usability
- Quality
- Security
- Performance
- Scalability
- Architecture
- Support
- Documentation
- Adoption
- Community
- Professionalism



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QSOS vs OpenBRR

- Is the range of scores adequate?
- Is the scoring procedure of each evaluation criteria unambiguos?
- Is the raw data required likely to be available in the field?

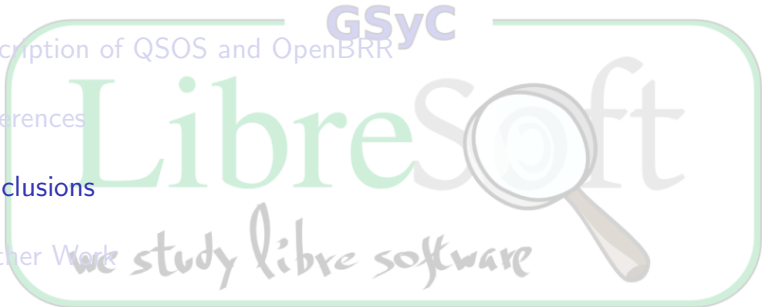
QSOS vs OpenBRR

- Similarities?
- Differences?



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OpenBRR

- Each user may have a different sight of the product
- Main criteria could be less important depending on the assigned role
- "Usability" may not mean the same for a developer than for a user
- "Support" may not mean the same for a developer than for a user
- OpenBRR provides that flexibility

QSOS

- QSOS provides an absolute score
- In this way, every analysis should give the same score
- There are no roles, and no different points of view
- Reduced scoring range [0-2] means less result variance between evaluators

Ambiguity

- Wording unclear or several interpretations/context are possible
- QSOS: 22 scoring rules were found ambiguous
- OpenBRR: 7 scoring rules were found ambiguous
- Also information could be partially or not available!

Evaluation Criteria

- 16 QSOS criteria are not covered by OpenBRR
- 7 OpenBRR criteria are not covered by QSOS
- QSOS leaf criteria use imprecise words
- OpenBRR top nodes are very broad and inaccurate

Vitality

- QSOS: Active this year. Reports in September 2010
- OpenBRR: No activity. Project on stand-by



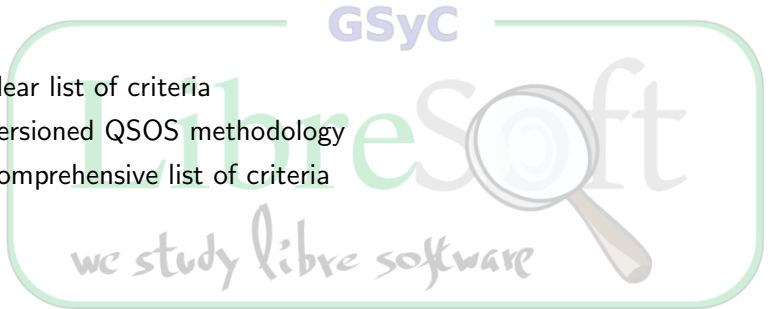
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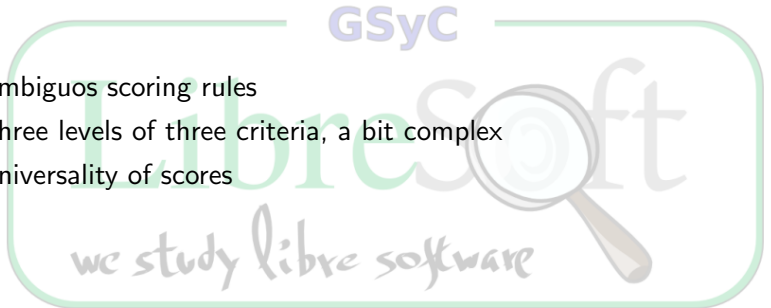
QSOS Advantages

- Clear list of criteria
- Versioned QSOS methodology
- Comprehensive list of criteria



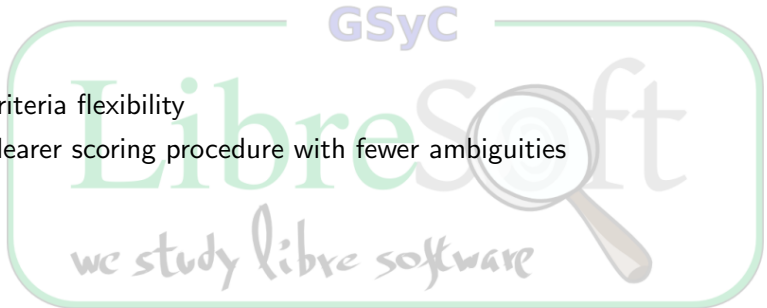
QSOS Disadvantages

- Ambiguous scoring rules
- Three levels of three criteria, a bit complex
- Universality of scores



OpenBRR Advantages

- Criteria flexibility
- Clearer scoring procedure with fewer ambiguities



OpenBRR Disadvantages

- Terminology is not as clear as QSOS's
- Five scales to give a score, but half of the criteria do not use them
- Less active

Future work

- These findings show a clear room for improvement
- QUALOSS project, a FP6 research project aims for that.
- European Union research initiative
- Will be covered as well in the next session of the masters

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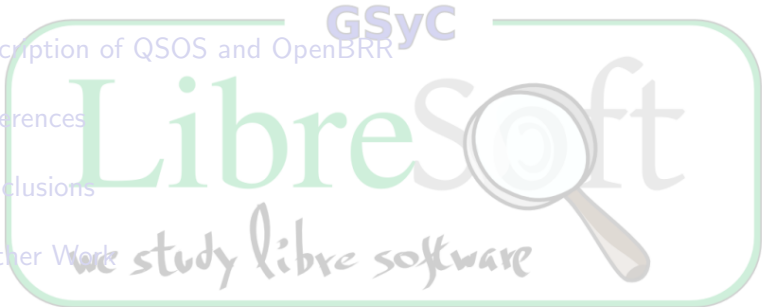
Assignment

- Compare SCM Tools:
 - Bazaar
 - Git
 - Mercurial



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References

- Open BRR. <http://www.openbrr.org/>.
- QSOS Website. <http://www.qsos.org>.
- O3S Tool <http://www.qsos.org/o3s/>.
- QSOS Community Web Site
<https://savannah.nongnu.org/projects/qsos/>.