

OPEN WORLD FORUM



THINKCODE
EXPERIMENT

Open Forges and Open App Stores: Joining the dots

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Forges ...



... and App Stores



What are the differences

Forges are focussed around the code and the tools for the developer community, with perhaps a "prosumer" user experience.

Its up to projects if they want to build their own more user-centric "shopfront"

App stores are more focussed on the consumer experience with a generic shopfront

App Stores

Platform-centric: iOS, Android, Mac App Store, Windows 8...

Operator-centric: Vodafone, Orange...

Plugin directories: Wordpress, Chrome, Opera...

Open Web Apps: Mozilla, OpenAppMkt

Niche stores: ITEC, SURFNet, Widgr, internal enterprise stores

Traditional software downloads

CNet

Tucows

Soft32

Open Source Mac

Softpedia

...

Joining Up

What are the issues?

Contracts and licenses

Metadata

Publishing and synchronisation

Intermediaries

Joining Up: Legal issues

Some FOSS licenses are not necessarily compatible with app store terms of service (e.g. GNU Go, VLC...)

App Store model isn't necessarily a good fit with distributed open communities

Need to interpret different store contracts, agreements and T&Cs

<http://oss.ly/appstores>

Joining Up: Metadata issues

Forge metadata is focussed around information related to the management of the project, the code and community (developer-centric)

App store metadata is focussed around discovery, use and suitability (user-centric)

Standards?

Joining Up: Publishing

Integrating stores and forges

Multiple target stores

Signing and Packaging

Beyond one-shot publishing - synchronising releases

Joining Up: Intermediaries



Is it worth it?

App stores seem to have a natural maximum size before becoming less useful for discovery

App stores may be a side-channel rather than the main channel for distribution - doesn't replace having a user-centric website as well as developer-centric forge page

For many open source projects that are cross-platform, many potential app stores to target

How important is it to forges?

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