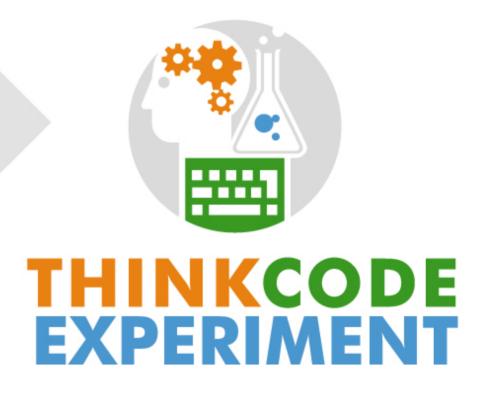
OPEN WORLD FORUM





Open Forges and Open App Stores: Joining the dots

Scott Wilson, OSS Watch









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 crossplatform, many potential app stores to target How important is it to forges?





OPEN WORLD FORUM

SS Watch
open source software advisory service

Scott Wilson, OSS Watch

@scottbw

scott.bradley.wilson@gmail.com

@osswatch