# Documenting Open Source Migration Processes for Re-use

Aurona Gerber Meraka Institute of the CSIR Brummeria Pretoria, South Africa agerber@csir.co.za Onkgopotse Molefe Meraka Institute of the CSIR Brummeria Pretoria, South Africa omolefe@csir.co.za Alta van der Merwe Meraka Institute of the CSIR Brummeria Pretoria, South Africa avdmerwe3@csir.co.za

#### **ABSTRACT**

There are several sources that indicate a remarkable increase in the adoption of open source software (OSS) into the technology infrastructure of organizations. In fact, the number of medium to large organizations without some OSS installations, is surprisingly low. This move to open source (OS), as well as the obvious advantages thereof, have motivated the CSIR of South Africa to investigate the adoption of OSS across the institution for all aspects of its operations. In launching this endeavor, it became apparent that there are very limited resources available, locally or internationally, that documented process related information about organizational OS migrations. This lack of information provides the motivation for this research that investigates the use of process reference models to capture the process related information for an organizationwide migration from proprietary software to OSS. In order to develop the necessary process reference models, the specific process models for the CSIR OS migration were captured, and, using a repeatable method based on reference model criteria, the generic process reference models for an organizational OS migration were extracted and documented. It is our firm belief that these process reference models would provide a baseline for the processes needed when any organization considers open source adoption or organization-wide OS migration.

#### **Categories and Subject Descriptors**

H.4 [Information Systems Applications]: Miscellaneous; D.2.8 [Software Engineering]: Process Reference Models—Re-use of business processes, business process models, organizational open source migration

#### **General Terms**

Documentation, Standardization

Permission to make digital or hard copies of all or part of this work for personal or classroom use is granted without fee provided that copies are not made or distributed for profit or commercial advantage and that copies bear this notice and the full citation on the first page. To copy otherwise, to republish, to post on servers or to redistribute to lists, requires prior specific permission and/or a fee.

SAICSIT '10, October 11-13, Bela Bela, South Africa Copyright 2010 ACM 978-1-60558-950-3/10/10 ...\$10.00.

#### **Keywords**

Process reference models, re-use of business process models, organizational open source migration.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Several sources indicate a remarkable increase in the adoption of open source software (OSS) into the technology infrastructure of organizations [19]. In fact, the number of medium to large organizations without some OSS installations, is surprisingly low [26, 8]. Furthermore, acquisitions of several open source (OS) firms that recently made headlines indicate the growing significance of OSS in organizations today (Xen Source for \$500 million; Zimbra for \$350 million; Sleepycat for an undisclosed amount and JBoss for \$350 million) [2, 22].

OSS is software that could be acquired at little or no financial cost, and it is licensed in a manner that allows users to study it, edit or improve it and redistribute it without having to pay any royalties to those that developed the software in the first place [1]. OSS is produced by a self-organized community that engages informally, usually online, in a way that represents the antitheses of a proprietary software strategy [14, 15]. OSS engages as many as possible collaborators and thus the approach is to maximize adoption throughout the value chain rather than using formal intellectual property rights (IPR) protection to set boundaries between vendors, their competitors and customers [22, 41].

Reasons cited for OSS adoption include the fact that is is free to use, copy and share, it is often more secure than any other proprietary operating systems, it can be customized to suit a particular business function or users needs, and it also support older hardware platforms eliminating the need for costly state-of-the-art equipment [8, 15, 17]. Within this paper, OS adoption refers just to the adoption of OSS as the software of choice, whilst OS migration refers to the replacement of existing proprietary software with similar OSS solutions.

In addition to the adoption of OSS in industry, several governments also investigated using OSS or even adopted policy to this effect [19, 38, 21]. After realizing some the benefits that OSS brings, South Africa took the initiative of introducing OSS migration projects within its governmental departments. One of the main incentives was the cutting of costs in the computing environment. The South African cabinet adopted the National Open Source Policy

and Strategy in 2007. This decision was supported by numerous governmental organizations, who amongst others included CSIR, SITA, DST, WRC and CSPI who embarked on planning the use of OSS on their desktops and servers [9, 7].

The CSIR in its role as science partner of the South African government, launched a project to migrate the required information technology of all its operations, including desktops, to OSS platforms. The CSIR migration project to OSS was launched in June 2006 by the CSIR President, Dr Sibusiso Sibisi. The project was called *Vula*, which is a verb from the Nguni language meaning "to open" [39]. The decision was supported by the CSIR executive committee, CSIR employees and external stakeholders that CSIR collaborates with, for instance SITA and DST [13, 40].

After Project Vula commenced, it became apparent that there are very limited documentation available, locally or internationally, about the processes required for organizational OS migrations. There is a substantial number of publications about OSS characteristics and advantages, as well as literature about OSS development, but basically nothing could be found that systematically and formally discussed adoption processes. The prominence of OS at present causes organizations to consider its adoption on a organizational level, but the lack of documentation hinders this as organizations cannot estimate the effort and cost associated with OSS migration, and neither can they plan the migration project. Migration processes have to be determined from scratch when planning the OSS migration project.

This lack of information provides the motivation for this research that investigates the use of process reference models to capture the process related information for the CSIR's organization-wide migration from proprietary software to OSS. In order to develop the necessary process reference models, the specific process models for the CSIR OS migration were captured, and, using a repeatable method based on reference model criteria, the generic process reference models for an organizational OS migration were extracted and documented.

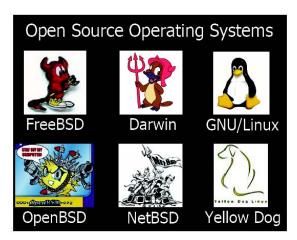
The paper is organized as follow: Section 2 provides necessary background about OSS, process modeling and process reference models. Section 3.1 discusses the capture of Project Vula's processes and Section 3.2 discusses the extraction of the process reference models from the documented Vula processes. Some reflections on the used approach are presented in Section 4, and the paper is thus concluded.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

# 2.1 OSS and OS migration

As mentioned before, open source software (OSS) is defined as software that could be acquired at little or no financial cost, and it is licensed in a manner that allows users to study it, edit or improve it and redistribute it without having to pay any royalties to those that developed the software in first place [1]. In contrast to tradi-

Figure 1: Examples of open source operating systems



tional proprietary software development practices, OSS is produced by a self-organized community that engages informally and that embraces a specific culture to promote freedom and the free use without commercial exploitation of software artefacts [14, 15, 41, 22]. OSS adoption has shown a remarkable increase recently and several governments also investigated OSS adoption [19, 38, 21].

OSS are available both as operating systems (the operating environment of a computer) or supporting applications, which consist of programs such as word processors and web browsers used within the operating system [8]. Several OSS operating systems are available freely as is indicated in Figure 1. The most popular OS operating system used is Linux, which was developed by Linus Torvalds in 1991 who was a student at Helsinki University at the time [24]. Linux, a freely available operating system, is seen by its advocates as a replacement for the proprietary Microsoft Windows [38], proprietary operating system software where a user has to pay license fees for using it [8, 1]. Both Linux and Windows are available for desktops and server environments [24].

Dudley et al. [8, 23] used web searches to report an increase in the number of government departments, private (business) sector, academia (educational) and nongovernmental organizations in South Africa that are migrating from proprietary software to OSS, mainly due to the high costs of license fees associated with proprietary software in South Africa. During OS migration, we are concerned with the replacement of proprietary software with OSS alternatives. Table 1 depicts common proprietary software programs together with their OSS alternatives [24]. The application software such as Mozilla Firefox and OpenOffice are available to run under both Windows and Linux and a user therefore does not have to migrate his operating system to make use of some OSS application software.

Worldwide, several governments also investigated using OSS in an attempt to curb costs [19, 38, 21]. The local as well as international government adoption also prompted the South African government as well as the CSIR, to investigate OSS migration [9, 7]. The CSIR, specifically, launched Project Vula with the aim to migrate its infor-

Table 1: Examples of proprietary software vs. OSS alternatives

Purpose	Proprietary Software	Open Source Software
Operating system	Microsoft Windows	Linux
Web browser	Internet Explorer	Mozilla Firefox
Office suite	Microsoft Office	OpenOffice.org
Image editor	Adobe Photoshop	GIMP

mation technology infrastructure, including desktops, to OSS in June 2006 [13, 40]. When Project Vula entered its planning phase, it became apparent that there were very limited documentation available, locally or internationally, about the processes required for organizational OS migrations. OSS adoption and migration is hindered by this lack of documentation because organizations do not have information available to estimate the effort and cost associated with the effort and cannot plan the migration project. These organizations have to plan the OSS migration project from scratch. This research therefore endeavors to document the migration processes of Project Vula in process models, as well as determine generic process reference models for reuse by other organizations when considering OSS migration. The next section discusses process modeling. Section 2.3 discusses process reference models and Sections 3.1 and 3.2 discussed Vula process models and the extraction of OS migration process reference models.

#### 2.2 Process Modeling

Process modeling is viewed differently by various authors. Perumpalath [25] and Van der Merwe [37] define process modeling as the procedure of constructing the process model using a standard notation. Furthermore, Business Ranks.com [5] refers to process models as a graphical representation of the business processes, activities, actions, and operations that capture, manipulate, store, and distribute data between a system and its environment and among components within a system, whilst Uvium [32] views process modeling as the use of information and graphics to represent processes in a consistent way. For the context of this study the definition of process modeling provided by Perumpalath and Van der Merwe will be adopted.

The primary purpose of process modeling is the documentation of process information [20]. Comprehensive documentation of processes as well as their activities could contribute to the success of many projects, especially if it is stored in a repository where it could be retrieved. Process models are used for process re-engineering, process re-organization, process monitoring and controlling, continuous improvement, quality management (such as ISO 9000), benchmarking, practice, and knowledge management [3, 37]. According to Childe et al. [6], process models are used to capture, track and analyze an organization's practices from the highest level down to the lower levels.

Both Childe et al. [6] and Van der Merwe et al. [36] mention that it is often difficult to identify exactly what constitutes a process, and that before striving to build process models, one needs to first identify exactly what a process, within a specific context, is. Building process model structures could be a complex and costly exercise

[36].

The problems identified when constructing process models resulted in the notion of reutilizing a set of generic process models or process reference models. These generic process models form the baseline and could be adapted to be the process models that fit the specific environment of the organization [6]. Generic process models allow modelers to learn from the process designs of similar projects that were executed, which means that they do not have to build their own process models from scratch. This results in a saving of resources and effort [30].

#### 2.3 Process reference models and their use

According to Rosa et al. [27], process reference models refer to a set of reusable process model structures, which could be used to capture the common activities, roles and resources of specific processes in a certain environment by adapting them to reflect the information necessary. Without process reference models the concept of process design by reuse could not be practiced effectively. Design by reuse promotes replication of existing processes that could enable companies to practice their business functions without having to design any of the available processes from scratch [34].

By definition a process reference model (also known as a set of generic process models, a universal model or a set of process model patterns) comprises of informative material in a library or knowledge repository regarding a set of generic processes discovered during a certain activity within a specific environment. These processes are generally represented as process model diagrams that graphically give an overview of the flow between the processes and their sub-processes [31, 37]. As a set of generic process models, process reference models are used to promote the reuse of existing process knowledge [35]. The main objective of a process reference model is to assist enterprises that has to perform similar processes with the reutilization of proven process knowledge [27]. Because of the emphasis on reuse, a process reference model reduces the risks and costs associated with repetitive errors of the same nature that tend to happen during the establishment of processes in a particular business or project [18]. Documenting process practices of the same nature in a given domain for reuse should provide consistent and satisfactory results to similar enterprises when these processes are adapted for their specific use [27, 18].

Van der Aalst et al. [33] compares process reference models with plug-and-play devices that can be used to plug-in to the process models of an enterprise, but they often require further improvement to reach perfection. Also addressing this issue is Tyrrell [30], who indicated that a working process needs to be monitored, improved and refined from time to time to ensure that it meets the requirements and

possible purposes that it was initially intended for.

#### 2.3.1 Documenting process reference models

At present process reference models are represented in various modeling languages and standard notations [10]. Prerequisites for a process reference model notation is that it is a widely accepted standard notation that can capture all the necessary information and that is preferably easily understood by modelers [27]. Notations like the Integration **DE**finition for Function modelling (IDEF0) is widely used for the creation of process models [11]. IDEF0 is one of the serial set of standard reference methods for process modeling that the IDEF family of methods comprises of, and it was created by Wisnosky and Shunk. It is a standard notation that can be found and used both in Microsoft Windows and Linux for process modeling [28]. IDEF0 was selected for this research as the preferred notation for modeling the processes captured for the CSIR's migration to OSS.

Other commonly accepted process modeling notations used to present business processes or any other form of process information include Business Process Modelling Notation (BPMN), Enhanced Line of Visibility Enterprise Modelling (LOVEM-E) and Architecture of Integrated Information Systems (ARIS) [4]. Other modeling languages also sometimes used for specifying notations include Unified Modeling Language (UML) and the Ericsson-Penker business extensions [16].

Process reference models have been used by organizations to provide them with generic solutions to the process model construction. These solutions enabled different application domains (or organizations) to improve their business performance [34]. From the experiences of other organizations, it is evident that process reference models are one of the most powerful means to capture the acquired process knowledge of an organization [6]. This is why process reference models are the method used to disseminate the process knowledge the CSIR acquired during its OS migration in Project Vula.

# 3. OSS PROCESS REFERENCE MODEL EXTRACTION

In order to extract a set of process reference models for organizational OS Migrations it is necessary to execute the following tasks:

- Identify the processes and compile all the process models of Project Vula.
- 2. Identify criteria for process reference models.
- 3. Extract a set of process reference models from the process models of Project Vula based on the established criteria.
- Validate the extracted process reference models for organizational OS migration.

A systematic approach as suggested by van der Merwe and Kotzé [35] was used to execute the above mentioned

tasks. This approach consists of five phases as is depicted in Figure 2 [35], namely: 1) Define scope, 2) Procedure selection, 3) Data gathering, 4) Comparison; and 5) Verification. The phases were executed as indicated below:

• Phase 1: Define Scope

The objective of this study is to extract a set of process reference models for a typical OSS migration project of an organization. This could be used for the planning of future organization OS migration projects.

#### • Phase 2: Procedure Selection

OSS migration projects were not performed as popularly as they are now, thus none of the procedures (or documented set of process models) exist for this type of migrations. Therefore a procedure utilized for the CSIR migration to OSS was to identify and capture process models using a standard process model notation (IDEF0).

• Phase 3: Data-gathering

A document analysis, interviews and questionnaire were used as data collection tools for data gathering. The document analysis was done by reviewing all the project documentation, communication (or any other material) that had to do with the migration such as the data collection questionnaires and responses, which were captured and analysed by the Vula project team. Interviews were conducted with project managers, project team members and users who were involved in the migration. Interviews were held pre-migration as well as post-migration. Interviews with numerous migrated users provided information about their OSS experiences. All the questions and responses of interviews were recorded and transcribed, and are available as project documentation.

- Phase 4: Comparison Criteria for process reference models were compiled from literature. The set of Vula process models were compared against the criteria for process reference models and the set of generic process reference models were extracted.
- Phase 5: Verification
  This phase verified the extracted process reference
  models. For this study the models were verified using domain experts and project leaders.

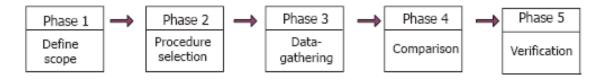
It should be noted that the scope of this study remained Project Vula, and the set of process reference models were only verified using domain experts. The models were not verified by implementing a new organizational OS migration, which would have been ideal, but it was beyond the scope of this project.

With regards to epistemological stance, this research was executed as a qualitative empirical study. The process documentation were primarily captured through observation and there was no interference into the project's execution. The migration was observed in the working environment of the project team and project execution office.

### 3.1 Vula Process Modelling

The CSIR's Project Vula was motivated by several reasons (i) to be one of the largest organizations to have adopted OSS in SA, (ii) to share the knowledge of the migration process acquired (or data collected) during the project with the public instead of keeping it confidential,

Figure 2: A systematic approach for process reference model extraction (Van der Merwe and Kotzé [35])



(iii) to enable other organizations to execute more effective OSS migration projects, (iv) to remove uncertainty with regards to aspects about the adoption and usage of OSS, (v) to empower users and scientists, (vi) to foster local ICT skills development and (vii) to further socioeconomic development [21]. In addition, CSIR with more than 4000 employees, should save substantially on annual proprietary software licensing fees [12]. It was envisioned that Project Vula will not only benefit the CSIR, but it should also act as an opportunity to educate (or develop) emerging young software developers in OSS acquisition and development. OSS allows opportunities for software developers to experiment and contribute innovative new functionalities. In addition, OSS create opportunities for collaboration with other international open source communities and does not require a large investment [1].

In order to support the knowledge sharing of Project Vula, it is a prerequisite that the project processes enabling the OSS migration are documented. This is the first step necessary for the generation of generic process reference models. To construct a process model, it is necessary to first identify the top-level processes. After the top-level processes were identified, the necessary information about these processes are captured i.e. specifying various activities performed as part of the process, the order in which the activities have to be executed, inputs and outputs as well as responsible roles and goals [30, 29].

As stated, the data-collection methods were used for gaining knowledge about the activities of the migration to OSS, and this was used to identify the processes. The detailed steps in Table 2 were followed (or utilized) to identify and capture process models for the OSS migration project at CSIR.

As specified in Table 2, the high-level diagram is called a parent diagram. This diagram consists of main processes that are broken down into sub-processes in lower-level diagrams. This decomposition continues until atomic processes that cannot be further decomposed, are identified. In this case the parent diagram will be called a high-level process model diagram, while the decomposed diagrams will be referred to as lower-level process model diagrams. Subprocesses and atomic processes represent a set of refined diagrams (lower-level process models), which were extracted from the high-level process models.

The second step refines the high-level process model diagram further into lower-level process models or sub-processes, sub-subprocesses or atomic processes. These processes include defining, identifying, capturing and decomposing critical migration tracks which were followed as part of the migration plan during the project. It was during this process that the Vula project website and documentation were utilized as resources to collect data and to further

confirm all migration processes that took place.

#### 3.1.1 High-level Process Diagram

The first step in Table 2 identified the high-level processes, which are the key or main migration processes of Project Vula. From 2006-2008, the lifespan of the project, the aim was to capture the essence of migration processes that other organizations can learn from. During the timespan of the project, formal and informal interviews (premigration and post-migration) were conducted with involved Vula project team members and CSIR employees. The high-level process model diagram is presented in Figure 3, indicating the graphical representation of process names, inputs and outputs of summarized migration processes. Table 3 name each process and list inputs, outputs and goals.

The high-level process model diagram in Figure 3 indicates how an output of one process becomes an input of another process. For example, for the Kick-start the project (A1) process. the CEO Declaration is identified as an input resource and Project initiated is the output resource. Project initiated then becomes the input resource for the next process Form the project team (A2). It is possible to have more than one output in a process, and it is also possible that refined processes do not have an input resource. As depicted in Table 3 each process has its own goal, the goal of the Kick-start the project (A1) process is to provide assurance to the CSIR employees and its external stakeholders that the project had begun.

Process Form the project team (A2) has as purpose to ensure that a reliable and committed team is in place to plan the migration once the project has been initiated. The Announce the project publicly (A3) process's goal is to ensure that the public is informed about the project and kept up-to-date all the time with regards to its progress. The Develop migration plan, divide the project into tracks (A4) process was refined further into parallel processes or the five migration tracks namely Execute communication track (A41), Execute technology track (A42), Execute training track (A43), Execute roll-out track (A44) and Execute maintenance track (A45). All these processes' outputs are inputs into Migrate scheduled users to OSS (A5). After users have been migrated, support and maintenance continued to be offered to users on a daily basis (Support and maintenance (A6)) and the migration knowledge was documented (Document lessons learnt (A7)).

The high-level process model diagram above as depicted in Figure 3, represent the key processes of the OSS migration project. The high-level process where decomposed further into sub-processes for which process models were

Table 2: The procedure used for capturing OSS migration process models

Step	Step description	Tools/documentation used	Deliverable
1	Derive the high-level	Process listing with	High-level process
	process model	goals and resources	model
2	Refine the high-level	Subprocess and atomic	Subprocesses and atomic
	process model to subprocesses	process (sometimes referred	processes
		to as sub-subprocesses) listing	

Table 3: High-level processes input, output resources and goals

Table 3: High-level processes input, output resources and goals					
Process	Input/output resources	Goal description			
Kick-start the project (A1)	Input: CEO Declaration	To prove the organization's seriousness and			
	Output: Project initiated	commitment towards migrating to open source			
Form the project team (A2)	Input: Project initiated	To make critical decisions during the			
	Output: Team formed	implementation of an open source migration			
Announce the project publicly	Input: Team formed	To ensure that the public knows			
(A3)	Output: Media coverage	about this type of a project			
Develop migration plan, divide	Input: Media coverage	To help draw a roadmap for the current			
the project into tracks (A4)	Output: Migration strategy	environment to transitional environment thereby			
		sub-dividing the project into tracks to allow			
		much of the work to be done thoroughly by			
		those given responsibility for the task			
Execute Communication Track	Input: Migration strategy	To create user awareness and excitement			
(A41)	Output: Migration track	for changing to OSS			
Execute Technology Track	Input: Migration strategy	To check for alternative OSSs and the			
(A42)	Output: Migration track	compatibility of such softwares against			
		the current ones used by users			
Execute Training Track (A43)	Input: Migration strategy	To provide users with the relevant training			
	Output: Migration track	and build their skills to make them feel			
		confident about the migration			
Execute Roll-out Track (A44)	Input: Migration strategy	To prepare users and put them into action			
	Output: Migration track	by installing some of OSS-related			
		applications in their desktops			
Execute Maintenance Track	Input: Media coverage	To continue to provide all the help			
(A45)	Output: Migration strategy	needed even after the completion			
		of the migration			
Migrate scheduled users	Input: Migration strategy	To deliver an operational Linux desktop			
to OSS (A5)	Output: Users migrated				
Support and maintenance	Input: Users migrated	To continue to provide all the help needed			
(short term and long term) (A6)	Output: User support	even after the completion of the migration			
Document lessons learnt (A7)	Input: User support,	To provide guidance to other organization			
	process model	planning to migrate to another distribution			
	Output: Migration completed	in future on how to go about the migration			
		and to avoid any risks involved			

nigration ompleted To provide guidance for others planning to migrate in future DOCUMENT LESSONS LEARNT MAINTENANCE: To provide ongoing support services required before & after the migration Limited assistance (short term & long term support) SUPPORT & MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY TRACK:
To determine which desktop
Andvare, operating system,
services and applications to
include in the Linux desktop real user process X number of people per week MIGRATE SCHEDULED USERS TO OSS This is a migration migration tracks COMMUNICATION TRACK:
To communicate the project,
its value and project status
to the entire organisation A43 A41 LRoll-Out training (Firefok & OpenOffice) MAINTENANCE TRACK: To prepare the ICT support services required during & after the migration EXECUTE COMMUNICATION TRACK A45 OSS training Staff training EXECUTE MAINTENANCE TRACK A42 EXECUTE TRAINING TRACK maintenance training EXECUTE TECHNOLOGY TRACK EXECUTE ROLL-OUT TRACK MIGRATE TO OPEN SOURCE: Overall Process Overview 4 nigration TRAINING TRACK: To build users knowledge /skills & make them feel ready to migrate To organise a project into phases or tracks ROLL-OUT TRACK:
To prepare users for a real deal, which is the migration that will happen once everything is in place DEVELOP MIGRATION PRINT PLAN, DIVIDING STATE PROJECT INTO TRACKS (High-Level Diagram) Project team To address organisation's commitment for migrating to OSS overage nedia THE PROJECT PUBLICLY Media Releases ANNOUNCE eam A skilled & dedicated team
+ management ownership is
required to make critical
decisions during the
implementation of OSS migration FORM THE PROJECT TEAM A2 project Project Budget Executive suppor Management/ KICK-START THE PROJECT Policies & Standards CEO Declaration

Figure 3: The OSS migration high-level process model diagram

compiled. This paper just present the high-level process diagram for illustrative purposes, the rest of the process models are available in the thesis at

http://uir.unisa.ac.za/dspace/handle/10500/3263.

# 3.2 Process Reference Models for Organizational OS Migrations

In order to extract process reference models from a set of process models, it is necessary to extract a set of criteria to which process reference models must conform. This was done through a document analysis study.

Process reference models should be reusable [27, 35]; generic [35]; and should provide enough information within a specific context about processes necessary to execute a specific project or business function [31, 37]. The scope should be well defined, as well as the outcomes and results. The process reference models should therefore provide a complete set of processes necessary to fulfill a specific objective [34].

The criteria for the extraction of process reference models are therefore:

- The context, goal and results should be clearly defined.
  - For this study, the context is organization OS migration and the desired outcomes and results are an empowered and migrated organizational task force.
- The set of process reference models should be complete and thus enable the execution of a complete business function.
  - Within project Vula, all the process models of a project being executed, were identified and documented. The generic processes were extracted from the process models, and therefore enables the execution of a complete business function.
- Process reference models are in nature *generic*, meaning applicable to an entire class or group. This criterion will be used to identify generic process models from the process models.
- Process reference models must be *reusable*, meaning that the process in its entirety can be reused within another context to achieve the same result. This criterion will be used to identify generic process models from the process models.

Using the high-level process diagram of Figure 3 as example, Table 4 shows how process reference models were extracted. The results for the high-level processes are depicted in Figure 4. This paper just present the high-level process reference model diagram for illustrative purposes, the rest of the extracted process reference models are available at

http://sites.google.com/site/ontologyprojects/home/generic-process-models-for-os-migration.

## 4. CONCLUSION

In this paper we discussed an approach for the extraction of process reference models for an organizational OS migration project. The CSIR embarked on a project (project Vula) to migrate the organization to OSS. In the planning phase of Project Vula, it became apparent that no process relation information for an organization OS migration exists in literature. As part of project Vula, it was decided to capture the necessary information in order to facilitate similar endeavors by other organizations.

In oder to capture the process relation information, it was decided to derive a set of process reference models for organization OS migration. Process reference models provide a set of baseline processes that could serve as a starting point for any organization that wants to perform a similar business function in future.

The process reference models were extracted from a set of process models that were constructed for Project Vula. This process models captures all the process related information of the project. From the set of process models, a set of process reference models were identified using set criteria for process reference models.

This study thus confirms that process reference models for an organization OS migration can be established. These models could be used to reduce uncertainty in organizations planning to migrate from proprietary software to OSS as it captures organizational learning in a way that could serve as a guide to help in planning and implementing an OSS migration project. It is our firm belief that these process reference models would provide a baseline for the processes needed when any organization considers open source adoption or organization-wide OS migration.

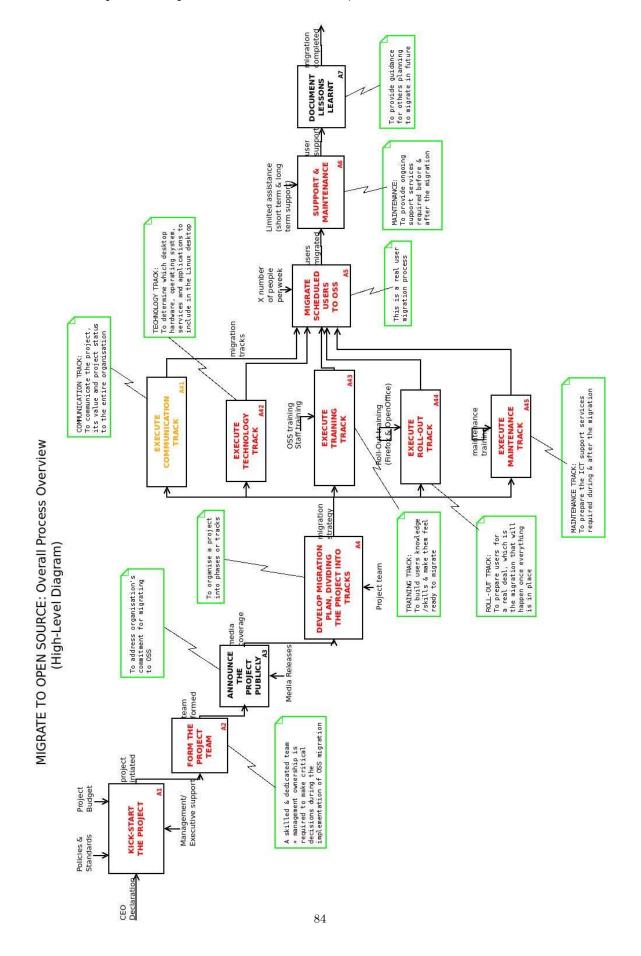
#### 5. REFERENCES

- [1] O. Ahmed. Migrating from proprietary to open source learning content management systems. 2005.
- [2] C. Babcock. Open source for sale. InformationWeek, ABI/INFORM Global, pp. 25-30, 2008.
- [3] B. Barn. Business process modeling. 2007.
- [4] D. Brain, P. Seltsikas, and D. Tailor. Process modelling notations for egovernment: An assessment of modelling notations for identity management. 2005.
- [5] BusinessRanks.com. Process modeling process modeling resources, 2006.
   http://www.businessranks.com/process-modeling.htm.
   Last accessed 27/7/2007.
- [6] S. J. Childe, P. A. Smart, and A. M. Weaver. The use of generic process models for process transformation. pages 1 – 10, 1997.
- [7] dst.gov.za. Open source software freedom day celebrations at the department of science and technologyâĂŹs (dst), 2006. http://www.dst.gov.za/. Last accessed 02/10/2009.
- [8] G. Dudley, A. Finlay, and A. Otter. Open source software: The five step migration guide, 2006. http://www.opensourceafrica.org/. Last accessed 25/02/2008.
- [9] eGovEditorialTeam. Government backs open formats, 2007. http://www.epractice.eu/en/news/281947/. Last accessed 3/11/2009.
- [10] P. Fettke, P. Loos, and J. Zwicker. Business process reference models: Proceedings of the workshop on business process reference models (bprm 2005). 2005.
- [11] FIPS\_PUBS. Announcing the standard for integration definition for function modeling (idef0). Draft Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 183, 1993.

Table 4: Extraction of process reference models from the high-level processes

Process   Generic   Reusable   Reason			
Kick-start the project (A1)	Y	Y	The process is generic and reusable.
			Any OS project must be started.
Form the project team (A2)	Y	Y	The process is generic and reusable.
			To execute the OS migration, the project
			team must be formed.
Announce the project	N	N	The process is neither generic or reusable
publicly (A3)			This is not a necessary process for the
			migration to succeed.
Develop migration plan (A4)	Y	Y	The process is generic and reusable.
			To execute the OS migration, a plan
			for all tracks must be compiled.
Execute Communication	N	Y	The process is not generic but reusable.
Track (A41)	1	-	To execute the OS migration,
Truck (TTT)			communication is preferable, but not necessary.
Execute Technology	Y	Y	The process is generic and reusable.
Track (A42)	1	1	To execute the OS migration, this process
11ack (A42)			is indispensable as it identifies the
For sort of The Series of	Y	Y	necessary OSS technology solutions.
Execute Training	Y	Y	The process is generic and reusable.
Track (A43)			To execute the OS migration, the project
		**	must ensure training for all participants.
Execute Roll-out Track (A44)	Y	Y	The process is generic and reusable.
			To execute the OS migration, the roll-out
			process is indispensable.
Execute Maintenance	Y	Y	The process is generic and reusable.
Track (A45)			To execute the OS migration, maintenance
			must be planned and executed.
Migrate scheduled users	Y	Y	The process is generic and reusable.
to OSS (A5)			To execute the OS migration, this process
			is indispensable as it executes the migration.
Support and maintenance (A6)	Y	Y	The process is generic and reusable.
			To ensure the OS migration is sustainable,
			this process must be executed.
Document lessons learnt (A7)	N	N	The process is neither generic or reusable.
2 common respons reality (111)		* '	This process is not necessary for the OS
			migration to succeed.
			inigration to succeed.

Figure 4: The OS migration process reference models. The process reference models are red. The possible process reference models are orange and the processes that do not form part of the process reference model set, remains black.



- [12] T. Fogwill, H. Bezuidenhout, R. Verheij, and E. Basson. Notes on the current status of the csir migration to open source and open standards through project vula. pages 1 – 5, 2007.
- [13] T. Fogwill, H. Bezuidenhout, R. Verheij, and E. Basson. Csir open source migration project status update. 2008.
- [14] D. Foster. Maintaining a successful corporate community, 2008. http://fastwonderblog.com/2008/09/17/maintaining-asuccessful-corporate-community/. Last accessed 23/10/2008.
- [15] go opensource.org. Open source software, 2005. http://www.go-opensource.org/software/. Last accessed 17/04/2007.
- [16] M. Havey. Essential Business Process Modeling. O'Reilly Media, Inc. 2005.
- [17] J. Horstmann. Migration to open source databases. Computation and Information Structures (CIS), pages 12–13, 2005.
- [18] C. Jensen and W. Scacchi. Reference model based open source software process discovery. 2003.
- [19] A. Martinez. Open source, a development option. 2005.
- [20] F. Michael. Process modeling purpose, 2009. http://www.bpmnforum.net/blog/bpmn/bpmn-in-practice/process-modeling-purpose/. Last accessed 17/03/2009.
- [21] T. Mokhema. Go open source task team conference results of 22 and 23 august 2005 - the go open source campaign partners, government departments, the private and public sectors and academia, 2005. http://www.meraka.org.za/news/. Last accessed 16/01/2009.
- [22] N. Munga and T. Fogwill. An analysis of the value that open source contributes to business models. In IST-Africa 2009 Conference Proceedings, Paul Cunningham and Miriam Cunningham (Eds). IIMC International Information Management Corporation, number ISBN: 978-1-905824-11-3, 2009.
- [23] Opensourceafrica.org. Open source software the five step migration guide, 2007. http://www.opensourceafrica.org/.
- [24] N. Peeling and J. Satchell. Analysis of the impact of open source software. pages  $4-5,\,2001.$
- [25] B. Perumpalath. Modelling business process: An integrated approach. 2005.
- [26] RedHat\_Inc. Open source adoption, 2007. http://www.redhat.com/. Last accessed 16/11/2007.
- [27] M. L. Rosa, F. Gottschalk, M. Dumas, and W. M. van der Aalst. Linking domain models and process models for reference model configuration. 2005. Last accessed 25/02/2008.
- [28] Y. Sun. An introduction to process modeling, 2006. http://yang-sun.com/modeling.aspx. Last accessed 13/02/2009.
- [29] N. Turbit. Business process modelling overview, 2005. Last accessed 17/7/2007.
- [30] S. Tyrrell. The many dimensions of the software process. 2000.
- [31] US\_Homeland\_Security. Process reference model for assurance mapping to cmmi. pages 1 9, 2008.
- [32] I. Uvium. Business process management and optimization glossary, 2005. Last accessed 03/02/2009.
- [33] W. van der Aalst, A. Dreiling, F. Gottschalk, M. Rosemann, and M. Jansen-Vullers. Configurable process models as a basis for reference modeling business process reference models position paper. pages 75–81, 2005.
- [34] W. M. van der Aalst, A. Dreiling, M. Rosemann, and M. Jansen-Vullers. Configurable process models as a basis for reference modeling. 2003. Last accessed 26/01/2009.
- [35] A. van der Merwe and P. Kotzé. A systematic approach for the identification of process reference models. 2008.
- [36] A. van der Merwe, P. Kotzé, and A. Gerber. Generic process model structures: Towards a standard notation for abstract representations. pages 172–180, 2007.

- [37] A. J. van der Merwe. Unisa thesis: Towards a reusable process model structure for higher education institutions. 2005. Last accessed 26/01/2009.
- [38] V. van Reijswoud and C. Topi. Alternative routes in the digital world, 2003. http://opensource.mit.edu/. Last accessed 30/01/2009.
- [39] VulaWiki. Project vula, 2006. https://vula.csir.co.za/. Last accessed 17/04/2007.
- 40] VulaWiki. Vula progress report 1, 2006. https://vula.csir.co.za/. Last accessed 19/11/2007.
- [41] J. West. How open is open enough?: Melding proprietary and open source platform strategies. Research Policy: Open Source Software Development, 32, Issue 7(ISSN 0048-7333):1259-1285, 2003.