# From Blackboard to Dokeos pro's & cons of an Open Source VLE

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dokeos



### Quality

- The cooperative *peer-review* model of OS development has positive effects on quality of code
- · The user at the steering wheel
  - With traditional software the user has little or no impact on future developments
  - OS software is more user driven:
     If you contribute to developments you are able to help steer the future of the software

### Independent

 You do not depend on a third party as you have access to the source code at any time





# University College Ghent: e-learning history

2001 Kick off: merger with Mercator Hogeschool where Blackboard had just been introduced

2002 - 2003 Start Digitaal Leren (e-learning)

2004 – 2005 Introduction of Open Source VLE Dokeos

Oct. 2005 Completion of migration from Blackboard to Dokeos

DONGOS

Jan. 2006 4000+ 'courses', 14000+ active users





### Standards

- In general OS software adheres more strictly to standards than proprietary software
- Cost efficient
  - Software is free, but development comes at a price
- Different business model
  - Selling support & tailor-made development, not software
- No danger of vendor lock-in



# **Open Source Disadvantages**

- Small projects are usually easy enough to manage
- · But as they grow organization can be a problem
  - Decision making
    - Reaching a consensus can be hazardous
    - Need for a structured decision making process
  - Real danger of splits
  - Potential lack of continuity





# Why extending the user base?

- Course metaphor is (too) restrictive
- Different users = different needs
   Different usage = different feedback
  - → Better platform
- From a university platform to a general tool
  - Dokeos for schools
    - Hosting & Support
  - Dokeos for SME's
  - Further integration of social software with a user based repository as the basis for different applications (cf. LCMS)



### **Main Contributions**

- Rapid debugging
- Extended group tools
  - Including subgroups
- · Flexible course copy and recycle tools
- Integration of other tools
  - Wiki
  - RSS
  - Skype
- Extensive integration with administrative back office
- Dokeos from LMS to LCMS
  - based on repository





### Schools

- Much more guided activities
   ≠ less self study
- · Specific needs
  - extented csv import possibilities:
    - adding users to courses, to 'classes'
  - reservation tool





# Schools Sch

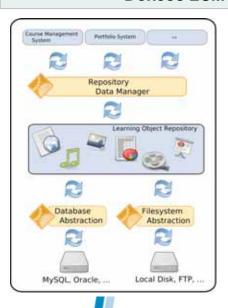
# SME's: More than e-learning

- Communication is very important:
  - Alternative to intranet
  - Alternative to a website
- Collaboration tool
- E-learning platform
  - → Dokeos will become a more general platform





### Dokeos LCMS: New structure

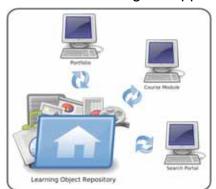


- LCMS
- Content management
- Learning Objects
- Learning object
- Owned by user, not course
- Published in one or more courses, portfolios, ...
- Competitors taking similar approach



# Dokeos LCMS: Advantages

- Runs with different databases (abstraction layers)
- Basis for a wide range of applications



- Courses
- Communities
- Search portal
- Portfolio
- Collaboration environment
- etc.

· Opens up the community of all Dokeos users and beyond





# Questions?

- Questions?
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  - http://digitaal-leren.hogent.be
- Dokeos software
  - http://www.dokeos.com
  - LCMS-project: http://www.dokeos.com/wiki/index.php/Dokeos\_LCMS\_design



