e-Government and Free Open Source Software

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Agenda

- Why FOSS?
- FOSS projects in Lithuania
- Few case studies
- NGO ”AKL“
- Collaboration possibilities

e-Gov conception

- What is Government for?
- How could we measure effectives of government?
- How to improve effectiveness of government?
- e-government is it goal or it is a measure?
- General problem – **goals** of e-gov. projects are wrong positioned
- Frequently goals is just set of features of existing commercial software
- FOSS is more flexible adjustable to real needs

e-Gov conception

- Inner efficiency, quality of services, more value
- e-Services for citizens
- Problems:
  - lack of e-users and IT awareness
  - lack of infrastructure
  - lack of e- services and e-content available
- **DIGITAL DIVIDE**

Who benefits from FOSS?

- Transparency, reliability, security
- Lower TCO (IDA report 2004)
- Localization
- Stimulate competition
- Stimulate local IT industry
- Create new jobs
- Decrease software “piracy” rates
- Based on open standards (no lock in)
- Better negotiation position with MS
- So, who benefits from FOSS?

TCO study (W Europe)

- 4000 Users network with local and remote users
  10 servers
- In consideration: Hardware, Software, Supporting staff, External trainings, services, other stuff
- **Costs for 5 year**
  - „MS“ software - **37** 289 039 EUR
  - FOSS - **11** 490 983 EUR
  - Migration costs- **4** 331 250 EUR
  - **Savings about 22MEUR (4.5 MEUR /YEAR)**

WiLL CODE
HTML For
FOOD
PLEASE HELP
ST

How could government contribute?

- Open standards to be mandatory!
- Take OSS IT development strategy
- Finance OSS projects
- Use FOSS at PA
- FOSS supportive purchasing policy
- FOSS in education at all levels
- Finance OSS competence center...?
- Any more ideas?
  http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida

Threats and Pitfalls

- Software Patents
- New law on FOSS (in progress)
- MS Lobby
- Lock in closed format standards

Lithuanian governmental FOSS projects

- Pilot project of using FOSS at government institutions
- Software localization:
  - “OpenOffice“ 2002, 2003
  - “Mozilla“ 2002, 2003
- Survey „OSS in EU“, 2002
- Spell-checking software „Ispell“, 2003
- FOSS software CD for schools (2000 copies), 2003
- Government program for FOSS (action plan till 2007) is in progress
- Planned further activities in FOSS for year 2004 (Migration guide translation and adoption)

Information Society Development Committee under the Government http://www.ivpk.lt

FOSS Cases

- Ministry of Environment:
  - 500 computers with „OpenOffice“ - 120.000$ economy
- Vilnius County Administration:
  - 200 computers with „SuSE Linux“ - 50.000$ economy

Both institutions are planning further computer purchases with FOSS

Lessons learned

- There almost no transition period migrating from MS Office to Openoffice
- Most users are rigid and passive, local support team is necessary
- Some problems with *.doc *.xls
- Some problems with interoperability
- No way to migrate without strong top management support
- Forgotten virus attack problems
- Lack of service and support choices

the matter of trust

NGO Open Source for Lithuania

- Non Governmental, non profit public organization, since 2002
- Established under law of Association
- 50 members (natural persons)
- 10 member companies
- Main FOSS advocate and project entity in Lithuania

www.akl.lt

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NGO Open Source for Lithuania

Mission

- To stimulate usage of FOSS in Lithuania

Objectives

- To promote the ideas of FOSS in Lithuania
- To assure availability of professional and high quality FOSS products, services and trainings
- To strengthen and support local FOSS community

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Vision

- Confidence in FOSS let users migrate from (illegal) proprietary software to free and open source software
- A lot of FOSS services and products will be available on the market
- FOSS in few years will take significant market share.

STOP PIRACY!

USE FREE SOFTWARE!

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AKL Projects

- Infobalt show 2002, 2003 www.infobalt.lt
- Free software CD for Windows users
- OpenDict – free dictionary program
- www.akl.lt – FOSS home page
- Weekly foss newsletter (500 subscribers)
- Project forge „wicky“
- e-Vitamins (still in progress)
- Public Relations, seminars, conferences...
- Software localization

Fields of possible collaboration

- Sharing ready made solutions
- Sharing ready made projects
- Sharing best practices in:
  - lobbying
  - promoting
  - developing business models
- Web based DB of good practice (well documented success stories)
- Projects to EU funds

Q & A

Thank you !

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