# 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



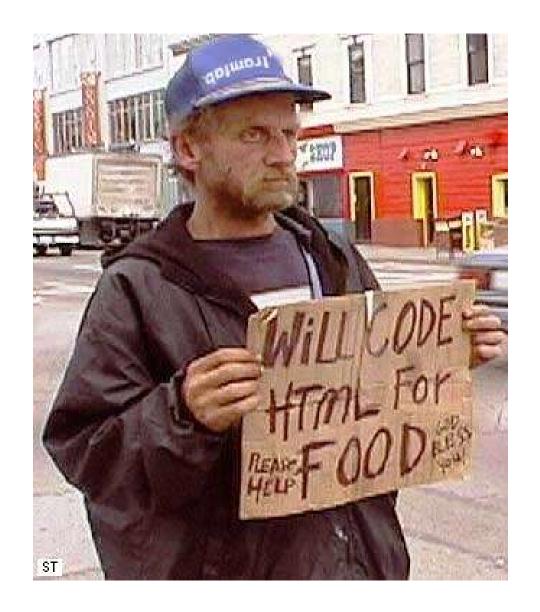
# Who benefits from FOSS?

- 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)





# 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?
   <a href="http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida">http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida</a>



### **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



Atviras

Kodas

# NGO Open Source for Lithuania

#### **Mission**

To stimulate <u>usage</u> 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





# NGO Open Source for Lithuania

#### **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!





### **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! tomas@akl.lt

