Why do governments have to promote OSS ?
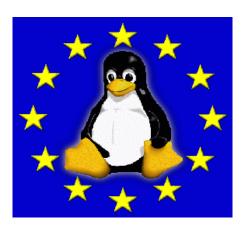

Tomas Jonušas

IDA Workshop on OSS Competence

June 23, 2004, LinuxTag

Agenda

◇ **Lobbying FOSS**

◇ **How it goes in Lithuania?**

◇ **NGO "AKL"**

Lobbying

To address or solicit members of a legislative body in the lobby or elsewhere, with the purpose to influence their votes.

"Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary (1913)"

Lobbying

Influencing decision makers to take beneficial decisions in favor of the beneficiaries.

"consumers society slang 2004"

Selling or Lobbying?

Who benefits from FOSS?

◇ Why we are here?

◇ In FOSS we trust! (OSS we sell :))

◇ We do believe that usage of FOSS

– stimulate competition

– stimulate local IT industry

– create new jobs

– decrease software "piracy" rates

– allow to choose software vendor

◇ So, who benefits from FOSS?

What is a beneficial decision?

◇ What decision could be taken in a favor of beneficiary?

  – who is able to initiate a process?

  – who is able to prepare a decision?

  – who is able to promote?

  – who is able to take responsibility?

◇ Decision is not clear, still no good practice at governmental level in EU.

Got stuck?

◇ To high complexity and uncertainty of decision...

◇ To high likelihood that something will go wrong...

◇ To a large scale experiment....

◇ To harmful consequences for a decision maker...

FOSS benefits are known, but decision is not clear, risk is too high – better do nothing.

Lobbying FOSS

- Most of key decision makers know about benefits of using FOSS

- FOSS advocacy will not change the situation significantly

- Strategy of lobbying FOSS at governmental level for the 2005–2006 is to **reduce risk of decision makers**

What could help us?

◇ Ready made EU policy on FOSS use

◇ Ready made EU policy for open document formats

◇ Clear scenario of FOSS roll-out at governmental level

◇ Success stories

◇ Database of best practice in EU

◇ First break through of using FOSS at governmental level in EU

for the moment it is just the matter of trust

Lithuanian governmental institutions

Responsible for information society development

- Parliamental Information Society Development Committee

- Information Society Development Committee under the Government

- Information Society Development Department of Ministry of Interior Affairs

- Information technology centre of Education under the Ministry of Science and Education

Lithuanian governmental projects

Open Source Software for All

⬦ Pilot project (installation), software localization („OpenOffice", „Mozilla"), 2002

⬦ Portal of FOSS, 2002

⬦ Study „OSS in EU", 2002

⬦ Spell-checking software „Ispell", 2003

⬦ Software localization („OpenOffice", „Mozilla"), 2003

⬦ CD with software for schools (2000 copies), 2003

⬦ Planned further activities in OSS for year 2004

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

FOSS Cases

◇ Ministry of Environment:

   – 500 computers with „OpenOffice" - 400.000 LTL economy

◇ Vilnius County Administration:

   – 40 computers with „SuSE Linux" - 56.000 LTL economy

Both institutions are planning further computer purchases with FOSS

Atviras Kodas Lietuvai AKL

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

Atviras Kodas Lietuvai AKL

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!

Questions?

Thank you !

tomas@akl.lt