

netlabs.org 2010

Open Source Survival Guide

Adrian Gschwend

netlabs.org - Open Source Software

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Outline

- 1 History
- 2 Web Services
- 3 Communication
- 4 Organization

netlabs.org Review

The Story so Far...

- Founded in 1997
- Goal: Do free OS/2 software
- First success with GIMP but developers disappeared
- Some good publicity with Mozilla, no product though
- Up and downs during the years, depending on everyone spare time
- Some serious motivation issues around 2003
- New motivation since 2005 with *The Voyager Project*

Issues

- Development progress is “best effort”
- Same for website & services
- Coordination was often minimal or non existing
- No real goal for quite some time
- We lost many developers to other platforms
- Just a few new people
- OS/2 and eCS support gets more and more work
- Other platforms make much bigger steps

The Cool Part

- Many people are joining us for years
- Not too nerdy crowd :)
- Regular real world meetings
- Wintercamps
- Always great knowledge exchange
- 15 years of OO know how (beat this!)
- Most of us are no longer “religious”

Services @ netlabs.org

- Project hosting: http, ftp
- CVS
- Subversion
- TRAC (Bugtracking, project tracking)
- Wikis
- Mailing lists
- Mail accounts (on request)

New Features

- User registration
- User management
- LDAP synchronisation for Single Sign On
 - netlabs.org Web pages
 - Wiki (also EDM/2)
 - Subversion
 - TRAC
 - VoIP
 - XMPP
- Content management of projects

Under Construction

- Screenshots (on popular demand by Chris)
- Blog (for netlabs.org & per project)
- News/Links will get redone
- Some RSS integration from TRAC
- CSS adjustments (quite a lot)
- IE mode ;)
- Goal: Attractive page, motivation to visit

Quality Management

- Project documentation
- Release management
- Security (file hashes, signatures)
- Quality assurance

IRC Network

- Interactive communication
- Networks (Freenode.net)
- Channels (#netlabs)
- Often filtered
- Some like it, some don't
- Can be time consuming & distracting
- Was and is important for netlabs.org

Mailinglists

- `project-(user|dev)@netlabs.org`
- News (nntp) and web interface at gmane.org
- Popular among projects
- Important for teams
- Archive for new contributors

XMPP/Jabber

- Instant Messaging Service
- User to user communication
- Open alternative to AIM/ICQ, MSN...
- username@im.netlabs.org
- Status information (away, not available...)
- Based on http protocol, rarely filtered
- Software: OpenFire
- LDAP integration missing

VoIP

- SIP number per user
- Can be used with hardware or software SIP phones
- FRITZ!Box and others for integration into POTS/ISDN systems
- Works worldwide for free
- Conference rooms available (public & protected)
- Software: FreeSWITCH
- LDAP integration missing, issues with NAT

Live Streaming

- Audio streaming is already done
- Video streaming is much more work
- CCC events do that in perfection
- We need that as well
- VoIP for user questions (so far only IRC)

Real World

- Nothing beats the Real World™
- Most productive
- Most creative
- Best motivation
- But expensive & time consuming
- Cannot work for everyone (hi Paul!)

Wintercamp

- Combine fun & netlabs.org
- Daytime sports
- Nighttime hacking & talking
- Great for progress
- Great motivation
- Team building
- Summercamp might follow :-)

Behind the Scene

- Core members meet more or less on a regular base
- We plan to do that more often,
- if it works out with Voyager at least

Getting Serious

- netlabs.org is still a spare time project
- Does not work out if we want to be successful
- Some of us try to get professional the next months

Company Status

- We look for alternate models (foundation & alike)
- Combine commercial software with free software
- Get some serious amount of money (and we mean serious)
- Hire some long time netlabs.org members

Vision I

- Use the experience we have with OS/2 & the Workplace Shell
- Integrate new technologies
- Provide something the world really needs
- Be visionary
- Bring some quality into the software industry

Vision II

- Bring computers an important step ahead
- Move away from old concepts (it's soooo nineties)
- Get new people into it

If it doesn't Work Out

- Then the future might be not so bright anymore
- Quite some of us would probably move ahead

Q&A

Questions?