A New OSI For A New Decade
Learning From OSI Reform Pressures

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OSI has changed in response to the maturity of open source as a concept and practice. How well does your project's governance match the new norms of the open source community of communities?
Agenda

● Original Drivers Of OSI
● Today's Drivers Of OSI Reform
  ○ Foundations
  ○ Licensing
  ○ Software Patents
  ○ Cloud & Big Data
  ○ Government Procurement
● The Role of OSI Today
● OpenJDK and Open Source
OSI Past

- Founded 1998
- Steward of the Open Source Definition
- Arbiter of Open Source licenses
- Looking after the community's firmware...
“A corporation doesn't love you or hate you. It's like a lawnmower. Put your hand in, it gets cut off. It doesn't hate you, it's just a lawnmower; it cuts everything.”

– B. Cantrill
Original Drivers

- Cost Savings
- Business Model Innovation
- Web Server Stacks
- Breaking Microsoft Lock-In
OSI in 1998

- Pragmatic software freedom to allow the non-personal to benefit
- De-emphasise ethical imperative
- Open gateways to open source
- Focus on practicalities
  - Education
  - Licensing
- Building understanding
1. License Choice Evolution
“A license describes the environment for a business relationship”

Corporate Lawyer
“A License is the constitution for a community”

Eben Moglen
Open Source License Trends

- Move to “plus” licenses
- Avoiding copyright assignment
- Explicit patent language
- De-emphasising Licensing
Open Source Licensing Trends

GPL

1998 onwards

Vanity

2000-2005 License proliferation

Apache

Now

MPLv2

Emerging
2. Open Source Foundations
Roles Of Foundations

- An integration point for community activity
- A host for managing fiscal and other shared resources, e.g.:
  - trademarks
  - shared copyrights
  - staff
- A guarantor and enabler for the governance
- An infrastructure provider
- A liability firewall for community participants
Synchronization of Self Interest

Security of Self Interest
3. Software Patents
Software Patent Realities

- Software patents are real internationally
  - They operate by threat, not court resolution
  - So they cause problems everywhere
- Patents arise even in open source
- Patents have become anti-competitive weapons
- Dealing with them is a major driver in community & license design
4. Cloud Computing
No Licence Compliance

- Proprietary software applies licence terms to end users (EULA)
- Software asset management is a major business cost
- Open source licences have no end-user limitations - *Free software has no EULA*
- Use that does not involve distribution to others has no compliance requirements
- Key, under-recognised open source value
Cloud Effects 1

● License evolution
● Formation of Foundations
● Business model evolution
  ○ e.g. CloudBees
Cloud Effects 2

- “Software Doesn't Matter”
- Shared componentry
  - Twitter
  - Facebook
  - Paypal
  - Google
- No need for “an open source business model”
5. Government Adoption
Trends in Government Adoption

- Increasing global adoption accelerating

- Successful projects emphasise flexibility
  - e.g. City of Munich, Germany
  - Contribution, investment, self-reliance

- Failed projects focus on cost savings
  - e.g. City of Freiburg, Germany
  - Usage-only, budget-cutting, "interoporability"
Price vs Flexibility

If you focus on flexibility, you will make savings too, but if you focus on savings your vendors will keep you trapped.
Freedom to...

Use
- Add systems
- Scale for demand

Study
- Hire staff
- Engage contractors

Modify
- Improved functionality
- Buy from a new supplier

Share
- Use in any department
- Give to citizens

... without permission
In other words...

Open Source Means Self-Reliance and Self-Determination
OSI Future

“educate about and advocate for the benefits of open source and to build bridges among different constituencies in the open source community.”

(that's from opensource.org/mission)
OSI Restructuring

OSI 1998-2011

Board
OSI Restructuring

Future Role

Board

Affiliates
Added 2Q 2012

Individuals
Added 3Q 2012

Corporate
Added 4Q 2012
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Please JOIN NOW!

opensource.org/join

- Help us evolve – be part of the solution.
- You can finally join OSI personally!
- Your independent community group can join too.
- Your employer can join
Discussion

OSI has changed in response to the maturity of open source as a concept and practice. How well does your project's governance match the new norms of the open source community of communities?
5 Drivers - Summary

1. Licensing Evolution
   ● Trending to community-aware

2. Foundations
   ● Keeping the peace among corporate participants

3. Software Patents
   ● Driving licensing & governance change

4. Cloud Computing & Big Data
   ● Driving adoption, licensing, governance change

5. Government Adoption
   ● Focus on Flexibility & Self-Reliance
Thank-you!

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About Me

- Technical background: electronics, programming
- Worked for three computer giants (Unisys, IBM, Sun)
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*This presentation represents my own views, not those of any other entity.*