

netlabs.org - The Crux with the Community

How Open Source Development does (not) work

Adrian Gschwend

netlabs.org - Open Source Software for OS/2 and eCS

Warpstock Europe 2006, Cologne, Germany

Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 The Community
- 3 Developers
- 4 Big Business

Why this Presentation?

- 9 years of experience with netlabs.org
- Many ups and downs
- Still just a few contributors
- Successful and less successful software projects meanwhile
- Big ongoing project: *The Voyager Project*

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- Core team of maybe 20-30 people
- Around 130 people in the netlabs.org database
- Many of them are on #netlabs IRC channel during the day
- Quite a lot of mailinglists, mirrored on gmane.org for newsgroup/web access
- Pretty old webpages, out of date, not updated by many project leaders
- TRAC projects are often missing on netlabs.org webpage
- People do not know where to look
- Adrian gets contacted directly by users and developers, bottleneck

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- Most of them have more than one project running
- Just a few users contribute in a form
- Some support with sponsoring units
- Just very few full time contributors/programmers

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The Community Today

- Various usergroups around the world
- Warpstock events around the world
- OS/2 VOICE
- EDM/2
- SSI/Mensys & eComStation
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Some Ideas

- Team Netlabs, like TeamOS2 and alike
- Advocacy group, we-feeling
- Membership and yearly contribution
- Could be money or time contribution
- Translate presentations, show videos etc.
- Represent netlabs.org on workshops, press, fair...

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- Up to date information
- New CMS, new server
- TRAC fully integrated into CMS

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 - Subversion
 - Generalized build/release framework
 - Consistent feeling between projects
 - Clear structure:
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- Clear structure:
 - `src` (source code)
 - `lib` (libraries, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `bin` (binaries, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `doc` (documentation, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `etc` (configuration files, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `misc` (miscellaneous, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `test` (tests, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `man` (manual pages, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `po` (translations, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `patches` (patches, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `scripts` (scripts, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `tools` (tools, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `utils` (utilities, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `www` (web pages, GPL, LGPL, ...)
 - `work` (work files, GPL, LGPL, ...)
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- Clear structure:
 - TRAC for developers
 - netlabs.org CMS for users
 - CVS for source code
 - Same procedure for all projects
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- Often just proof of concept
- The source is the only documentation™
- No design
- Yet another...

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Money...

- There are just a few successful OSS projects without funding
- There are many which do get funded:
 - Mozilla
 - OpenOffice
 - Firefox
 - OpenBSD
 - MySQL
 - Linux kernel

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- If we act as a real community everything is possible
- It is possible to be a successful niche

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Next Steps for You

- **Team/Usergroups: Discuss possible Team Netlabs idea**
- Users: Would you join such a team?
- Users: Could you contribute somewhere?
- Users: Are you a marketing specialist?
- Developers: Can we help you?
- Developers: Release management support needed?
- Cool group with sexy project is looking for funding™

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Q&A

Questions?