Open Source Business Applications

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What got me on stage?

- Really exciting year in Open Source
- Longtime contributor to many PHP, Linux and other open source projects
- Lots of experience implementing ERP systems with fortune 500 companies
- Been core developer on many projects
- Technology executive at several successful open source companies.
- Silver Sponsor of the Conference
Take 1 With You

- We've got more than 50 apps to cover
- Interrupt any time with questions
- My goal is to have you take home a couple applications to look at more closely, implement 1
- Open Source has some very compelling solutions for businesses of all shapes and sizes
- Software ownership means a lot
Overview

• Linux Apps
  – There are a lot out there, here are the ones to watch

• Cross Platform Apps
  – Have your cake and eat it too

• ERP/Accounting
  – ERP is always hard, Open Source is no exception

• Web Apps
  – Great depth, great maturity
Conventions

- Developer oriented software are identified by the tool icon
- Things to really look at have the eyeball icon
Linux on the Desktop

- If you are still waiting for it to be ready it is time to try it
- Productivity usage profiles are 100% supported
- Power using profiles offer many compelling advantages if used with virtualization systems to cover gaps
- Reliability is a really nice thing to have
- Flexibility in a way OSX doesn't offer
Choosing A Desktop Distro

• Ubuntu
  – Lots of great features, Debian maintenance

• Novell Linux Desktop (NLD)/Open Suse
  – Very polished, my choice, Ximian heritage

• Linspire
  – Fits a good niche for Windows crossover users

• Fedora
  – Very progressive, nice look and feel

• Redhat Enterprise Linux
  – A bit tame, rock solid, comparable to NLD
Choosing a Server Distro

- Debian
  - Stable, easy to maintain, a little too conservative
- Did I mention Debian?
- Redhat Enterprise Linux
  - Vendor commitment to longevity
  - Very solid while also offering modernity
Gnome
http://www.gnome.org

• Gnome is a “sexy” Desktop System, comes with a distro
• It has been customized by Ximian/Novell for business users, try Novell Linux Desktop/Open Suse
• Strong focus on simplified interface
• Very clean look and feel
• Real momentum behind development with applications like Evolution, Beagle, etc.
Evolution


• Outlook replacement for Linux
• Includes SPAM filtering
• Very nice virtual folders feature
• Can talk to Microsoft Exchange or Open Groupware (OGO) to offer complete calendaring/contacts/email
Tomboy
http://www.beatniksoftware.com/tomboy/

• Note tracking application
• Semantic links are an intuitive way to collect information
• New solution to the Post It Notes problems
• Good Searching, integration with tools like Beagle
• Plays well with Evolution
Beagle
http://www.gnome.org/projects/beagle

- Search tool for the Personal Information Space
- Semantic understanding Email, files, images ...
- Builds on Google, Yahoo desktop search tools
- Useable on latest Open Suse
F-Spot
www.gnome.org/projects/f-spot

- Photo management they way it should be
- Offers time-line as well as category views
- Mouth watering user interface, very extensible categorization
- Plays well with other Gnome applications like Beagle
- Compelling list of features, a lot more to come
Planner
http://imendio.com/projects/planner

• Project management tool, was once known as MrProject, really
• Does a nice job for basic to intermediate project planning needs
• Not specific to technology projects, offer extensible options for resources and task hierarchies
• More than a little short of PMI compliance
• Multi-language support
iFolder
http://www.ifolder.com

• Those Novell guys just won't quit
• Allows seamless file sharing and synchronization across platforms
• Linux support solid now
• Only peer to peer support possible with 100% Open Source, this may change in latest Open Suse
• Open Source server side system rapidly maturing
Red Carpet (zenworks)

http://www.novell.com/products/zenworks/linuxmanagement/
http://www.open-carpet.org

• Visual tool to do package management on Linux
• Used with NLD to subscribe to system updates
• Supports multiple “channels” which collect related groups of applications
• Channels are available for a most developmental projects, also for non-US projects
• Can be used in a business with the Open-Carpet Server, works with Fedora, SUSE, NLD
• Offers search of installed and available packages
• I don't like the new name
AutoPano-sift
http://user.cs.tu-berlin.de/~nowozin/autopano-sift

• Build panoramas from multiple images, photo stitching
• Very powerful tool which offers more support than you find in many commercial offerings
• Can produce very high quality results
• F-Spot will most likely absorb or re-implement this functionality
• Name needs work, check out behind-the-wall.com, support for Windows, Patent questions
K3B
http://www.k3b.org/

- CD burning done right
- KDE based
- Ease of use comparable with EasyCD, Nero, etc.
- Nice features for creating CD's from downloaded images, auto MD5 checksum
- Supports DVD's as well, DVD+RW, DVD-RW
- Good support for generation of music CD's from MP3 or OGG
GIMP
http://www.gimp.org

• GNU Image Manipulation Program
• Best open source option for Adobe Photoshop like functionality
• Not as comprehensive as Photoshop
• Interface has some unusual characteristics that may be difficult for new users
• Support for Windows
• Large number of plugins
• Printing and color management is limited
CinePaint
http://cinepaint.org

- Video/Frame editing tool originally based on Gimp
- Used in Last Samurai to do the bridge arrows, more often used to clean up frames wires/dust etc.
- Completely new version in next few weeks
- Check out their booth on the exhibit floor
Subversion
http://subversion.tigris.org

- Multifaceted Revision Control System
- Primarily for source code but also good for text/html
- Seamless upgrade from CVS
- Offers an apache module to abstract user access from system users
- Has different backends to support file based structures or Berkely DB
- Check out the Subversion Book Online
Inkscape
http://www.inkscape.org

• Graphical tool, good for layouts
• Vector editing environment like Adobe Illustrator, Vector has a learning curve
• Standards based Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) format
• Good performance, offers good print quality
• Solid Windows support in latest versions
• Check openclipart.org, all SVG
Scribus
http://www.scribus.net

• Desktop publishing and layout tool in the vein of Adobe InDesign
• Has good font control
• Production ready, stable, can produce impressive results
• One of the few Open Source tools with real colorspace management
• Aging codebase
RDesktop

http://www.rdesktop.org/ or with your Distro

• Connect to Microsoft Windows Terminal Services
• A great way to make Windows applications available to Linux desktops
  – Common candidates are QuickBooks, Microsoft Access & Visio, SQLServer Enterprise Manager
• Supports most but not all security and encryption configurations
VNC, TightVNC, Ultr@VNC

• Alternative to Windows Terminal Services
• Can be used to do comprehensive remote desktop support
• Many flavors out there, Original VNC, TightVNC and Ultr@VNC
• Optional Active Directory, Encryption and compression modules
• Can be configured for system with minimal resources
• Licensing requirements often apply
Jabber
http://www.jabber.org

• Definitive Open Source Instant Messaging System
• If you are thinking about corporate IM look at Jabber
• Standards based XML with great development documentation
• Many clients on all platforms available
• Checkout Gossip: http://developer.imendio.com/wiki/Gossip
Asterisk

http://www.asterisk.org/

• If you haven't heard of this it is time to open the cave door again
• Server software to power telephony and more
• VOIP support, highly scalable, production ready to 500 seats
• Full set of PBX features
• Many providers, partners, resellers to offer support, management and customization
Ekiga
http://www.ekiga.org/

- Used to be GnomeMeeting which I liked because I could pronounce it
- Audio and video desktop messaging for Gnome
- Now has functional SIP support, this is the first functional open source deskphone
- Very active development, many more features to come
Eclipse
http://www.eclipse.org

• Comprehensive development environment for JAVA, PHP, C, C++, and more
• Powerful system of plugins for added capabilities, commercial plugins available as well
• Nice integration with CVS and Subversion
• I find its file and project management very helpful, especially when switching between multiple projects of different languages
• Has a large footprint
OpenOffice

http://www.openoffice.org

- Definitive Open Source Office Suite, Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Drawing/Diagramming and Presentation Tool
- OpenOffice 2.0 is extremely compelling, Open Document Standards support is a huge leap
- MySQL (and other databases) and OpenOffice can be easily combined to add power to documents and spreadsheets
- Great compatibility with Microsoft Office
- Great online tutorials and documentation
FireFox
http://www.mozilla.org

• Definitive Open Source Web Browser
• Great feature set with tabbed browsing, elegant in page search, Google friendly and lots of extensions
• Reduced virus and spyware exposure, rapid (often hours) response to vulnerabilities
• If you haven't at least tried FireFox there is a real problem, please see me at the end of the presentation
• See firefox.dbltreec.com for automated deployment
• Plugins, plugins, plugins, mozdev.org
Thunderbird
http://www.mozilla.org

- Companion email application to FireFox
- Covers all of the basic email features, good management of large amounts of mail
- High performance SPAM filtering
- Look at latest versions for integration with calendaring, groupware, etc.
Zabbix
http://www.zabbix.com/

• Monitoring tool along the lines of Nagios and Cacti written in PHP
• Has an agent application that collects all the common metrics, can also use SNMP
• High quality output comparable to the other solutions
• Can be tied in to fault tolerance and redundancy systems
• Has nice support for application specific monitoring
• Interesting politics for patches, still under the GPL
Joomla
http://joomla.org

- Main Marketing Content, front pages of website
  - Great default templates, clean and crisp
  - Multi format delivery PDF, print, email
  - Media Oriented
- The sales guys can use it well. The designers like it. Very Easy.
- Great performance for such a dynamic system.
- 500+ Live Sites
Joomla Continued

- Templates compatible with Macromedia Dreamweaver, CSS Driven
- WYSIWYG Oriented
- Strong Commercial Supported
- 100% web standards compliant
- Needs a more flexible security framework
- Security issues with default file permissions

- Previously Mambo, forked
- Mambo still viable, commercially supported
Postnuke

- Set the tone for Content Management Systems
  - Module for almost every need
  - Very easy to install
  - Works on almost any version of PHP
  - Performance is mediocre
  - Forking has slowed development, codebase is in need of rewriting to take advantage of advancements in PHP.
  - All sites tend to look similar, often too "busy"
When to use Postnuke

- Thousands of modules out there, one your needs can be met closely with a few of them use Postnuke
- Example modules that meet common needs
  - PostCalendar (Now Included)
  - ContentExpress
- Postnuke has a lot of modules for really obscure needs, wedding chapels, boy scout troops, alien abduction fan clubs, etc.
Xoops
http://xoops.org

- Started as fork from Postnuke
  - Completely rewritten in clean object oriented code
  - Sleak, less “busy” than Postnuke
  - All major modules are available, forums, downloads, good integrated search
  - Good performance through caching
  - 30 minutes to a departmental intranet, forum, document store, serial content out of the box

- Uses Smarty!
Exponent

http://www.exponentcms.org

- Great usability, very accessible to non-technical users
- Great for managing corporate content
- Authorization pipeline
- A little difficult to fully theme
- Extensible with modules, many built in
- Gaining a lot of popularity
Smarty

http://smarty.php.net

- Very impressive system, simple and obvious but why didn't I think of it
- Can be bolted on to almost any existing project
- Disparate projects using Smarty are easy to bring together seamlessly
- Excellent performance do to template compilation
- Controversy, doesn't PHP do templating?
OsCommerce

http://www.oscommerce.com

- Gold Standard in e-commerce
  - Real time shipping quotes USPS, FedEx, UPS, Real time billing, many credit card modules
  - Template support
  - Huge number of excellent contributions, patches
- Developers can be difficult to work with
- No consensus on templating
- 1400 Official installations, I can count at least 22,000 worldwide
OsCommerce Continued


- All of the popular contributions
  - Administration logins in database
  - Dynamic thumbnails
  - Gift voucher/certificate
  - Multiple addresses
  - Phone order entry/customer entry
  - Cross sales, if you like this you will like...
  - Secure download delivery
  - Lots more...
Zencart
http://www.zencart.com

• Looking forward from OsCommerce, a couple of the original developers from that
• Many similar features, better code
• Pretty clean migration path, tools to help migrate
• Cleaner setup as well as more modern look and feel system
• Much better installation and ease of use
ERP/Accounting

- ERP is a really hard thing to do right with Open Source or Proprietary software
- ERP implementation takes a large organizational commitment
Compiere
http://www.compiere.org

- Still largely dependent on Oracle which makes it less accessible, it is possible to run it on open interbase (firebird)
- Credible system that can be used in medium and large enterprises (500+ seats)
- Very large curve to implement and use but that is typical for this type of solution
- Not a good choice for smaller businesses
GnuCash

http://www.gnucash.org

• Currently the only game in town for 100% Open Source Desktop accounting
• Successfully used by many people to do their personal and small business accounting
• Lacks a lot of flash and gimmicks found in QuickBooks lacks a couple key payroll, tax features
• Support for QFX and most bank imports
SureInvoice
http://uversainc.com

- Shameless self-promotion
- Operational software for services businesses
- Time tracking, automatic invoice generation, bi-directional integration with Intuit QuickBooks
- Expense tracking, spec or hourly projects, comprehensive feature set
- Uversa uses it to power a lot of our business
Ezybiz
http://ezybiz.sourceforge.net

• Offers a complete general ledger solution with options for product and services
• Actually used in production, some in the medical field, some in ecommerce shops
• Not an off the shelf solution but best bet for web based accounting
• May be unmaintained but it is still relevant
SourceForge/Freshmeat

- If it is Open Source and it is credible it will be on SourceForge and or Freshmeat
- Great search tools on keywords
- SourceForge requires some level of Open Source License, Freshmeat does not
- http://www.freshmeat.net
- Also checkout tigris.org
PHPCollab
http://www.phpcollab.com

- Collaborative development and project management system.
  - Web link management, distribution
  - Good reporting including Gantt charts with JpGraph
  - Clunky Navigation
  - Great documentation
  - Separate client views, managed Discussions
  - Not heavily maintained but feature complete for what it offers
PhpBB2
http://www.phpbb.com

- Definitive user forum software
  - Turn-key
  - Good themes, good usability
  - Multi-language support
  - High profile, active development
    - Gentoo forums prove it can work
    - Invented BBCode markup
  - Performance is hard to scale, ask Gentoo
  - Bad security track record
Mantis

http://www.mantisbt.org

- Bug tracking system
- Email notification
- Similar to BugZilla, much easier to install and use
  - Saved Queries
  - Support for PHP on Windows
  - BBCode markup support
  - Moving to Smarty Templates
- We use this tool probably more than any other
Litmus
http://wiki.mozilla.org/Litmus

- Still CVS but really the only open source tool of its kind
- Used to manage and track user testing of Firefox and the Mozilla suite
- Perfectly suitable for use in the QA of any software
- Proven even in its initial state by Mozilla
- Good range of features, look for a lot more development on it
PHLogger
http://www.phpee.com/

- One of the only open source tools to offer clickstreams
- Covers all the standard web metrics data
- Good choice between web bugs, cookies or Javascript to gather metrics
- Database driven which can have a performance impact
- Also try google analytics
http://www.google.com/analytics/
phpESP

http://phpesp.sourceforge.net

• Easy survey package
• Automatically and graphically build online surveys
• Generates standalone PHP files
• Includes reporting and charting or capability to export to csv/tsv
• This is a really useful tool
• Also see Uversa's phReporting tool from http://www.op-en.org
phpAdsNew
http://phpadsnew.com/two

- Internet advertising bureau system
- Very Impressive Interface
- High quality documentation
  - Banners, images, texts, DHTML in campaigns
  - Targetting and capping of impressions or click-throughs
- Pay for play support
- Good reporting and statistics
- Internet advertising is very complicated!
MediaWiki
http://mediawiki.org

• Wiki System in PHP
  – Popular, The Wikipedia Wiki!
  – Great as “thought management” system

• Often used for spontaneous documentation
  – Many user driven sites build documentation this way for better or worse

• Active development, comprehensive features, revision control
WordPress

http://wordpress.org/about/features

- General blogging software
  - Support for tracebacks, pingbacks, compatible with Moveable Type, Blogger, Zempt
- Lightweight with clean CSS themes
- Standards compliance, XHTML, RSS, XML-RPC, important for syndicated content
- Successor of b2/cafelog
- Support for pings on Weblogs.com or Blo.gs
Webmail

- Highly personal, preferences come strongly into play
- Requirements
  - IMAP or POP
  - Seamless HTTPS, authentication integration
  - Good security track record
  - Support for mobile devices
- I have tried many, squirellmail, xgroupware, and so on.
Horde

http://horde.org

- Personal Application Framework
  - Webmail, Contact Management, Calendaring
  - CVS viewer, file management, time tracking, mail filter
  - RSS aggregator, stickits, presentation builder
  - Bookmark manager, form builder, NNTP client
  - Well audited code, clean design
  - Support for LDAP
  - Supports IMAP, POP3, Also over SSL
  - Comprehensive feature set

- Is it groupware? Do want groupware?
ilohaMail
http://ilohamail.org

• Clean, fairly light weight (i.e. not horde)
• Generally good IMAP performance
• Check out derivatives some of which use AJAX
• Includes calendar/contacts
• Under succession for project management but everything looks positive
phpMyAdmin

http://www.phpmyadmin.net/home_page

- Database Management for MySQL
  - Add, Edit Tables & Databases
  - Visual Privilege Management
  - Process Reporting
  - Table Relation Display
  - Support for Data Grid entry
  - Saved queries

- Don't miss the “hidden” features
  - Data dictionary, table comments, relation handling

- Also available for PostgreSQL, Oracle
WebCards

http://www.mywebcards.net/index.php

- E-card system that can be used for all sorts of promotion
- Fills a niche and does a good job at it
- Send all types of media, Flash, Java, Images etc.
- Support user driven submission of images
PhpList
http://tincan.co.uk/?lid=453

- Definitive mailing list manager for business
- Web based posting of emails
- Track opened mails, comprehensive feature set
- Good un-subscription tracking and management
- PDF generation
- Performance tuning controls
ActionApps
http://actionapps.org/en/Main_Page

- Suite of tools to coordinate communities
- Brings together a nice range of collaboration features
- Very flexible, could be used to organize a garden club or take down dictatorial regime
- Very popular, you have probably seen an action apps site
There is A LOT of Great Open Source Out there!

- Look for a clean code base and code documentation.
- Popularity is important, unpopular projects die on the vine.
- Sourceforge.net, Freshmeat.net, tigris.org, planet.gnome.org
- Google is a great source, try and reference existing projects to find alternatives
Parting Gifts

• Linux on Powerbook try Fluffy Bunnies, no really
• Try Gnomeolicious drag and drop applet for Del.icio.us: http://www.nongnu.org/gnomolicious/
• Frozen Bubble: http://www.frozen-bubble.org/
• Upstart groupware try Zimbra
  – http://sourceforge.net/projects/zimbra/
• Zipcode to city, state database
  – http://trac.civicspacelabs.com/cgi-bin/trac.cgi/browser/trunk/database/?rev=706
SCALE is Great

- Huge thanks to Ilan, Shyam and crew for another great year of SCALE!
- We are hiring PHP developers, Project Coordinators, etc.
  - send resumes to careers@uversainc.com
- Come see me and Uversa at the Linux Desktop Summit in San Diego April 24, 15th