

# Top 50 OS Business Apps '07

Welcome Back!

Presented by:

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Newly updated for 2007

Talk available from [www.clear-health.com](http://www.clear-health.com)

# Who Am I?

- CEO of Open Source Medical Software Company
- Using open source/linux since 1993
- Frequent speaker/writer on Open Source
- Contributed to projects such as XRMS, Apache, Debian, PHP, Smarty, phpMyAdmin...
- Enthusiastic advocate for Open Source, it really works better

# About this talk

- This talk moves quick, we will have some time for questions or catch me one to one afterwards or in booth #29 later this afternoon
- It is overwhelming, try and single our 1 or 2 things to definitely try.
- This years orders the applications by achievement, effort, and quality, feel free to disagree and email me at [duhlman@escanovus.com](mailto:duhlman@escanovus.com)

This talk NOT approved by the FDA and considered experimental

Side effects for talk may include:

A stylized blue logo for the FDA, with the letters 'FDA' in a bold, blocky font. The letters are filled with a blue-to-white gradient and have a blue outline.

- Hand paralysis from trying to write URLs, seriously 2 people were taken to the ER last year. Just download the presentation at [www.clear-health.com](http://www.clear-health.com).
- Irrational enthusiasm for Open Source
- Nausea, vomiting and or death, in the clinical trial it was just one guy, my guess spinach
- Talk once yearly

# Year in Review

- Next Generation Desktops Released
  - Suse 10.2
  - Ubuntu 6.1
- Everybody and Your Mother “Went Open Source”
- OS Conferences, organizations, applications reached age of majority
- Merger Mania!
- A little boring which is really good news!

# #1 Inkscape

[www.inkscape.org](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](http://openclipart.org), all SVG

# WOW



Top 50 Open Source Business Applications '07

# #2 MySQL

[www.mysql.com](http://www.mysql.com)

- Real Enterprise Maturity
- Transactions, Triggers, Views OH My!
- Replication, clustering
- Great Performance
- Great Secondary tools phpMyAdmin to MySQL Administrator
- Unstoppable Growth
- Definitive strategic advantages



# #3 Gnome

In your favorite distribution, [www.gnome.com](http://www.gnome.com)

- Desktop system
- Next generation eye candy with XGL support
- Focus on simplified clean interface
- Intuitive to new users and users from windows
- Strong integration with tools like Tomboy, Beagle, Evolution
- Very business friendly, good printing and font defaults

# #4 Tomboy

[www.beatniksoftware.com/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 problem
- Good Searching, integration with tools like
- Beagle
- Plays well with Evolution
- I use this more than almost anything else

# #5 Evolution

In your distribution

- Outlook replacement for Linux
- Includes very good SPAM filtering and anti-malware design
- Very nice virtual folders feature
- Can talk to Microsoft Exchange or Open Groupware (OGO) to offer complete calendaring/contacts/email
- Performance concerns? I have 18GB of email in it and it runs pretty well...

# #6 Open Suse 10.2

[www.opensuse.org](http://www.opensuse.org)

- Very business friendly Desktop
- Intelligent defaults “out of the box”
- Nice fonts, ready to print
- Good for novice and power user alike
- Includes extra wireless drivers ready to go
- Update system is not great, not for server use
- Missing Video and Audio codecs due to licensing

# #7 Ubuntu 6.1

[www.ubuntu.com](http://www.ubuntu.com)

- Power user oriented
- Very progressive, lots of bells and whistles available, “testing” packages
- Lots of choice in configuration, applications
- Changes frequently, sometimes not super stable
- Apt-get update system, not for server use
- Has all the expected bells and whistles, XGL

# #8 Redhat Enterprise Linux/CentOS

[www.redhat.com](http://www.redhat.com) - [www.centos.org](http://www.centos.org)

- Excellent for server operations, Fairly conservative
- RHEL is relatively expensive
- CentOS is community support version of RHEL source, has CentOS plus package which are more progressive
- Why don't many system admins like it?
- RHEL represents commoditization of server OS
- Performs exceptionally well out of the box on major hardware, HP, DELL, IBM

# #9 Jabber/GAIM/Etc

[www.jabber.org](http://www.jabber.org)

- IM is a vital part of progressive businesses
- Transmit documents
- Works with google talk
- Inexpensive, fast, secure means to have communication between employees
- Consider security and content issues
- Standards based
- Think about application integration

# #10 Asterisk

[www.asterisk.org](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
- Not 100% Open Source but extremely easy and inexpensive, check out SwitchVOX appliances [www.switchvox.com](http://www.switchvox.com)
- Application integration is a “Next Big Thing”



# #11 OpenOffice

In your distribution or [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org)

- Definitive OS Office Suite, Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Drawing/Diagramming and Presentation Tool
- 2.X is extremely compelling, integral PDF support
- MySQL and OpenOffice can be easily combined to add power to documents and spreadsheets
- Great compatibility with Microsoft Office
- Great online tutorials and documentation
- Clipart at [www.openclipart.org](http://www.openclipart.org)
- Criticisms equally applicable to MS Office, change is change

# #12 FireFox

[www.firefox.org](http://www.firefox.org)

- Did IE 7 come out? I was too busy using FireFox to notice
- Everything you would ever need in a web browser, about twice as fast as IE
- Used to have transition concerns, seen organizations of novice users as large as 700 transition in a day or two
- Plugins are the secret sauce, [www.mozdev.org](http://www.mozdev.org)
- Checkout Down-them-all, web developer, color picker, lots more

# #12 Media Wiki

[www.mediawiki.org](http://www.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
- Exploding popularity in all kinds of business

# #13 PHPMyAdmin

[www.phpmyadmin.net](http://www.phpmyadmin.net)

- Database Management for MySQL
  - Add, Edit Tables & Databases
  - Process Reporting/ Table Relation Display
  - Support for Data Grid entry/Saved queries
- Don't miss the “hidden” features
  - Data dictionary, table comments, relation handling
- Beware secure setup, bots and worms now looks for this

# #14 SugarCRM

[www.sugarcrm.com](http://www.sugarcrm.com)

- Not quite open source, dubious license
- Excellent feature support, comprehensive system for phone, mail, email campaigns
- Excellent integration with other applications, particularly joomla for ticket systems/support desk
- Needs a lot of horsepower to perform well, make sure to optimize with additional PHP modules, APC and JSON
- Feature for feature with salesforce.com, better in my opinion. Difficult to buy, sales people don't seem to know product well.

# #15 Beagle

In Suse distributions

- Search tool for the Personal Information Space
- Semantic understanding Email, files, images
- Integrates with FireFox, Evolution, Tomboy, and others
- Builds on Google, Yahoo desktop search tools
- Useable on latest Open Suse
- Beware power of the search

# #16 Scribus

[www.scribus.net](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 color space management
- Aging codebase, more activity, still not fully mature

# #17 K3B

In your distribution or [www.k3b.org](http://www.k3b.org)

- CD/DVD 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 CD's to MP3 or OGGw



# #18 Joomla

[www.joomla.org](http://www.joomla.org)

- Main Marketing Content, front pages of website
  - Great default templates, clean and crisp
  - Multi format delivery PDF, print, email
- The sales guys can use it. The designers like it.
- Very Easy.
- Great performance for such a dynamic system.
- Thousands of Live Sites
- Integrates well with SugarCRM, their site runs it/mambo

# #18 Joomla Cont.

- Templates compatible with Macromedia
- Dreamweaver, CSS Driven
  - WYSIWYG Oriented
  - 100% web standards compliant
  - Needs a more flexible security framework
  - Security issues with default file permissions
- Previously Mambo, forked
- Mambo loosing momentum, commercially supported

# #19 Exponent

[www.exponentcms.org](http://www.exponentcms.org)

- Great usability, very accessible to nontechnical 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

# #20 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.sourceforge.net>
- <http://www.freshmeat.net>
- Also checkout [tigris.org](http://tigris.org)

# #21 VMWare

[www.vmware.com](http://www.vmware.com)

- It isn't open source, why is it in this @#%&\$! talk?
- Vital tool for the Open Source Desktop business user, lets you take advantage of an OS desktop when you otherwise might not be able to
- Running Windows on Linux is much faster than Linux on windows, hell Windows is just plain faster than even on native hardware
- Newer faster computers make performance good, need 2-4GB ram for big apps like Adobe/Macromedia though

# #22 Fud Forum

[www.fudforum.org](http://www.fudforum.org)

- Web based forums software
- All of the features of PhpBB
- Faster, much more secure
- Turn-key /Good themes, good usability
- Multi-language support
- Being user more and more
- Created by Ilia Alshanetsky, Core PHP Developer, Commercially supported

# #23 Mantis

[www.mantis.org](http://www.mantis.org)

- Bug tracking system w/Email notification
- Similar to BugZilla, much easier to install and use
- Support for PHP on Windows
  - BBCode markup support/Moving to Smarty
- This tool can be a core of a development for it company/department
- Consider SugarCRM/Joomla for ticket system

# #24 ZenCart

[www.zencart.com](http://www.zencart.com)

- Prodigal son of 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
- Consider one of several Joomla cart extensions



# #25 Eclipse

[www.eclipse.org](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
- File and project management very helpful great to switch between multiple projects of different languages
- Has a large footprint
- Now support for editing docbook

# #26 Ekiga

[www.ekiga.org](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

# #27 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
- Support for AD, Encryption and compression modules
- Can be configured for system with minimal resources
- Licensing requirements often apply

# #28 RDesktop

In your distribution or [www.rdesktop.org](http://www.rdesktop.org)

- 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

# #29 Subversion

[subversion.tigris.org](http://subversion.tigris.org)

- Lots of business cases for revision control but primarily for source code or text/html
- GUI tools like Tortoise or folders make it accessible to regular users instead of developers
- 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

# #30 GIMP

[www.gimp.org](http://www.gimp.org)

- 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
- Still frustratingly limited for people coming from Adobe

# #31 iFolder

[www.ifolder.com](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, some server options now open source
- Open Source server side system rapidly maturing

# #32 Planner

<http://live.gnome.org/Planner>

- Project 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



# #33 F-Spot

[www.gnome.org/projects/f-spot](http://www.gnome.org/projects/f-spot)

- Photo management the 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!

# #34 AutoPano-sift

<http://user.cs.tu-berlin.de/~nowozin/autopano-siftd>

- 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](http://behind-the-wall.com), support for Windows, Patent questions

# #35 Thunderbird

[www.mozilla.org](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.
- Your only good solution on windows

# #36 Zimbra

[www.zimbra.com](http://www.zimbra.com)

- Web oriented groupware solution
- Comprehensive feature set
- Nice web client, support for mobile devices
- Similar to Outlook web access
- Dubious hybrid approach, most integration like MAPI is in commercial version
- Calendaring etc.

# #37 Open Groupware

[www.pengroupware.org](http://www.pengroupware.org)

- Groupware suite competing with MS Exchange
- Email, calendaring, collaboration
- Difficult to setup, some stability issues
- Open source MAPI plugins now available, Evolution plugin works particularly well
- Look for InstantOGO
- Not fully enterprise scalable, but is exchange either?

# #38 Zabbix

[www.zabbix.com](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
- Has nice support for application specific monitoring
- Lots of competition in this space, keep eyes open for new entrants
- Interesting politics for patches, still under the GPL

# #39 Smarty

[smarty.php.net](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?
- Many developers don't like it, no cool factor, too pragmatic...

# #40 Compiere

[www.compiere.org](http://www.compiere.org)

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



# #41 GNU Cash

[www.gnucash.org](http://www.gnucash.org)

- Currently the only fully functioning 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
- Accounting is weak spot in Open Source

# #42 SureInvoice

[www.op-en.org](http://www.op-en.org)

- Operational software for services businesses
- Time tracking, automatic invoice generation, bidirectional
- Integration with Intuit QuickBooks
- Expense tracking, spec or hourly projects, comprehensive feature set
- Now used in several medium to large size companies
- Needs a lot of setup

# #43 PHPCollab

[www.php-collab.com](http://www.php-collab.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, getting stale but a good solution if it does what you need and you want web based

# #44 Litmus

[wiki.mozilla.org/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
- PHP version now available, email me

# #45 PHLogger

## 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
- Consider Joomla extensions or also google analytics <http://www.google.com/analytics>

# #46 PHP ESP

[phpesp.sourceforge.net](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
- Still the only OS tool of its kind that is comprehensive, let me know if you have used others
- This is a really useful tool

# #47 Openads

[www.openads.org](http://www.openads.org)

- Internet advertising bureau system
- High quality documentation
  - Banners, images, texts, DHTML in campaigns
  - Targetting and capping of impressions or clickthroughs
- Pay for play support
- Good reporting and statistics
- Internet advertising is very complicated!
- Now enterprise edition also available OS, all GPL

# #48 WordPress

## [www.wordpress.org](http://www.wordpress.org)

- 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/cafeblog
- Support for pings on Weblogs.com or Blo.gs
- Still the best OS game in town, leads in many areas lots of plugins



# #49 iIohaMail

[www.ilohamail.org](http://www.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
- If you don't need Zimbra or OGO but something simple
- Not very actively maintained but looks at derivatives

# #50 Action Apps

## [www.actionapps.org](http://www.actionapps.org)

- 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
- Open Source version of MoveOn.org

# Wrap Up

- Thanks for coming, Thanks very much to the SCALE crew and Ilan, another great show
- Check out next years Open Source Health Care Summit, email me
- Definitive Year for Open Source
- Watch out for commercialization and license games
- Nominate new apps by emailing me, [duhlman@escanovus.com](mailto:duhlman@escanovus.com)
- Talk available from [www.clear-health.com](http://www.clear-health.com) in 30-60 minutes