

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



<http://www.novell.com/products/desktop/features/evolution.html>

- 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 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



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 there 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 color space 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

<http://www.realvnc.com/> or <http://www.tightvnc.com/> or
<http://ultravnc.sourceforge.net/>

- 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.dbltree.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 tends 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, boyscout 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 due 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

<http://www.chainreactionweb.com/info/hosting/oscommerce-hosting.php>

- 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...



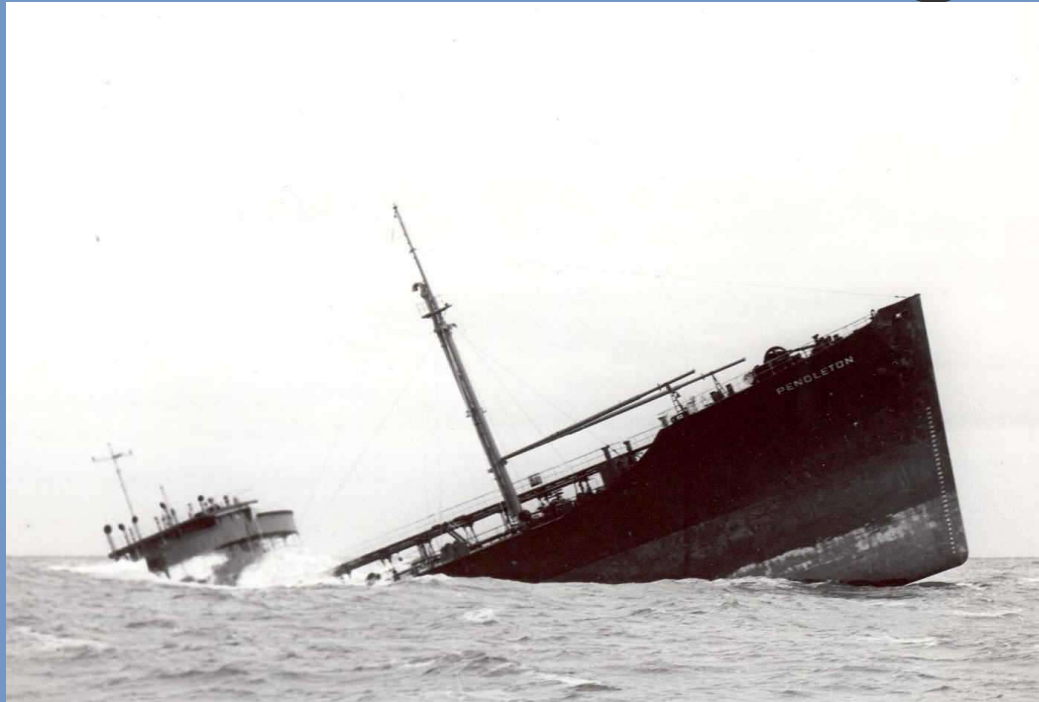
Zencart

<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.sourceforge.net>
- <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, squirrelmail, 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 sort 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



Wrap up

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
 - http://developer.imendio.com/wiki/Fluffy_Bunnies
- 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

