Open Source Software and Libraries

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Source Software and Libraries

Open SourceSoftware

Through the years, technology has allowed many aspects of our lives to be enhanced and our standard of living increased. The creation of the computer, cell phone, internet and interactive software have caused the world to become more globalized and for information to become more accessible to the general public. As with any type of evolution, the standards of all technologies have been raised to accommodate our new needs for information and data processing. Open source software (OSS) is simply one of these evolutions. Through researching OSS, there are many pros and cons; many people and businesses who think it is the best form of software, and there are others who completely disagree with all that open source software has to offer. This paper discusses these pros and cons, positives and negatives if you will, of the social implications of OSS. Open source software is a type of software that can be issue that arises when discussing open source software is the topic of OSS being network friendly. Advocates claim OSS is quite networkable and according to NETC.org, more than half the World Wide Web runs on Apache, which is an open source solution . The argument for those against OSS brings us back to the cost argument, that it is not compatible with all other networks and therefore is more expensive to operate. Along with low-cost and being network friendly, OSS provides the opportunity to customize software to peoples' needs. Proprietary software is designed for a specific intent and is not customizable to a person's needs . Thus, people who are pro-OSS argue this type of software is worth its weight in gold, as it can be used to fit a very specific personal or business niche without the extremely high cost of the same type of highly specialized proprietary software. In an article by Walt Scacchi, there is another issue introduced which consists of government use of open source software. According to Scacchi, "Open government seeks to open information for public sharing, discussion, review, ongoing development and refinement, and unrestricted reproduction (replication and redistribution) the "source code" of the products and processes of the business of government." This is a much debated issue as people are mainly concerned with privacy if the government elected to use open source software. Advocates say that open source software from government agencies will allow the public to become more informed about the system, processes, downfalls or shortcoming, and what aspects are being done accurately and effectively by the government.

Open Source Software for Libraries:

1. Library Automation:

.1. Koha: Integrated Library System

Koha is a promising full featured open source ILS (integrated library system) currently being used by libraries all over the world. For those of you out there unfamiliar of what an ILS is, well, it is a system of keeping track of the operations of a library - payroll, expenses, purchases, and most importantly,

2. NewGenLib

NewGenLib (New Generation Library) is an Integrated Library Automation and Networking Solution Developed by Verus Solutions Pvt Ltd and The Kesavan Institute of Information and Knowledge Management, India. In March 2005, NewGenLib version 1.0 was released and versions 2.0 and 2.1 have come up later. On 9th January 2008, NewGenLib has been declared Open Source Software under GNU GPL Licence by the Verus Solutions Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad, India.

.3. Evergreen

Evergreen ILS is another option when researching open source ILS options. Developed by Equinox Software, Evergreen is a robust, enterprise level ILS solution developed to be capable of supporting the workload of large libraries in a fault-tolerant system. It too is standards compliant and uses the OPAC interface, and offers many features including flexible administration, work-flow customization, adaptable

2.Digital Library:

1.Greenstone Digital Library Software

The Greenstone digital library software is an open-source system for the construction and presentation of information collections. It builds collections with different document and metadata types. The aim of the Greenstone software is to empower users, particularly in universities, libraries, and other public service institutions, to build their own digital libraries.

2. DSpace

Dspace is a groundbreaking digital institutional repository that captures, stores, indexes, preserves, and redistributes the intellectual output of a university's research faculty in digital formats. It manages and distributes digital items, made up of digital files and allows for the creation, indexing, and searching of associated metadata to locate and retrieve the items. DSpace design and developed by

3. EPrints

Eprints is an open source software package for building open access repositories that are compliant with the Open

Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting. It shares many of the features commonly seen in Document Management systems, but is primarily used for institutional

4. Fedora

Fedora open source software gives organizations a flexible service-oriented architecture for managing and delivering their digital content. At its core is a powerful digital object model that supports multiple views of each digital object and the relationships among digital objects. Digital objects can encapsulate locallymanaged content or make reference to remote content. Dynamic views are possible by associating web services with objects. Digital objects exist within a repository architecture that supports a variety of management functions. All functions of Fedora, both at the object and repository level, are exposed as web services. These functions can be protected with fine-grained access control policies. This unique

3. Web Publishing:
1. Wordpress

Wordpress started out as a quick, free, open-source solution blogging solution just a few years ago; today it is a perfect alternative to building a web site from scratch. In addition to being free to use (and easy to install), the Wordpress community has exploded, with thousands of users and programmers creating custom themes and plug-ins to completely change the way the software looks and operates. The most important aspect of the software is it's easy-touse interface and content management system. With it's visual rich editor, anyone can publish text and photos to the web site. Other options include multiple authors (with separate log-ins), built in RSS (Real Simple Syndication) technology to keep subscribers updated, and a comment system that allows readers to interact with the sites content. A fantastic way to communicate with patrons, staff, etc.

2. Drupal

Drupal is another open source web publishing option that allows an individual or a community of users to easily publish, manage and organize a wide variety of content on a website. Tens of thousands of people and organizations have used Drupal to power scores of different web sites, including Community web portals, Discussion sites, Corporate web sites, Intranet applications, Personal web sites or blogs, E-commerce

4. Other Computer Programs:
1. Ubuntu

Ubuntu the most popular player in the Linux based operating system game. (Linux is the open-source answer to Microsoft's Windows operating system; Ubuntu is a modification of Linux). Ubuntu is a perfect solution for libraries who need to upgrade their older computers using outdated Windows or for bulk computer purchases requiring a new operating system. Many libraries feature computers for users to gain access to the internet, and that being the only function those computers serve. Why pay for all the unwanted things on Windows when you just need to get online? You might be a little scared at first of a new operating system, but just like anything else, the hardest part is getting started. Plus, there's plenty of Ubuntu installations help out there to give

2. Open Office

OpenOffice.org is a multiplatform and multilingual office productivity suite and vendor-neutral OpenDocument standard from OASIS.

.3. Firefox

Firefox is the Mozilla organizations answer to Microsoft's Internet Explorer web browser, and has taken the web by storm over the past few years as the biggest competitor to IE in quite some time. Firefox offers a much more secure browsing experience compared to IE (mostly because the majority if the population uses IE and that's who the bad guys are targeting). The biggest draw, however, is the modifications that can be made to Firefox through its many plug-ins, which can make using the net more constructive. Firefox runs on various versions of Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X and Linux.

4. Thunderbird

Thunderbird Firefox's little brother program, Thunderbird, is the Mozilla foundations opensource alternative to Microsoft's Outlook Express. The program works exactly like Outlook, providing you with a secure and safe desktop email solution. And just like Firefox, the open source programming community has created free add-ons to make the Thunderbird email client customized to your liking. If you absolutely need a desktop email source program you need.

5. GIMPshop

GIMPshop is a modification of the free/open source graphics program GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP), intended to replicate the feel of Adobe Photoshop. Its primary purpose is to make users of Photoshop feel comfortable using GIMP. It shares GIMP's feature list, customisability, and availability on multiple platforms, while addressing some common criticisms regarding the program's interface: GIMPshop modifies the menu structure to more closely resemble Photoshop and adjusts the program's terminology to match Adobe's. In the Windows version, GIMPshop uses a plugin called 'Deweirdifyer' to combine Since March 2006, it supports Photoshop plugins, through a host plugin that can run on Microsoft Windows or Linux. All of GIMP's own plugins (filters, brushes, etc.) remain available.

6. NVU

Nvu (**"N-view"**) is a discontinued WYSIWYG HTML editor, based on the Composer component of Mozilla Application Suite and Gecko 1.7. It is a common WYSIWYG editor for Linux and is intended to be an open source equivalent to proprietary software like Microsoft FrontPage and Macromedia HTML or CSS to use. The project was started by and sponsored by Linspire. Linspire hired Daniel Glazman, former Netscape Communications Corporation employee and CEO/Founder of Disruptive Innovations, to be lead developer. Nvu is available for Linux, Mac OS X and Microsoft

7. PDF Creator

The PDF ("portable document format") file is an industry standard format that everybody uses everyday. The purpose of creating a PDF file is usually to provide an important document for display that cannot be modified by the reader (unless permission is given). Many programs exist that will enable you to create your own PDF files, but they require you to spend money, which is not in our budget. Instead,

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