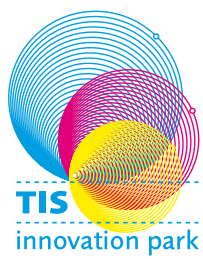


Meeting Point:
13.11.2009
8:30 - 16:30
CTS "Luigi Einaudi",
Asiago

FREE SOFTWARE: FOR INNOVATIVE BUSINESS!

Program

13.11.2009, Centro Formazione Professionale CTS "Luigi Einaudi", Asiago



Program

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Kick-off: "South Tyrol, a Free Software province"
Barbara Repetto
Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano – Alto Adige (Italy), Provincial Minister for Innovation, Information Technology and Finance
Hubert Hofer
TIS innovation park, General Director
Riccardo Cicolini
Centro Formazione Professionale CTS "Luigi Einaudi" (Italy), Director
- 9:30 **Karel de Vriendt**
European Commission (Belgium), Directorate-general of Informatics, Head of Unit
"Open Source activities within the context of the IDABC programme"
- 10:00 **Simon Phipps**
Sun Microsystems (USA), Chief Open Source Officer
"A Software Freedom Scorecard"
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 Annual South Tyrol Free Software Award: SFSaward2009
Linux User Group Bolzano-Bozen-Bulsan
- 11:20 **Sam Ruby**
IBM Corporation (USA), Senior Technical Staff Member
"What will the WEB look like tomorrow? (HTML 5)"
- 12:00 **Josep Mitjà**
Openbravo (Spain), Chief Operating Officer
"How to build an Open Source business to compete with SAP?"
- 12:40 Lunch – Buffet
- 14:00 **Carlo Piana**
Free Software Foundation Europe (Italy), External General Counsel, Attorney
"When Cloud Computing Gets Cloudy"
- 14:30 **Dario Freddi**
KDE (Italy), KDE Team
"The KDE Community: History, Structure and Program"
- 15:00 **Andrea Bonani**
Intendenza Scolastica Italiana [Italian Schools Board] (Italy) - Technical and learning support group for new technology
"Free software in Italian schools in the Province of Bolzano"

15:30 Results of a week of community developing in South Tyrol

Federico Mena Quintero

Novell (Mexico), Co-Founder of Gnome Project and Ximian
"Hacking Gnome"

Walter Bender

Sugar Lab (USA), Executive Director
"Activity: Sugar Camp"

Moderation:

Patrick Ohnewein

TIS innovation park (Italy), Head of Free Software Center South Tyrol



Karel De Vriendt

European Commission (Belgium) - Directorate-general of Informatics, Head of Unit

"Open Source activities within the context of the IDABC programme"

Within the context of the IDABC programme (<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc>), the Commission has worked with the European Union Member States and other participants in the programme to distribute information about the use of open source software by public administrations in Europe and to promote the idea of sharing software, especially developed for and paid by public administrations via the use of open source licenses.

The most visible results of that work are the recommendations on open specifications and open source in the European Interoperability Framework, the open source observatory and repository (OSOR) and the European Union Public License (EUPL). Outside the strict context of the IDABC programme, the Commission is an important user of open source software itself and leads by example, making a number of IT solutions developed for the Commission available to others, via OSOR, under the EUPL.

Biography

Karel De Vriendt is a Dutch speaking Belgian who holds a nuclear engineering degree and post-graduate degrees in IT and Public Management. After having worked for seven years as a software engineer and project manager in a large multinational telecommunications company, he started to work for the Commission in what is now the Information Society and Media directorate-general, following-up research projects related to software engineering. Thereafter, he worked for fifteen years in the Commission's internal IT service, managing projects and teams working on electronic mail, networking and telecommunications, user support and application development. Since mid 2005, he is responsible, in the Enterprise and Industry DG, for the pan-European eGovernment services unit. This unit is responsible for the IDABC programme that has as its objective to „identify, support and promote the development and establishment of pan-European eGovernment services and the underlying infrastructure supporting the Member States and the Community in the implementation, within their respective areas of competence, of Community policies and activities, achieving substantial benefits for public administrations, businesses and citizens."



Simon Phipps

Sun Microsystems (USA) - Chief Open Source Officer

"A Software Freedom Scorecard"

As free and open source software has entered the mainstream, it's become harder and harder to identify suppliers that cultivate software freedom just from their license choice (as even Richard Stallman now admits). The answer could be a Software Freedom Scorecard, identifying key enablers of software freedom for communities and deployers alike. Hear why it's needed & what it might entail.

Biography

A well-known and respected leader in the Free software community, computer industry veteran Simon Phipps has been involved at a strategic level in some of the world's leading technology companies. He has worked in such hands-on roles as field engineer, programmer and systems analyst, as well as run a software publishing company. He worked with OSI standards in the eighties, on the first commercial collaborative conferencing software in the nineties, and helped introduce both Java and XML at IBM. Today he takes an active interest in Free and Open Source software organisations, including the advisory boards of OpenSolaris, OpenJDK, OpenSPARC and GNOME, and is a widely read thought-leader. In mid-2000 he joined Sun Microsystems where he helped pioneer Sun's employee blogging, social media and community engagement programmes. In 2005 he was appointed Chief Open Source Officer at Sun Microsystems, coordinating Sun's extensive participation in Free and Open Source software communities. In that role he has overseen the conversion to Free software of the full Java platform, the Solaris UNIX operating system, the SPARC architecture and the rest of Sun's broad portfolio, all under OSI-approved Free licenses. He has also been an outspoken advocate of the value of Open Document Format (ODF) for businesses and governments. Most recently he has been an advisor to local and national government agencies across Europe, the Pacific Rim and Latin America as they have devised and implemented strategies around Free and Open Source software.



Sam Ruby

IBM Corporation (USA) - Senior Technical Staff Member

"What will the WEB look like tomorrow? (HTML 5)"

Despite being in incubation for over five years, it is only within the past year HTML5 has burst into public consciousness seemingly out of nowhere as a major highlighted feature in an impressive series of public releases from browser and toolkit vendors. This presentation will map out the confusing landscape of standards and products, and outline the future impact that this important effort will have on the web.

Biography

Sam Ruby is a prominent software developer who has made significant contributions to many of the Apache Software Foundation's open source software projects, and to the standardization of web feeds via his involvement with the Atom web feed standard and the feedvalidator.org web service. He is the co-chair of the W3C's HTML Working Group. He currently holds a Senior Technical Staff Member position in the Emerging Technologies Group of IBM. Ruby has been active within various open source projects. He is a current Director of the Apache Software Foundation, as well as being both the foundation's Secretary and Vice President of Legal Affairs, and the former Chairman of the Apache Jakarta Project. He also actively contributes to numerous Apache projects; the ASF Committers page provides a complete and current listing of Apache projects to which he is actively contributing. Notably, he was one of the early Ant contributors, as well as being the creator of Gump. Ruby is the principal maintainer of the feedvalidator.org feed validator, which he developed along with Mark Pilgrim. It's able to validate Atom feeds as well as RSS 0.90, 0.91, 0.92, 0.93, 0.94, 1.0, 1.1 and 2.0 feeds. He contributed to the PHP Group, in particular to the Java Extension. He has done development in the Ruby programming language. He is the author of Venus, an Atom/RSS feed aggregator, the codebase for which began as a radical refactoring of the Planet 2.0 feed aggregator. He is a developer member of the html5lib project, with his primary contribution being the initial port of html5lib to the Ruby programming language. Ruby has been active within various standards development organizations, including ECMA standardization of the .NET Framework CLI, and was the convener of the ECMA TC39 group that standardized the Common Language Infrastructure for Microsoft's .NET Framework. Ruby is a member of the ECMAScript technical committee (ECMAScript TC39). Ruby is also the co-author, with Leonard Richardson, of the book RESTful Web Services (published in 2007), and also co-author, with Dave Thomas, David Heinemeier Hansson, et al., of the book Agile Web Development with Rails, Third Edition (published in March, 2009).



Josep Mitjà

Openbravo (Spain) - Chief Operating Officer

"How to build an Open Source business to compete with SAP?"

The speaker will tell us about his experience building Openbravo, the company behind the leading open source ERP. He will elaborate on the do's and don'ts to build a successful business in open source, explain what are the most important challenges and debunk some of the well spread myths about open source.

Agenda:

The Openbravo story

- The Openbravo ERP
- The Openbravo business model
- Funding and building the company

Learnings from Openbravo

- Community
- Business model

Recommendations for entrepreneurs

Biography

Josep is in charge of Openbravo's Product Strategy and Business Development unit. Among many activities in Josep's wide range of responsibilities, he leads the definition and execution of the product strategy and marketing approach, drives business development activities, builds corporate alliances and is in charge of defining the international growth model, Openbravo's web presence, as well as Openbravo's marketing & communication initiatives and IT & Systems department. Lastly, Josep is also an Openbravo Board member and a Board member of the Open Solutions Alliance (OSA), which Openbravo co-founded. Prior to joining Openbravo, Josep was a principal with DiamondCluster International (now Oliver Wyman), where he worked in more than 10 countries across 3 continents advising senior executives in the high tech industry. In the start of his career, he worked for BASF in Germany and Spain. Josep holds an MBA from IESE in Barcelona, and from MIT Sloan School of Management in Boston. Previously he graduated in Telecommunications Engineering in the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC). Josep also serves on the board on the Open Solutions Alliance, an international organization that aims to promote the use of open source in the enterprise and facilitate the interoperability among the leading open solutions.



Carlo Piana

Free Software Foundation Europe (Italy) - External General Counsel, Attorney

"When Cloud Computing Gets Cloudy"

Cloud computing is the buzzword of the moment. Any company announcing a move to provide Cloud computing (CC), or Software As a Service (SaAS) increases its stock value. Is it actually something new, a paradigm change or just an evolution of something we already knew? Is it the new IT bubble? And legally, what are the challenges, the threats and the opportunities that CC? The recent Microsoft – T-Mobile mishap, where the two companies managed to lose a considerable amount of users' data seems to suggest that while people is concerned by new issues, getting back to the basics is also advisable, like "have a redundant backup". Also for Free Software there is something new, something old, something borrowed. If CC is a paradigm shift, Free Software is best placed to be THE driving force. But CC is – unlike "traditional" computing – a way to hand over the control of the IT infrastructure. Others are in the lead, others take all the decisions, the user just connects to the outlet. Copyleft relies on copyright, but needs distribution to be triggered, and in SAaS does not involve distribution. What's at stake for us? What we can do? Is it possible to have a less cloudy sky?

Biography

Carlo Piana is a lawyer by training and a Free Software advocate by passion. He has been practising IT law for more than 15 years, first as part of bigger law firms, then focussing his practice on software, technology, standardization, data protection and digital liberties in general. General Counsel to the Free Software Foundation Europe, he advises small, medium and large Free Software projects, public authorities (such as the Regione Emilia Romagna) as well as private clients ranging from SMEs to Fortune 100 corporations. Some of his activities have hit the headlines, such as the epic and multi-front antitrust battle between the EC Commission and Microsoft – where he represents both the FSFE and the Samba Team – the standardization of OOXML at ISO/IEC and more recently defending Oracle in its attempted acquisition of Sun Microsystems. While being practising as a solo lawyer, he has formed an initiative coordinating various independent IT- and Free Software-concerned colleagues in Italy: Array (<http://arraylaw.eu>). He publishes a blog on Digital Liberties: "Law is Freedom" (<http://piana.eu>) and walks his talk.



Dario Freddi

KDE (Italy) - KDE Team

"The KDE Community: History, Structure and Program"

KDE is a desktop which aims to bring a free, modern and complete desktop to the average and enterprise user. We will discuss the KDE product and the KDE Global Community which is its source. We will begin by introducing the KDE Vision, describing the components and foundations that helped shape the KDE concept of the Desktop of the Future, with an overview of the KDE development tools, which made possible their extraordinary evolution of the last 2 years. The second part of the presentation will be a thorough guided demo of KDE 4.4, the next release, now in development, and scheduled for release January 2010. We will see how KDE's emphasis on usability, matching architecture and implementation to user needs, drives KDE development, and give special attention to:

- the PIM suite and Akonadi, to show the capabilities of KDE in an enterprise environment.
- the new Authorization framework, based on PolicyKit, and its capabilities in a multiuser environment, its future development, and Kiosk
- the plasma workspace, which is intended to be shaped to the user's needs and to increase productivity

We will see how KDE adapts easily to a wide range of user requirements and environments, how this is linked to its global community, and provide some hints of possible future direction and features.

Biography

Dario Freddi lives in Milano. An early passion for computers is due to his father, and interest in Linux and coding soon followed. Beginning with web development in PHP, he soon found himself developing in C and C++. Freddi was attracted to the KDE Community, and work with KDEmod/Chakra. He developed a front end to the pacman Package Manager (Arch Linux) and an installer for the distribution. He soon was an active KDE contributor, and currently maintains the power management and the authorization stacks in kdebase and kdelibs, and contributes to the network management stack, Solid, and in some other small parts of KDE. He is a regular KDE speaker and contributor to KDE European Meetings, as well as the Funambol developer Conference and the Milano Linux Day. He is a student at Politecnico di Milano in Information Engineering, and at the same time working part-time as a consultant and network administrator for a company based in Milan. His main passions are, aside from KDE and Free Software, playing music and playing basketball.



Andrea Bonani

Intendenza Scolastica Italiana [Italian Schools Board] (Italy) - Technical and learning support group for new technology

"Free software in Italian schools in the Province of Bolzano"

Free Upgrade Southtyrol's Schools (FUSS) is a project that has been upgrading the computer systems in all Italian schools within the Autonomous Province of Bolzano since summer 2005, replacing the software with proprietary licence used in teaching with the GNU/Linux FUSS distribution, developed as part of the project and released under a free licence. The basic idea of the project is to consider IT as a transversal teaching tool and not as a specific subject or simply for training in the use of a few software packages, when instead it is a valid learning tool. In line with this choice, we are giving out the software used in our schools to students, teachers and families, so that we might foster a knowledge of computers based on sharing and the dissemination of knowledge. The first and fundamental criterion used to realise the distribution of FUSS is that of only distributing free software. This stems from a series of different considerations:

- coherence on a philosophical and political level with regard to the choice to use free software.
- the possibility to install the software that is part of the FUSS project not only in schools, but also to distribute it amongst all students and families and to be able to do so legally.
- the possibility to edit and adapt the software and installation procedures to suit specific needs, which is only possible if the program is issued under a free licence.

The second criterion is that of maintainability. One of the great advantages of free software is being able to use whatever has already been created by the community. Therefore, we have decided to rely on an infrastructure that is already tried and tested, available and able to guarantee reliability and maintainability over time. The third criterion is modularity: it must be possible to assemble FUSS or take it apart and adapt it to various learning environments (for example, elementary, middle and high schools).

Biography

Andrea Bonani, teaches mathematics and science at a middle school. He was born in Merano in 1966 and attended school in Bolzano, where he currently resides. He graduated in Earth Sciences from the University of Padua and since 1995, he has been teaching in the lower secondary schools of our province. In 1999 he took a specialisation course in "Communication in Education and Learning" at the Department of Education Science of the University of Padua. In 2005, on the occasion of changeover to free software on the computer systems of Italian schools (<http://www.fuss.bz.it>), he became part of the learning technology support group of the Italian Schools Board, in the role of learning and technical consultant to teachers and school representatives for schools network use and management.

Federico Mena Quintero

Novell (Mexico) - Co-Founder of Gnome Project and Ximian

"Hacking Gnome"

A review of the goals behind the Zeitgeist project and why it is important for Gnome.

Biography

Federico is one of the co-founders of the Gnome project. He has worked as maintainer of the GIMP, as one of the developers for Evolution, and as a general bugfixer in the Ximian desktop and openSUSE's Gnome desktop. Federico enjoys cooking and gardening, and dislikes high-fructose corn syrup.



Walter Bender

Sugar Lab (USA) - Executive Director

"Activity: Sugar Camp"

The mission of Sugar Labs is to produce, distribute, and support the use of the Sugar learning platform; it is a support base and gathering place for the community of educators and developers to create, extend, teach, and learn with the Sugar learning platform. This week, we will have held a Sugar Camp; we gathered together our lead developers from around the world to work on the roadmap for our 0.88 release and to write code. We also will have taken advantage of the presence of the Gnome team to exchange ideas and find opportunities for collaboration. This short talk is of a summary of the week.

Biography

Walter Bender is the founder and executive director of Sugar Labs, whose mission is to produce, distribute, and support the use of the free software Sugar learning platform. Bender is past-president for software and content development of One Laptop per Child, a not-for-profit association that has put free-software education tools into the hands of more than one-million children worldwide. Before taking his leave of absence from MIT, Bender was executive director of the MIT Media Laboratory, where he encouraged the use of the GPL.



What is Free Software?

Until the 1970s software and source codes were freely available to users. Since the mid-1970s software has been increasingly coded using machine-readable language, which is almost unintelligible for humans. Freely available software has then been gradually replaced by proprietary software, i.e. software owned by a proprietor. However, since the mid-eighties a sort of counter-movement, against this practice, has formed, leading to the development, production and distribution of free software. Today free software users are well aware of its meaning and vision. Free software, also known as Open-Source-Software, is seen not only as a way to consciously return to the very first software development methods, but also as an alternative to proprietary software. This type of software has become gradually established as a term to express a specific notion.

Free Software is free to the fourth power!

Richard Stallman and the Free Software Foundation (FSF) established that software can be considered free if users are granted at least the following four principles of freedom:

- Freedom 0, the freedom to run the program for any purpose;
- Freedom 1, the freedom to understand and study how the program works and adapt it to one's needs;
- Freedom 2, the freedom to copy and redistribute the program;
- Freedom 3, the freedom to improve the program and release the improvements to the public.

Whenever these freedoms are restricted or the terms established not complied with, software is defined as proprietary or non-free.

Free Software does not mean free of charge!

The term "free" as used in Free Software does not always mean free of charge. Richard Stallman has often explained the principle of freedom with the following example: „Free software is a matter of liberty, not price. Free as in free speech, not as in free beer". Let us be clear: talking about Free Software means referring to freedom, not to price. The idea behind the "free" notion goes hand in hand with free access. Thus, Free Software must be considered different from Freeware, i.e. the truly free of charge item of the software industry.

What Free Software offers

Free Software offers freedom, security and reliability in the long-run. But this is not all. Free Software offers many more advantages. Free software is inexpensive. Free Software is stable, it features minimal incidence of errors and low virus vulnerability. Free Software has the potential to grow, it offers strategic advantages, it represents a possibility of equality and, above all, it offers everybody the chance to have a free knowledge plus.

Economic advantages

Free Software is a new chance for local markets.

The ever-growing demand to install Free Software has originated a growing demand for software experts and assistance service providers in the field of Free Software. In this sense, Free Software fosters and strengthens local IT markets. Furthermore, Free Software supports those involved in software development, because this means making their know-how available to the

local market and enabling them to establish themselves in the community as experts in software solutions that are relevant to their context. Several service providers and development experts have already become aware of these economic possibilities that are linked to the dissemination of Free Software. However, Free Software is not just a catalyst for the local economy, in that it also favours an increase in investments by big IT companies, e.g. IBM, Sun Microsystems, Novell, HP and others.

Free Software increases competition

Free Software has been in the public domain for a long time. In France, there are plans to install Free Software in one million computers of the public administration, so as to cut in half the public spending increased by licence rights. For the local governments of big cities, such as Munich and Bern, the issue of autonomy from software producers has become crucial. The Regional Authorities in South Tyrol (northern Italy) have recently planned to introduce OpenOffice.org as the standard software for the computers of all its regional offices. Thus, all those opting for Free Software will contribute to greater competition and reduce the risk of the formation of a monopoly.

Free Software increases company profitability

More and more companies are choosing to install Free Software, among other things, for obvious economic reasons. Furthermore, reducing licence expenses also favours the establishment of new companies. But this is not all. The purchase cost advantage is not the only reason that makes the use of Free Software interesting for companies and institutions, such as schools and universities. Free Software offers even more economic advantages. For example, Free Software can be copied and installed in a great number of computers, whereas proprietary software often requires one licence for every single computer. Against this background, Free Software fosters and favours the development of new work arrangements, such as, for instance, working from home.

Free Software offers an advantage over purchase costs.

Usually, the first and more evident reason behind the use of Free Software by private subjects, companies and institutions is the considerable advantage over purchase costs. Free Software has no licence costs and in almost every case it is available free of charge - if downloaded from the Internet or copied on a CD. It is worth emphasising that in this context "free" is not necessarily equal to free of charge. Free Software can also be sold, not just be given for free. After all, Free Software needs to be installed and configured. Similarly, assistance, maintenance, training for users and appropriate disposal may be necessary.

Strategic advantages

The economic advantages and the qualitative aspects mentioned earlier provide a clear framework, which can be helpful to determine whether certain software is suitable for a company. However, there are also strategic aspects that are worth considering, as they play an important role.

Free Software guarantees autonomy from producers.

Free Software attempts to avoid being dependent on producers, thus preventing the so-called "lock-in-effect" with high costs and consequent dependence on specific products. Furthermore, the open source code and the strong orientation towards accessible standards make it impossible for a producer to generate dependence by setting particular standards. Such advantages are particularly evident with GNU/Linux. Since it can be run on standard hardware, companies do not receive any indication of a need to employ proprietary hardware when choosing GNU/Linux. This translates into a real possibility to choose among several options in a strongly competition-based market.

Free Software guarantees autonomy in support and assistance services.

Free Software offers greater flexibility and autonomy also in choosing support and assistance services. Companies and individual users are not forced to choose specific providers of these services. Obviously, users can decide to purchase these services from a different provider at any time. In case Free Software is installed within the framework of a contract with a local service provider, the latter shall also be in charge of making sure there are no difficulties while using the program. The same applies to support services.

Free Software guarantees autonomy through standard compliance.

Free Software also guarantees greater autonomy for users through compliance with standards. On the one hand, such compliance is guaranteed by a widespread distribution, which is platform-independent. On the other hand, there is a strong orientation towards standards. Furthermore, in principle, all Free Software interfaces come with documentation. In fact, standard compliance is present in proprietary software as well, but it is particularly evident in Free Software.

Free Software guarantees the possibility of making changes or adjustments on the whole range of functions.

The availability of the source code in Free Software stands as a kind of insurance. The source code has fundamental importance whenever producers decide to interrupt software development or stop support services. In that case, companies can contract other IT providers or they themselves may take on the software development and management process. This way, companies do not depend on producers to deal with changes or adjustments on functions.

Free Software also guarantees long-life purchases.

In case of obsolescence of one of its products, or in case of development of a new version, Free Software and, in particular, operating systems and server applications generally guarantee an automatic and free-of-charge update, which can be compatible with existing versions. With Free Software it is also possible to maintain programs together with a current situation of version control.

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