

Encouraging the Widespread Utilization of OSS in Singapore

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Status of OSS Utilization in Singapore - 1

- OSS utilization in Singapore is low in general
- OSS utilization depends on usage areas, e.g.:
 - Server software and applications
 - Desktop use and applications
 - Embedded software
 - Mobile applications
 - Research & Development
 - Vertical industry, e.g. education, logistics, banking, defence

Status of OSS Utilization in Singapore - 2

- Some organisations set up to promote the use of OSS:
 - Linux Users Group of Singapore (LUGS)
 - Singapore Linux Meetup Group
 - Singapore Open Source Alliance (SOSA) – formed by a group of major companies, IBM, HP, Oracle, Red Hat, Apple, Intel, Sun Microsystems and led by company called Resolvo
 - LinuxNUS – group of students promoting Linux and Open Source Software in the National University of Singapore
 - Open Source Lab in Republic Polytechnic
 - Linux & Open Source Software Lab @NUS

Status of OSS Utilization in Singapore - 3

- Some developments:
 - No. of school, organisations and companies using Moodle, PHP & MySQL based learning management system has gone up to over 50.
 - Singapore's National Grid Pilot Platform (NGPP) is based on the Linux OS (<http://www.gridtoday.com/grid/943174.html>)
 - No. of companies (at around 20) dealing with OSS development & consultancy is growing but slowly.

Status of OSS Utilization in Singapore - 4

- Some developments:
 - We had the 2006 Gelato ICE Conference in Singapore (Oct 2006). ICE – Itanium Conference & Expo. Conference addressed current high-performance computing issues and collaborative solutions specific to Linux on the Intel Itanium architecture.
 - Red Hat company organised the Open Source Symposium in August 2006
 - Singapore Management University introduced Ruby on Rails into their undergraduate Information Systems project work
 - CICC Singapore Office organised the “Train the Trainers” Programme for AsiaOSS participants in Sep 2006 in the SMU campus

Observations

- No central body to coordinate OSS activities
- Some sporadic development work in the Polytechnics and Universities
- Lack of evangelists and supporters
- More utilization in the following areas:
 - Server software and applications
 - Embedded software
 - Research & Development
 - Some vertical industries, e.g. defence

Ways to Encourage Wider Utilization of OSS in Singapore - 1

- Encourage Polytechnics and Universities to introduce OSS into teaching curriculum
- Encourage LUGS and other OSS organisations to organise awareness programmes, e.g. Software Freedom Day – some time in September
- Introduce innovative initiatives like Learning to Program using Ruby, Rapid development of websites using Ruby on Rails
- Encourage OSS evangelists to spread the word that OSS is more than just using Linux!

Ways to Encourage Wider Utilization of OSS in Singapore - 2

- Good to set up a completely new organisation which will promote the wider utilization of OSS rather than just the Linux operating system
- Need to have a clearinghouse to monitor, track and participate in the increasing use of FLOSS (Free/Libre and Open Source Software).
- Above all, it has to be a “bottoms up” approach – i.e. people at the ground must push for its widespread utilization rather than expecting the government to do something about it.

End of Presentation

Thank You