Open Source Software in the Governmental institutions

Myth, Possibility or just Reality?

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Introduction

- ICT Situation in the Republic of Macedonia
- To crack, to pay or to go another way
- Licence pressure (TCO and ROI part)
- The political factor
- Quality of the solution
- FUD

Ministry of Finance

- Unix origins from mid 90's (server side)
- Leading Ministry in ICT usage
- Critical applications in financial sector
- Year 2000 turning point for "real" IT growth and year of fundamental changes and approach at the MoF
- Take the things in our hands approach
- OSS & Open Standard promoter

The first OSS at the MoF

How we started with OSS?

- A Sendmail problem on True64 Unix turned us to the first Linux installation (and we like it)

The MoF web site introduced more OSS

- LAMP stack (Linux Apache MySQL PHP)
- It powers the Web site and the Intranet
- Introduced interactivity of web experience
- Pushed us to the next level

More OSS at the MoF

Proxy, the browsing savior

- Content filtering, bandwidth savior, QoS
- Squid, Squid Guard, Junk buster / Privoxy
- Sarg as log analyzer

The next step

- Content filtering, bandwidth savior, QoS, AV
- Squid, Dans Guardian with Clamav AV

OSS and Proprietary Symbiosis

The OSS at the moment can't solve all the problems, but most of it can

- Domino on Linux
- DB2 / Informix on Linux
- Windows desktops and Linux servers infrastructure
- Great performance, stability and security

The great migration

Red Hat goes commercial

Strategic decision to move on Debian

Full migration of all Linux servers to Debian

Maturity phase (1)

OSS as mail filter

- Content inspection
- Anti Spam
- Anti Virus

*60% of the received mail is junk, viruses or non essential mail

Maturity phase (2)

Watchdog task

System monitoring with Nagios

- Servers and services
- Environment in the Sys Room
- Real time alerts on mail and SMS
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Application stack

Web applications

- E-treasury (the power of Python)
- Procurement register (public part)
- E-Budget (in progress)
- CA (pending)

Consolidation and standardize

- Standardization of platforms it helps at the administration and maintenance

- Consolidate your servers with virtualisation technology (Xen, the next big thing)

- Open Standards

How to manage the transition

- The clients and the management did not feel the difference

- No or low cost introduced (large savings), self managed, full control, full responsibility, worldwide case studies

- Better stability, less administration, less problems, no upgrade pressures

- Investment in formal training, it will help you to discourage any attempts for influence and FUD

"Attacking" the Desktop (1)

- Samba as PDC, OpenLDAP and CUPS
    - Domain controller
    - File Server
    - Printer Server
    - Centralized deployment of software
- The benefits of this approach
    - Single Sign On
    - Better printer and resources utilisation
    - QoS & Analysis with cost savings

- Desktop OSS stack on Windows
  - OpenOffice
  - Mozilla Firefox
  - PDF Creator
  - 7ZIP
- Free but not OSS
  - Irfan View
  - Adobe Reader

"Attacking" the Desktop (3)

- Linux on Desktop
  - Ubuntu 6.06.1 LTS experiment
  - VMWare as temporary legacy problem solver (look at Munich transition experience)
  - An iteration to final transition
  - User satisfaction and problems analysis
  - Answers for further steps and directions

The MoF TCO Story (1)

OLP Licence program

- Windows 2003 Server R2 Standard
- 150 CAL
- 150 MS Office 2003 Proffessional

Total cost 98.846,00 USD

The MoF TCO Story (2)

OSS alternative to Microsoft

- Debian Linux Server with Samba, OpenLDAP, CUPS
- 150 OpenOffice 2.0.X

Total cost 0,00 USD

Strategy

- Platform independent solutions

- Open Standards (like ISO/IEC 26300)

- Using proven OSS solution whenever possible

- Investment in knowledge

- Support local ICT industry by supporting their transition from trading to value adding industry

Conclusions

- We all make our future
- Cooperate with other institutions
- Cooperate in the region
- Cooperate with EU
- Cooperate worldwide to get the best

Thank you!

For further questions or contacts:

Mr. Miroslav Jovanovic

Head of IT Department at the MoF

miroslav.jovanovic@finance.gov.mk
Phone ++ 389 2 3106-110