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Overview

- What is open source?
- Open Source and the Repositories and Preservation Programme
- Who is Ross Gardler?
- Who are OSS Watch?
- What can OSS Watch do for you?
- Questions?

What is open source?

- A licence
 - Open Source Initiative approved
 - Guarantees source code is available for modification and reproduction
- A business model
 - \$1.8 billion in 2006 rising to \$5.8 billion in 2011
- A sustainability model
 - Business and community engagement
- A software development methodology

Open Development

- Before open source license there was open development
- User led software development
- Engagement with the community
 - Understand their needs
 - Embedding users in the community
 - Testing (bug reports and feature requests)
 - Support (documentation, mailing lists)
 - Evangelism (word of mouth)
 - Development (patches)

Is open source important here?

“The way open source communities, providers and distributors achieve their aims provides a model on how a sustainable archival system might work, be sustained, be upgraded and be developed as required.”

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris, June 2007

Is open source important here?

“This report also recommends that UNESCO participates through its various committees, in open source software development”

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris, June 2007

Open source credentials of Ross Gardler

- Committer on a number of open source projects
 - Member of Project Management Committee of some
- Member of The Apache Software Foundation
 - “Member” is a privileged position awarded in recognition of actions within the ASF
- Administrator and Mentor within the Google Summer of Code programme
- IBM Innovation Award for some of my OSS work
- The majority of my work is in community development, not software development

What is OSS Watch?

- *“promote awareness and understanding of the legal, social, technical and economic issues that arise when educational institutions engage with free and open source software”*
- Non Advocacy
- Briefing notes
- Consultations
- Workshops and conferences

OSS Watch National Survey

- National survey of of UK Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) institutions in 2008
- to produce an up-to-date picture of the deployment of open source software in HEs and FEs
- to draw comparisons with the results of a similar survey undertaken in 2003 and 2006
- to scope areas for future work by OSS Watch

OSS Watch Project Consultations

- Legal
 - What licence is best for me?
 - What can I do with software under this licence?
 - Is this licence compatible with that one?
- Strategy/Policy
 - How do we evaluate open source tools?
 - How do we engage with open source developers?
 - How do we customise open source in a sustainable way?

OSS Watch Project Consultations (cont...)

- Managerial
 - How do I build a viable open source community?
 - How do I manage my open source project?
 - How do I ensure my IPR position is clear?
- Development Methodologies
 - How do I manage user expectations?
 - How do I manage third party contributions?
- Exploitation
 - What business models are available to me?
 - How do ensure full community engagement?

What can OSS Watch offer you?

- Experience of community building
 - Policies, workflows and culture change within your user communities
 - Reach a critical mass of material (open access or otherwise)
 - Cross domain community building
- Advice on building a sustainable institutional infrastructure and national shared services

What can OSS Watch offer you? (cont...)

- Guidance on engaging with existing open source repository systems and their communities,
 - such as eprints.org, DSpace and Fedora
- Engaging in efficient and open ways:
 - Feature requests and bug reports
 - Community building
 - Licensing and IPR issues
 - Contributing enhancements

What can OSS Watch offer you? (cont...)

- Engage with and benefit from standards
 - Interoperability
 - Long-term preservation
 - Necessary extensions (with an eye on sustainability)
- Build cross-domain relationships through standards adoption
- Increase exposure to your data by supporting “mashups”

OSS Watch and the Repositories and Preservation Programme

- Community development
- Legal and Policy
- Software evaluation
- Standards adoption
- Interoperability

Is open source important here?

“a practical open source system for digital preservation could, with a little work, be constructed and that this would be of enormous benefit to communities and institutions all over the world.”

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris, June 2007

More info?

- Web site - briefing Notes and background
 - <http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk>
- Email - general
 - info@oss-watch.ac.uk
- Team blog – “from the front”
 - <http://involve.jisc.ac.uk/wpmu/oss-watch>
- Feeds – news and important announcements
 - <http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk/rss>