



openoffice.org

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OpenOffice.org in Spain

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Agenda



- The OpenOffice.org community in Spain: the Catalan community.
- Open Source Software in the Spanish Public Administration.

The Catalan community



- The Catalan People.
- What is Softcatalà.
- Number of end users.
- Number of users in the Catalan public administration.
- Number the users in education.
- Community development.

The Catalan People



- Around 11.000.000 speakers distributed in 4 states: Spain, France, Andorra and Italy.
- Former Mediterranean Empire during the middle ages, part of the Crown of Aragon confederacy.
- The Catalan language and culture was almost extinguished in the 20th century under the Franco regime.

What is Softcatalà?



- Non profit association to promote the use of the Catalan Language in IT.
- Founded in 1997 (11 years!)
- Around 30 people: software developers, translators, students.
- We don't get money from any public or private company: we sell t-shirts and CDs.
- Programs (OOo, Firefox, Gnome) and activism.
- Softcatala.org has 500,000 unique visitors per month.

Number of end users



- All the versions have been downloaded from the Softcatalà server more than 1.500.000 times (the numbers are conservative) during the last 6 years.
- We have 5 mirrors, unfortunately we don't have reliable statistics.
- OOo distribution in newspapers, magazines, Universities:
 - 80,000 CDs with Avui
 - 300,000 CDs with El Periódico
 - 500,000 for public libraries
 - Etc.

Users in the administration

- Education Department: all the employees, about 2,500 computers
- Government Department: all the IT team, 55 computers
 - Telecentres: 2,000 computers for now
 - Public libraries: in 2009.
- Justice Department: 616 computers
- More?

Users in education



- OpenOffice.org is the official office suite.
- All the training is done with this software.
- It's installed in 2,700 public places.
- 65,000 potential teacher users
- 600,000 potential students users
- The only suite installed in the Education Department:
2,500 computers.

VisorODF: An example of development



- Opensource ODT, ODS and ODP viewer for mobile devices
- VisorODF is a project promoted by CENATIC (National Reference Centre for the Application of Open Source Information and Communication Technologies) and developed by SEMARKET
- Features planned for version 1.0 (December' 2008):
 - Zoom for spread sheets
 - Word search engine
 - ODF File Browser

VisorODF: An example of development



- Pilot version (0.5) released in October at OSWC 2008
- It includes:
 - ODT viewer
 - Index based on the headers
 - Basic styles parsed: Italic, Bold, colors, etc.
 - Numbering and bullets
 - Images
 - Underline and crossing lines
- Download and information site:
 - <http://forge.morfeo-project.org/projects/visorodfmovil/>

Public Administration



- Characteristics.
- Use of OpenOffice.org.
- Perceived weaknesses.
- Treats.
- Strong Points.
- Opportunities.

Public Administration



- Recommendations from Open Source experts.
- Conclusions.

Characteristics



- Most important “company” in Spain.
- No single public administration, very fragmented.
- 17 regional administrations, and the local ones.
- “Very little” collaboration between them.

Use of OpenOffice.org



- 61% Microsoft Office
- 8% Lotus Smart Suite
- 5% Word Perfect Office
- 15% OpenOffice.org
- 11% Others

Perceived Weaknesses



- People don't have skills in Open Source.
- Support and maintenance.
- No good advertisement.
- Contracts oriented to products, Open Source is oriented to services.
- Lots of documents in proprietary formats.
- Pre-installed software.
- Need of a specific hardware.

Treats

- Software patents.
- The license model is not known (mixing programs with incompatible licenses, etc.)
- Strong dependence on a concrete service provider.
- Discriminatory laws (there are certain international standards that discriminate the Open Source software).

Strong points

- Cheaper deployment.
- Use of open standards.
- Source code verification.
- Lots of programs.
- Reuse.
- Shared knowledge.
- Fast evolution.
- Customization.

Opportunities



- Independence of the provider.
- Interoperability.
- Reuse of applications (this is required by law).
- Possibility to develop an Open Source industry in Spain.
- Liberation of more proprietary formats and specifications means more Open Source software.
- Collaboration with third world countries to create a new “software development network”.

• Opportunities



- The young IT professionals want to use Open Source.



Recommendations



- Open Source courses for the public administration employees.
- Organize technical meetings.
- Creation of online meeting points.
- Communication plan.
- Open Source project repositories.
- Support (money, developers) mainstream Open Source projects.

Recommendations



- Impulse the creation of an Open Source industry in Spain.
- Collaboration between all the public administrations.

Conclusions

- The use of Open Source software in Spain is growing, including the Spanish administration.
- Spain is one of the most active countries in Europe promoting the use of Open Source software in its administration.
- Spain is a leading country in Open Source legislation: interoperation by law.
- Education is the key inside the public administration, OpenOffice.org is widely used there.

Conclusions

- What is the perception of Open Source software inside the public administration?
 - Cheaper
 - Independence of the provider
 - Community
 - Customization
- The penetration of Open Source is very different in different departments of the administration, regions, etc.

Conclusions



- The public administration in Spain is satisfied with the companies that provide Open Source products and services.
- Open Source software is extremely important to fight against technology illiteracy.
- There is a real will to exchange code and experiences between the different regions.



Thanks!

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