

Open Source ERP

Projects and opportunities for Romania

Author: Thomas Koch Date: 19.5.07

Thomas Koch

- Graduated Music and Physics
- Worked for a small ERP customizer (Windows only)
- No IT expert, hobby Programmer since 1990
- Expert for Romania:
 - Youth & Social work since 1998
 - Studied 3 semesters in Cluj
 - Married with a Romanian
 - Translated our ERP Suite

<http://www.koch.ro>

Structure

1. Spotlights on ERP projects (small companies up to 100 employees)
2. Romanians and Open Source
3. What I gonna do

Post Microsoft

- M\$ is definitely dead.
 - Most current ERP software works only on Windows
 - Clients switching to Linux think also about new ERP
 - A client voting for Linux may want an OS ERP too.
- There's no *good* open source Groupware or ERP yet

Criteria for our next ERP

- 100% Open Source
 - License: GPL / BSD / ...
 - Open Documentation
 - No entrance fee (partnership program...)
- Unit Tests:
 - Scalability
 - Reliability
 - Interoperability
- Code / Doc. Quality
 - Don't look on the features!
- Browser-access

Exploring Open Source

- Compiere (Java)
- ERP5 (ZOEPE on Python)
- OfBiz (Java)
- Openbravo (Java)

Compiere

- Started 2000 by an Oracle consultant
- Oracle only, Postgres may work
- \$6M Venture funding 2006
- Java
- Still restricted access to doc.
- Mostly used and developed in USA
- No community, but Compiere Inc.

ERP5

- Started 2002 as a contract work
- Complicate, very few documentation, "hackish"
- Developed by Nexedi and Nuxeo (fr), Nuxeo switched to Java
- ERP5 doesn't run on Zope3
- Unit Testing only since September 06

but: worthwhile to study the concepts!

ERP5 Concepts

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/ERP5_Handbook

5 abstract classes:

- Resource: e.g. a skill of an individual, a currency, a raw material, a product
- Node: a node is a place which can receive amounts of resources and send amounts of resources
- Movements: of an amount of resource between two nodes at a given time and for a given duration
- Path: defines a way for a node to access a resource
- Item: describes a physical instance of a resource.

OfBiz

Only two showstoppers:

- No Unit Testing at all
- Java

good points:

- Large amount of docus, even screencasts
- Large community
- 100% open

Openbravo

- started as 5M\$ investment 01/2006
- One company, spain
- MPL Licence, not GPL compatible
- spanish only manual
- Forked from Compiere 2.4
- No/spanish code documentation

Openbravo II

From the forum: "We are familiar with Doxygen and JavaDoc. We considered producing a JavaDoc documentation a few months back but we think that it adds little value to our developers."

=> source code is a mess.

Romanians and Open Source

Outsourcing companies

- Show your talent with OS contributions!
- Sell solutions directly to end users!
- Specialize: Software is your tool as a consultant, not your product.
- Stay up to date! Most innovation happens in OS today.
- You're free to show your sympathy for Linux without loosing your client base!

Decentralize

- B, CJ, TM, BV are expansive
- Learn distributed working from OS:
 - Revision Control
 - Communication
 - Issue tracking
 - Documentation

Individuals

- Show your talent with OS contributions!
- Job offers are posted on the projects lists!
- Make your diploma thesis an open source contribution!

Romanian mentality

Please, don't be offended!

No rule without exception.

Exceptia confirma regula.

Sa moare capra vecinului

Romanians don't

- cooperate, because they don't
- trust. So they've not learned to build
- associations and to cooperate as
- democrats.

Give freedom to students!

- Many Open Source people are students
- If Romanian Students can't participate in open source projects, there won't be a chance for OS in Romania.
- Romanian Students are under hard pressure
- No democratic participation in schools
- Not encouraged to learn independent

Free Software?

Romanians are not used to pay for software licenses.

=> Selling services instead of licenses should be the right thing for Romania.

Look out for women

There are women in maths and physics in Romania!

Get them in IT and in Open Source before they're locked out!

On irc.rlug.ro: 199x "pula" from April, 27th till May, 16th

What I gonna do

- Many service companies in Germany ask for
 - Groupware
 - Project Management
 - Accounting for projects

No suitable OS project so far.

eZ Components

- Highest quality standard ever met in PHP or even free software development!
- PHP5EnterpriseEdition
- developed by eZ Systems

eZ Components Highlights

- Authentication
- Database
- Graph
- Mail
- PersistentObject
- SignalSlot
- Template
- Translation
- Workflow

Next Release: WebServices (SOAP/REST)

Details: PHP5

- Is not PHP4 anymore!
- All Object Orientation Features like Java
- Combined with PHP's flexibility
- All dev-tools available (Test, Debug, Manage)
- Large Userbase
- Easy to learn even for accountants!

Leave traditional thinking

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No traditional solutions

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Think open

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