



Open source in the trenches

Stefan Marx, Marx-Consulting

OS in operational practise
Odysseum, Cologne, 09/19/2009



Intro

- Open Source is fact
- Long tradition in software development (gcc since 1987)
- LAMP software stack
- desktops, cellular phones, embedded, all ranges of PCs, midrange up to mainframes
- Network components and infrastructure (server, DNS etc.)



Reasons for success

Software gets better when many people use it, improves the code, debug it, fix errors and discuss further development goals.

Most of the Open Source software is coded by paid people (FSF, IBM, Novell, RedHat, Cygnus, Troll Tech ... OpenCMS ;=).

But tested, used, improved and ... criticized (con and pro).

Eric S. Raymond, Cathedral vs. Bazaar

Economics of attention („Ökonomie der Aufmerksamkeit“)



Tons of projects, tools, utilities and stuff: sourceforge.org 230.000 projects (Feb. '09)

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sourceforge FIND AND DEVELOP OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE

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▾ projects without files

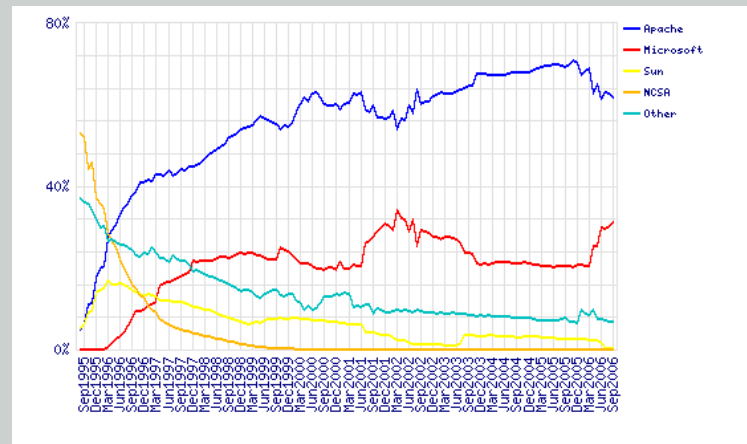
Project Categories

- Communications
- Database
- Desktop Environment
- Education
- Formats and Protocols
- Games/Entertainment
- Internet
- Mobile
- Multimedia
- Office/Business
- Other/Nonlisted Topic
- Printing
- Religion and Philosophy
- Scientific/Engineering
- Security



Flagships of the OpenSource

Apache httpd 61 % of all webserver



http://news.netcraft.com/archives/2006/09/05/september_2006_web_server_survey.html



Linux .. of course, an example



Novell reported \$40 million of product revenue from Open Platform Solutions, of which \$38 million was from Linux Platform Products, up 22% compared to the product revenue from Linux Platform Products from the same period last year. (from III Q. Financial report Novell, Waltham, 27th Aug '09.



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Efforts in using Open Software

- Trendscouting and decision
- Evaluation and maintenance of OS system
- Management of OS 'Know How'
- Establishing OS in the organisation
- Managing the change of OS systems
- Legal aspects of OS (License)
- Keeping contact to the community



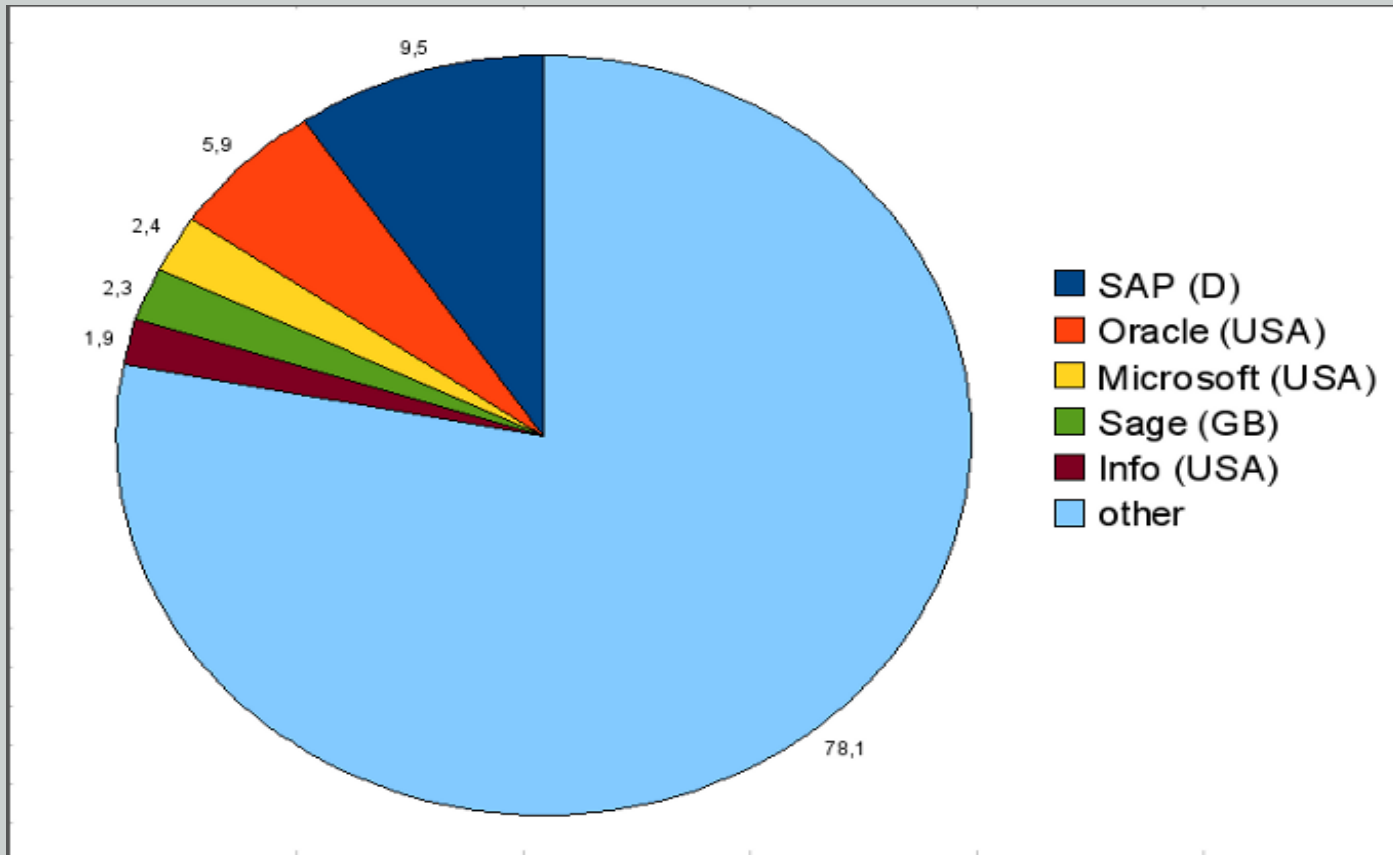
Obstacles in using Open Software

- „Not invented here“ syndrom
- Hard to use and small documented
- No security of investment
- Doesn't fit in the technical 'cultur' of the organisation
- No knowledge and tools to evaluate the fitting of the OS solution



Market for business software 2006

81,8 Mrd. US \$ (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
03/31/08)





Perspective of Open Source

- Open Source will flourish in generic technical fields
- Collaboration is an issue (e. g. Grit, Wikis etc.)
- OS at least as an example, difficult to predict in concrete domain areas



survey && discussion

- Q & A?



Web URLs

[http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/cathedral \](http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/cathedral/cathedral-bazaar/)
[-bazaar/cathedral-bazaar/](http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/cathedral/cathedral-bazaar/)

<http://sourceforge.org>

<http://www.netcraft.com>

[http://www.novell.com/de-de/DE/news/ \](http://www.novell.com/de-de/DE/news/press/novell-reports-financial-results-for-third-fiscal-quarter-2009)
[press/novell-reports-financial-results- \](http://www.novell.com/de-de/DE/news/press/novell-reports-financial-results-for-third-fiscal-quarter-2009)
[for-third-fiscal-quarter-2009](http://www.novell.com/de-de/DE/news/press/novell-reports-financial-results-for-third-fiscal-quarter-2009)

<http://fazarchiv.faz.net/FAZ.ein>