Town Hall: Business Implications of Open Source OSGi Implementations
Moderator: BJ Hargrave
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Panel Topic

- In the year since the last OSGi World Congress and Open Source panel, there has been lots of progress:
  - OSGi Alliance has made interim drafts of R4 available
  - OSGi Alliance has now released the R4 companion code to the specification under an open source license
  - Apache Felix and Eclipse Equinox projects formed
- Given this improved relationship between OSGi Alliance and open source projects:
  - What has been good and what has been bad?
  - What more should be done?
  - How is this relationship between a specification body and open source projects beneficial for both?
  - How should companies’ business models adapt to the availability of open source OSGi implementations?
Panel Format

- Brief opening remarks from each Panelist
- Questions from the Moderator
- Questions from the Audience
Let’s Meet the Panelists

- **Richard S. Hall** - Researcher, LSR Laboratory, Grenoble University and Oscar/Felix Lead Developer
- **Jeff McAffer** - Eclipse Architect, IBM and Eclipse Equinox Project Lead
- **Christer Larsson** - CEO, Gatespace Telematics AB, Knopflerfish Supporter
- **Enrique Rodriguez** - PMC Member, Apache Software Foundation
- **Mike Milinkovich** - Executive Director, Eclipse Foundation
- **Peter Kriens** - OSGi Evangelist, OSGi Fellow and President, aQute
A Open source approach is good for OSGi technology

- Increases awareness and participation
- Provides real-world use cases as well as research-oriented ones
- Quicker to innovate and to experiment

Shortcomings

- Open source approach does not necessarily take into account embedded device domain
  - Too costly and difficult, in general
Eclipse/OSGi membership overlap*

- Computer Associates+
- Ericsson
- ETRI
- Hitachi
- IBM+
- Intel+
- Motorola
- NEC
- Nokia+
- Oracle

* As of Oct 2005  + Eclipse Strategic Developers
Challenges to the Alliance

- Engage the open source community
  - Test suites/certification
  - Enable parallel development of spec and impl

- OSGi is not just for embedded any more
  - Desktop, Rich Client, Server

Challenges to Open Source

- Avoid Containerisms

Challenges to All

- JSR 277
Gatespace Telematics

- OSGi based platform technology
- leading expertise in
  - Java / OSGi
  - Distributed systems design
  - Embedded systems
- Complete systems specifically targeted for telematics and mobile solution
- OSGi member since 1999 (since the inception)
- Based in Gothenburg, Sweden
Knopflerfish and Ubiserv

Knopflerfish
- Open src OSGi dist.
- BSD license
- Maintained by GSTM

Ubiserv
- Commercial product
- Fully supported (SLA)
- "Knopflerfish Pro"
- Insurance!

Knopflerfish  
\[\text{Knopflerfish Pro}\]  
Ubiserv
Open Source Business Model

- The product is freely available, no run-time licenses
- Revenues are generated from:
  - Support (SLAs)
  - Professional Services
  - T-shirts...
- SLAs give companies the assurance they need to actually use open source software in commercial products
- Open licensing: BSD
  - GPL, no or little acceptance from industry
  - Dual-licensing creates a tricky relationship between the company and a community.
The OSGi Alliance and Open Source

• The Technology is now larger than the Alliance!
  – Mail lists on Knopflerfish / Oscar have become, or are becoming a "CPEG lite"

• But,
  – the OSGi Alliance is important as the maintainer of the specs.
  – forking is (hopefully) prevented by the Alliance

• Compliance and TCK
  – Available to open src communities or not?
Final Comments

- Open source is key to spread the OSGi gospel

- Business Models
  - It will change the business model on the client side
  - It will not necessarily change the business model on the back-end server / provisioning side

- Final wish, a complete open src client stack!
  - OS (Linux)
  - JVM ( ), - Mika! Kaffe, J9?
  - OSGi (Knopflerfish, Oscar, Equinox)
Enrique Rodriguez

- Why OSGi
  - Customers
  - Developers
  - Vendors

- The Good
  - High-quality
  - Investment protection

- The (not so) Bad
  - Home
  - Embedded
Getting Involved
- Individuals, not companies
- The ASL License
- Incubation
- Committers

Why Contribute
- Infrastructure
- Brand Name/ Recognition
- Community
- Lower cost
Mike Milinkovich

• The Good
  – Open source implementations are helping to drive widespread adoption
  – Building the Eclipse implementation in parallel with R4’s evolution shows the mutual advantages of open standards and open source

• The Bad
  – Need to focus Eclipse’s eRCP project on OSGi requirements, as well as eSWT

• The Ugly
  – JSR277
  – Competition between Eclipse and Apache
Why Open Source Software Sucks

- Open source is not controlled
  - The drudgery parts are not done: 80% rule
  - Quality is extremely inconsistent
  - Dead projects stay around forever
  - Not user friendly
  - Version Management ignored
  - Many are run by a single person

- Too many parties, zero cost of entry
  - Confusing: soooo many different Linux distributions
  - No tunneled market feedback

- Intellectual property rules are not clear
  - Patent issues are wide open in open source software
Why Open Source Software Sucks

- No convergence on a small number of solutions
  - Any fool can fork an open source project
  - KDE, Gnome, Motif, …
  - Fragmentation

- Liability
  - The authors disclaim all liability

- Abused by companies to disrupt markets
  - Open office

- Open source needs standards
  - But who pays for the standards?
  - A certain amount of freeloading?
OSGi Open Source Panel

The Apache Software Foundation

Knopflerfish

Oscar