

The Tao of “Open”

Example: Open Source and
OpenSolaris in Germany

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Wikipedia : »Tao/Dao is a Chinese character often translated as “Way” or “Path”.

[...] not to use force to conquer the universe. For this would only cause resistance. Thorn bushes spring up wherever the army has passed. Lean years follow in the wake of war. Just do what needs to be done. Never take advantage of power...Force is followed by loss of strength.«



what awaits you

- I. What is/Why Open Source Software?**
- II. Strong OSS Communities in Germany**
- III. GUUG and
OpenSolaris Developer Conference**

Where I come from

▪ Fate

- "grew up" (1996→) as sysadmin in big data centers
Solaris ≥ 2.4 , Linux \geq kernel 2.0

▶ like and understand "both worlds"


▪ GUUG

- several annual conferences (FFG, Linux-Kongress)
- GUUG helps LinuxTag
- OpenSolaris Developer Conference

▪ Profession

- IT consultant for IT security
- writer computer mags >11 years, > 40 articles

I. What is OSS exactly?

- Open Source Initiative (OSI): <http://opensource.org> 
- Consortium
- 3 basic rights:
 - read (source code)
 - redistribute
 - modify ("derived work")
- Example of OSI licenses (58):
 - CDDL, GPLv2, MPL, BSD, IBM PL, ...

I. Why OSS ?



- Lots of reasons, matter of perspective:
 - Student
 - Developer
 - Manager
 - Security Consultant

I. Why OSS ?

- Students:
 - ♦ learn & research: examine the code
- Developer:
 - “upstream maintenance“
 - maturity of code: peer principle
 - clearly defined APIs, document formats
- Manager:
 - licensing costs, well... maybe
 - readability of documents in 10 years
 - communication and exchangeability of documents by open standards, not by market dominance

I. Why OSS ?



- Security Consultant:



- several studies show in general:

Security[OS Unix] » Security[Windows]

- can look into the code:

- verify Kerckhoff's principle
- no hidden backdoors/covert channels

I. Why OSS ?



- [Bugtraq 2004](#)  (Netgear WG602):
 - „Any user logging in with the username "super" and the password "5777364" is in complete control of the device.
 - „Bugfix“ of Netgear: „I can confirm that this vulnerability still exists in the latest firmware upgrade(1.7.14) for the WG602. They've simply gone and changed the username to superman and password to 21241036.
- Not unique, see e.g. Cisco's [WLSE/HSE](#) 

II. Example Germany



- Successes
- Strong Community



- **LinuxTag** 
 - since 1996
 - world biggest OS event w/ up to 20k visitors
 - BSD track, OpenSolaris track
- **Projects**
 - [LiMux](#) : 14k Desktops incl. OpenOffice, 2008
 - (Vienna/Austria has Wiemux)
 - SINA




- **Ministry of the Interior**

- migration guide for servers and desktops (KBSt) public administrations
 - 504 pages(!)
- ministry secretaries on several occasions:
“embrace open standards and APIs“
- e-government exchange standard: ODF/OASIS
- recently also: EU





- **Suse**
 - based in Nuremberg, since 1994
 - now Novell daughter
 - 1996 first Suse Linux distribution

- **Debian** 
 - big development basis, strong user community
 - (Ian Murdock: Founder of Debian, now for Sun)

II. Example Germany

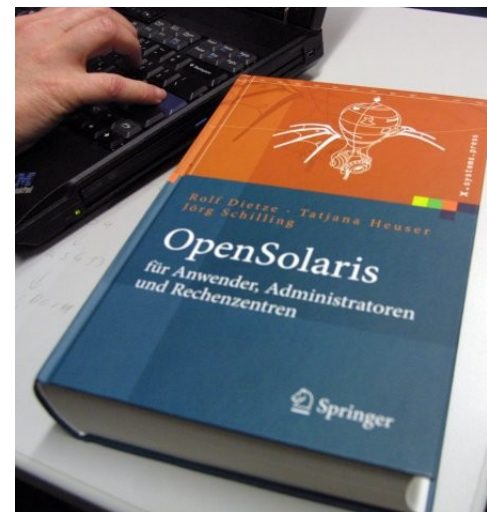


- **KDE** 
 - started by a German 1996: *Kool Desktop Environment*
 - KDE e.V. registered in Germany, brand owner
 - strong user community
- **Star-/OpenOffice** 
 - located in Hamburg/Germany
 - ~12 mio LoC (Linux kernel: 7,8 mio)

II. Example Germany

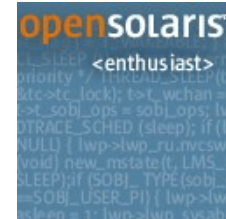
- **OpenSolaris community**

- significant German distributions from outside Sun
- Solaris distributions:
 - SchilliX (x86)
 - marTuX (SPARC)
- first OpenSolaris book



II. Example Germany

- **OpenSolaris community**



- status de.opensolaris.org = ru.opensolaris.org
- UG meetings:
 - no GOSUG meeting yet, but:
 - within GUUG ~ 10 local meetings
 - OpenSolaris install/build workshops
 - IPFilter presentations (Darren Reed)
 - SMF and others workshops
- since a few years OpenSolaris track @ LinuxTag



- **unfortunately:**
 - gaps/hostilities between different communities
 - BSD vs. Linux
 - Linux vs. Solaris and vice versa
 - pity, because people can learn from projects
 - personal issues rule over technical matters
 - GUUG is trying to bridge them

 - not only in Germany!



- **GUUG** (German Unix User Group)
 - non-profit association of Unix users, profession
 - organizes conferences >20 years
 - international *Linux-Kongress* since 1994
 - international FOSTEL since 2004
 - (coming up: IPv6-, LDAP conference)

 - Solaris: job-related interest (members driven)
 - OpenSolaris: community driven
- time to make things happen!



- opensolaris™
DEVELOPER CONFERENCE

- February 2007, Berlin/Germany
- 4 days: 2 tutorials, 2 technical conference
- highlights:
 - Simon Phipps, Roy Fielding (keynotes)
 - Jim Grisanzio (closing note)





■ opensolaris™ DEVELOPER CONFERENCE

– highlights:

- all non-Sun distributions:

- SchilliX
- Nexenta GNU/OpenSolaris
- Belenix
- marTux





■ opensolaris™ DEVELOPER CONFERENCE

– Big interest: Nexenta

- strength of Solaris 10 (dtrace, containers, ZFS,...)
- GNU Userland tools
 - packet management: dpkg/apt!
 - Ubuntu look & feel

– b50 -> b61

→ **bridging the gap between the communities!**





- opensolaris™
DEVELOPER CONFERENCE

- speakers/attendees from Asia, Europe/Russia, US
- 60 registered users
- very positive feedback (Sun, speakers, attendees)
- next year certainly again, time & place TBD
- more developers (hopefully) from the US ...





- opensolaris™
DEVELOPER CONFERENCE

- and Russia!

- your participation 2008 is very welcome!

- watch [osol-announce] & [osol-discuss]

- Checkout <http://www.osdevcon.org>



Спасибо! Вопросы?



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(Pictures from: Jim Grisanzio, Wolfgang Stief, myself)