Using Open Source Software in Ground Systems

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2012 Ground Systems Architecture Workshop
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Overview

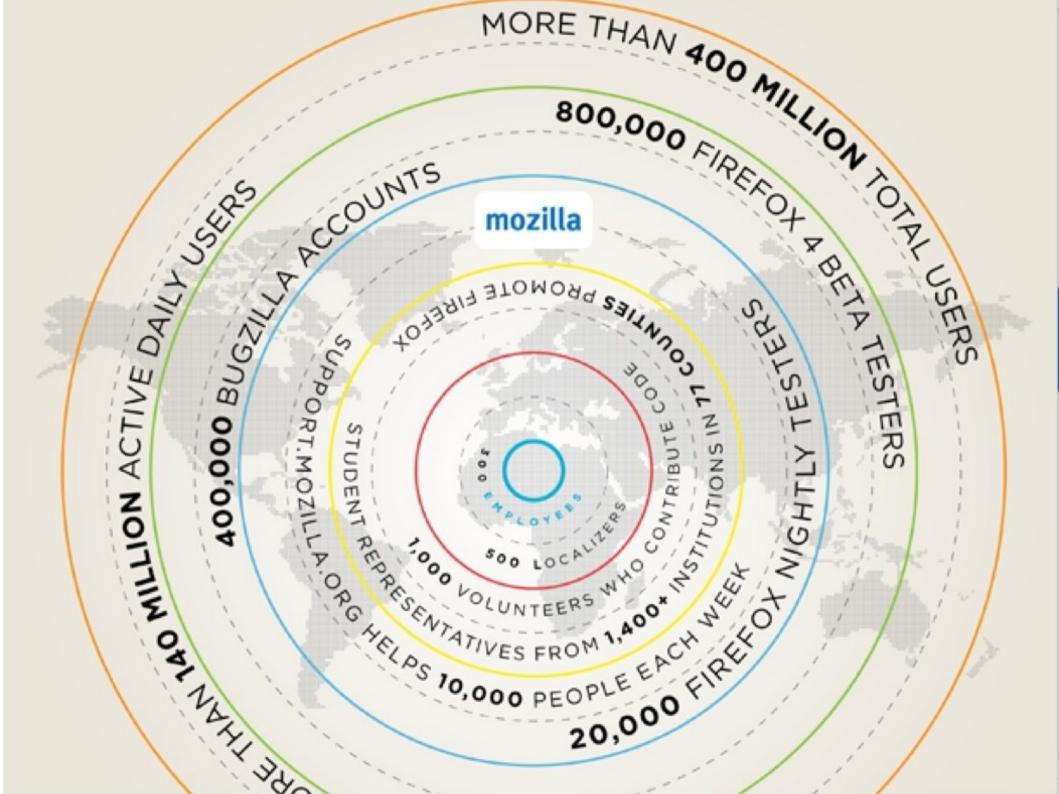
- Background
- Empirical findings from OSSD
- Open architectures and OSS ground systems
- OSSD corporate strategies for ground systems
- Discussion and limitations
- R&D opportunities and issues

Background

- What is Free/Open Source Software Development?
- FOSSD project characteristics
- FOSS development models
- What is an Open Architecture?
- FOSS and DoD

What is free/open source software development?

- Free (as in "freedom" or liberty) vs. open source
 - Freedom to access, browse/view, study, modify and redistribute the source code
 - Free is always open, but open source is not always free
- FOSSD is not "software engineering"
 - Different: FOSSD can be faster, better, and cheaper than SE in some circumstances
 - FOSSD teams use 10-500+ OSSD tools (versions) and communications applications to support their development work



\$

Categories

Mobile	1,093
Internet	33,111
Text Editors	4,368
Religion and Philosophy	557
Scientific/Engineering	21,273
Social sciences	665
Other/Nonlisted Topic	5,413
Formats and Protocols	5,606
Database	9,564
Security	5,476
Printing	793
Terminals	944
Office/Business	14,205
System	26,242
Education	8,718
Games/Entertainment	24,590
Desktop Environment	5,258
Software Development	37,643
Communications	20,779
Multimedia	19,483

Platform

Windows

Mac

Linux

Symbian

Dev Status	
Inactive	6,067
Mature	3,478
Production/Stable	38,311
Beta	44,465
Alpha	32,597
Pre-Alpha	30,994
Planning	41,790

Showing 25 of 304,442 results

Ares Galaxy Updated 2010-10-27

Filesharing-Bittorrent p2p client connected to TCP supernode/leaf network and UDP DHT network. Ares features a built-in directshow media player, a powerful library manager, shoutcast radio support and can be used to host p2p Chatrooms.

7-Zip Updated 2011-04-18

7-Zip is a file archiver with the high compression ratio. The program supports 7z, XZ, BZIP2, GZIP, TAR, ZIP, WIM, ARJ, CAB, CHM, CPIO, CramFS, DEB, DMG, FAT, HFS, ISO, LZH, LZMA, MBR, MSI, NSIS, NTFS, RAR, RPM, SquashFS, UDF, VHD, WIM, XAR, Z.

eMule Updated 2010-04-27

eMule is a filesharing client which is based on the eDonkey2000 network but offers more features than the standard client

Smart package of Microsoft's core fonts Updated 2006-05-07

So far this project consists of a source rpm that can be used to easily create a binary rpm package that, when installed, gives access to Microsoft's TrueType core fonts for the Web.

Portable Apps.com: Portable Software/USB Updated 2011-08-12

PortableApps.com allows you to carry your favorite computer programs and all of your bookmarks, settings, email and more with you on a portable device (USB flash drive, iPod, portable hard drive, CD, etc) and use them on any Windows computer.

MinGW - Minimalist GNU for Windows Updated 2011-08-05

MinGW: A native Windows port of the GNU Compiler Collection (GCC), with freely distributable import libraries and header files for building native Windows applications; includes extensions to the MSVC runtime to support C99 functionality.

Sort by: Downloads

Download sf AresRegular217 102710.

- 116936 recommendations
- 10,495,575 this week

Download 7z922.tar.bz2

- 24726 recommendations
- 1.606,945 this week

Download vlc-1.0.5 partfile plugin v

- 46424 recommendations

73 recommendations

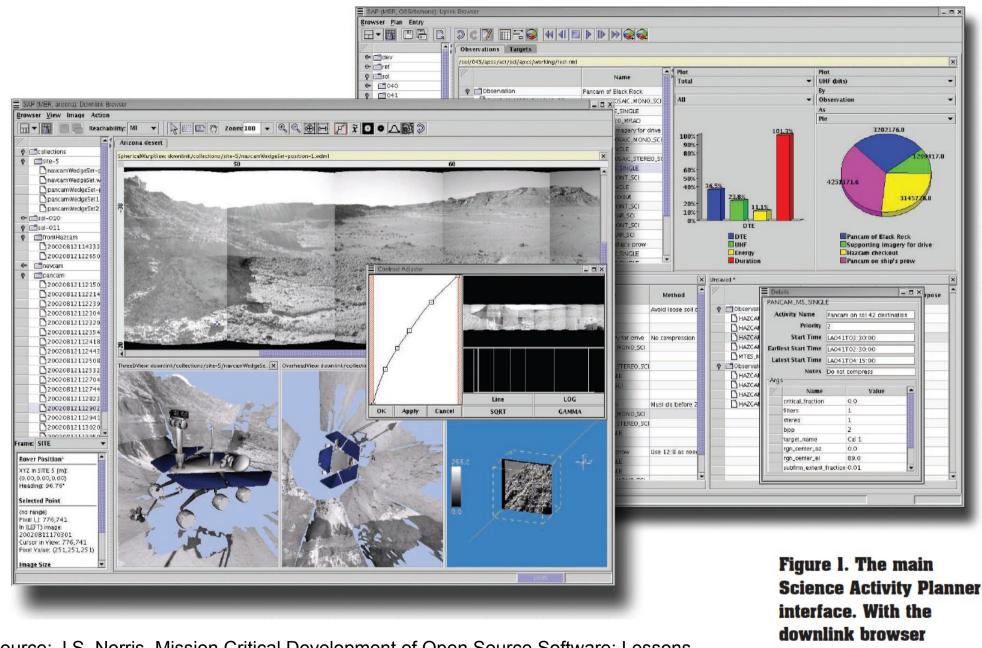
1,150,581 this week

Download 5f PortableApps.com Platfor

- 11177 recommendations
- 1,020,379 this week

Download x86-mingw32-build-1.0-sh

- 679 recommendations
- 916.767 this week



Source: J.S. Norris, Mission Critical Development of Open Source Software: Lessons Learned, *IEEE Software*, 21(1), 42-49, Jan 2004.

FOSSD Project Characteristics

- FOSS developers are typically users of what they build, while FOSS users (~1%) are also FOSS developers
- Requires "critical mass" of contributors and FOSS components connected through socio-technical interaction networks
- FOSSD projects can emerge/evolve via bricolage
 - Unanticipated architectural (de)compositions
 - Multi-project component integrations

FOSS Development Models

- Free Software (GPL)
- Permissive Open Source (BSD/MIT, FreeBSD)
- Corporate/Inner Source (Hewlett-Packard)
- Consortium/Alliance (OSDL, SugarCRM)
- Non-profit foundations (Apache, Mozilla, Gnome, Perl)
- Corporate-Sponsored (Google, HP, IBM, Microsoft, Nokia, Oracle)
- Modding: OSS extensions to Closed Source (many game companies)
- (Membership) Community Source (Sakai, Westwood)

------ not OSSD models below ------

- Shared Source with Non-Disclosure (Microsoft)
- Open Systems (open APIs, closed source components)

What is an Open Architecture?

- DoD has announced policies and initiatives that commit to the acquisition of software-intensive systems that require or utilize an Open Architecture and Open Technology.*
- OA systems may include components with open APIs, OSS technology or development processes.
- Air Force, Army, and Navy each have their own reasons for adoption OA systems.
 - But what happens when there are conflicts across the services regarding what an OA is?
- Therefore, is it clear what an OA is?

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^{*} Open Technology Deployment (OTD): Lessons Learned and Best Practices for Military Software DoD CIO, November 2011.

FOSS and DoD



View From The Front Office



Vision / Mission

U.S. Code

DoDD 5144.01

Teri M Takai

"Information is our greatest strategic asset."

Teri M Takai, DoD CIO

Media



Net Centricity - Overview Net Centricity - Summary Blue Force Tracking

Free Open Source Software (FOSS)

- Clarifying Guidance Regarding Open Source Software (OSS)
 Memorandum by David M. Wennergren, 16 October 2009
- Open Technology Development (OTD): Lessons Learned & Best Practices for Military Software OSD Report, May 2011
- DoD Open Source Software Frequently Asked Questions
- Use of Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) in the U.S. Department of Defense 2003 Study by MITRE Corporation performed for DoD

DoD FOSS Guidance

Policy (2009)

http://dodcio.defense.gov/sites/oss/2009OSS.pdf

- Lessons Learned (2011)
 http://dodcio.defense.gov/sites/oss/OTD-lessons-learned-military-signed.pdf
- Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (2010)
 http://dodcio.defense.gov/sites/oss/Open_Source_Software_(OSS)_FAQ.htm
- Foundations (2003)

http://dodcio.defense.gov/sites/oss/2003Survey/dodfoss_pdf.pdf

FOSS Policy at DoD:

Wennergren 2009 – http://dodcio.defense.gov/sites/oss/2009OSS.pdf

- "OSS is software for which the source code is 'open."
- "There have been misconceptions and misinterpretations of the existing laws, policies and regulations that deal with software and apply to OSS, that have hampered effective DoD use and development of OSS."
- "In almost all cases, OSS meets the definition of 'commercial computer software"
 - OSS is COTS!

FOSS Benefits (Wennergren 2009)

- Continuous and broad peer-review enabled by publicly available source code supports software reliability and security efforts
- Ability to modify software source code enables the DoD to respond more rapidly to changing situations, missions, and threats
- Reliance on a particular software developer or vendor due to proprietary restrictions may be reduced by the use of OSS
- OSS provides a net-centric licensing model that enables rapid provisioning of both known and unanticipated users

FOSS Benefits (Wennergren 2009)

- OSS can provide a cost advantage and can mitigate risk of cost growth by avoiding unit licensing costs
- By sharing the responsibility for maintenance of OSS with other users, the DoD can benefit by reducing the total cost of ownership for software
- OSS is particularly suitable for rapid prototyping and experimentation
- Ultimately, the software that best meets the needs and mission of the DoD should be used, regardless of whether the software is open source.

OSS components in Ground Systems?

- How to evaluate OSS components?
 - Same as COTS, but with community support
- Risks with OSS components?
 - Same as COTS, but with community costs and benefits
- Liability and ownership of OSS components?
 - Same as COTS, but through the community
- Foreign contributors to OSS components?
 - Same as COTS
- Security?
 - Better transparency than COTS, and better when community provides continuous, fast cycle improvements

Empirical research findings about FOSSD

(its not about the source code)

Individual participation in FOSSD projects: motives and consequences

- FOSS developers want to:
 - learn about new tools, techniques, skills, etc.
 - have fun building software
 - exercise their technical skill
 - try out new kinds of systems to develop
 - interconnect multiple FOSSD projects
- FOSS developers frequently:
 - build trust and reputation with one another
 - achieve "geek fame" (for project leaders)
 - spend more time reading online documents and communicating with one another than writing code

FOSSD *informalisms* for decentralized knowledge sharing and collaboration

Email lists	Discussion forum	News postings	Project digests
IM/Internet Relay Chat	Scenarios of usage	How-to guides	Screenshots
FAQs; to-do lists: item lists	Project Wikis	System documentation	External publications
Copyright	Architecture	Intra-app	Plug-ins
licenses	diagrams	scripting	
licenses Code from other projects	diagrams Project Web site	scripting Multi-project portals	Project source code

Introduction

This newsletter mainly covers the the #gnuenterprise IRC channel, with occasional coverage of the three main mailing lists (gnue-announce, gnue and gnue-dev) for the <u>GNU Enterprise</u> project.

1. Further trouble-shooting with the wx 2.6 drivers

20 Jun - 21 Jun Archive Link: "[IRC] 20 Jun 2006"

Summary By <u>Peter Sullivan</u> Topics: Forms, Common

People: Reinhard Müller, James Thompson, Johannes Vetter, Peter Sullivan

Further to <u>Issue #117</u>, <u>Section #2</u> (22 May: Layout in GNUe Forms with wx 2.6 driver), Reinhard Müller (reinhard) suggested to James Thompson (jamest) "if you are bored, you can try again the wx26 uidriver", as Johannes Vetter (johannesV) had done "some massive changes and it might be that your issues with fscking up the boxes are solved". James said that, although he was busy, "i really need to get that tested, as the dropdown box issues in 2.4 are preventing some selections from being allowed". So he was keen to have a version of GNUe Forms that worked with the user interface driver for wx 2.6 as soon as possible.

Trying Johannes' new code for GNUe Forms with his existing GNUe Forms Definitions, James found problems - "none of which are due to anything wrong with what you've done - it's all in my forms", where he had been relying on 'features' (such as overlapping text boxes) that Johannes had treated as 'bugs' and now fixed. Johannes confirmed that "overlaping is now being checked ... not only for boxes but for all widgets". He added, "if you click the detail-button you'll see the offending line in your XML-File - this makes debuging" a GNUe Form Definition (gfd) "a lot easier". James reported that all five of his existing GNUe Form Definitions were not working with the new code - but "i would still imagine it's something funky I'm doing in the form" rather than a problem with Johannes' code. He noted that, on the last one, the problem that he had been having with the dropdown menu had been fixed, but the form now "aborts on query".

(ed. [Peter Sullivan] Note that the lack of any guarantees on backward compatability, even with 'features'/'bugs' is one of the reasons why GNUe Forms remains at a version number below 1.0 as of time of writing, as discussed further in Issue #112, Section #4 (13 Apr: Forms approaching version 1.0?).)

Cooperation, coordination, and control in FOSSD projects: project governance

A meritocratic role hierarchy and role migration paths for FOSSD

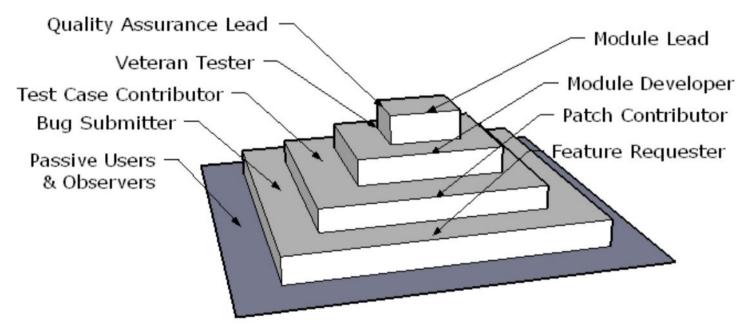


Figure 2. An "onion" pyramid representation of a generic OSSD project organizational hierarchy with multiple role-sets and advancement tracks.

Software version control

- Enables stabilization and synchronization of dispersed, "invisible" FOSSD work
- SVC tools (CVS, SVN, Git, etc.) used as:
 - Central mechanism coordinating development
 - Online venue for mediators (e.g., "code sheriffs", "buildmeister") to control what changes will be accommodated
 - Mediators "throttle" version update and release rates, to allow for "long term support," "candidate," and "daily patch" (continuous integration) versions
 - Gentle but sufficient social control mechanism that constrains overall project complexity
 - SVC supports collaboration practices through repositories.

Implicit project management

- FOSSD projects self-organize into a meritocractic rolehierarchy that enables virtual project management
 - Meritocracies embrace incremental innovations over radical innovations
 - VPM requires people to act in leadership roles based on skill, availability, and belief in project community
- Reliance on evolving web of software informalism content constrains collective action within FOSSD project via traceable and searchable information/content legacy

Decentralized OSSD processes guided by collaborative tools and informalism coordination repositories



Link to all Use Cases

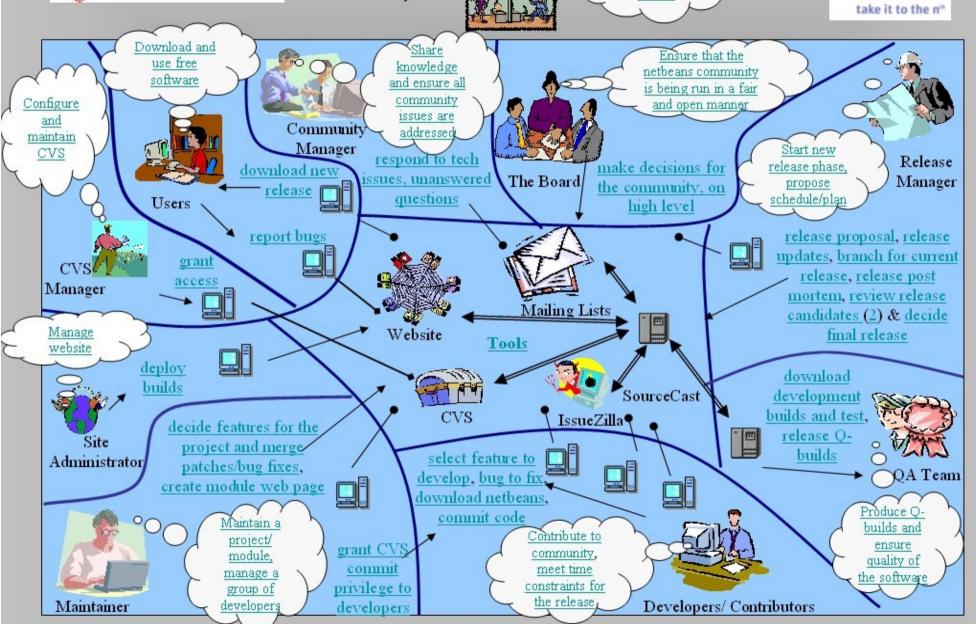
Sun Microsystems



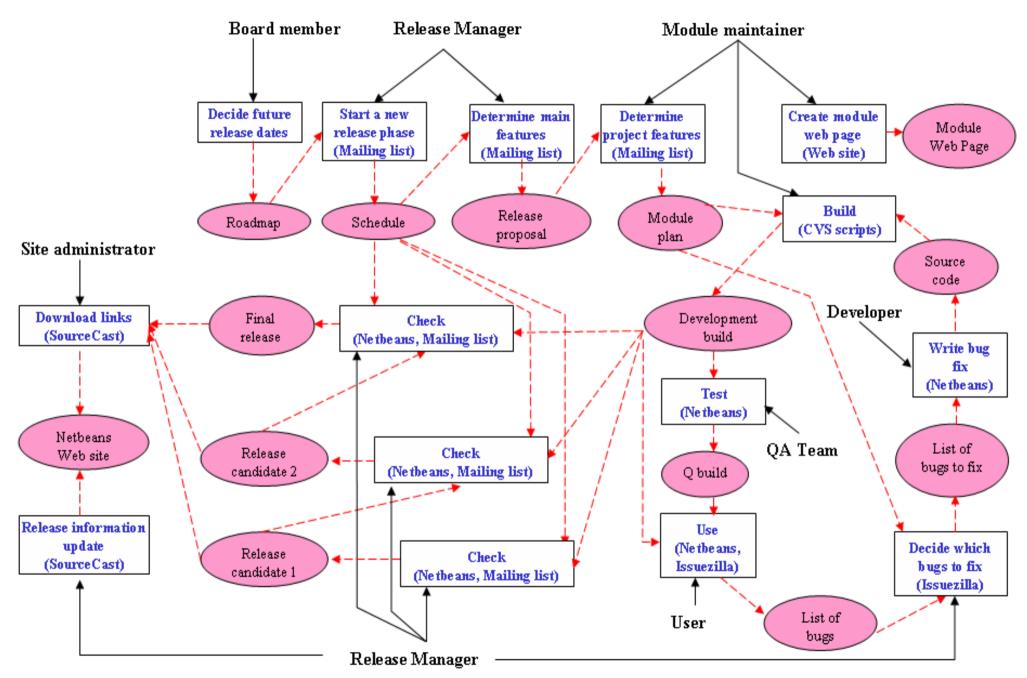
Funds, support,
Promote
Java/Open
source



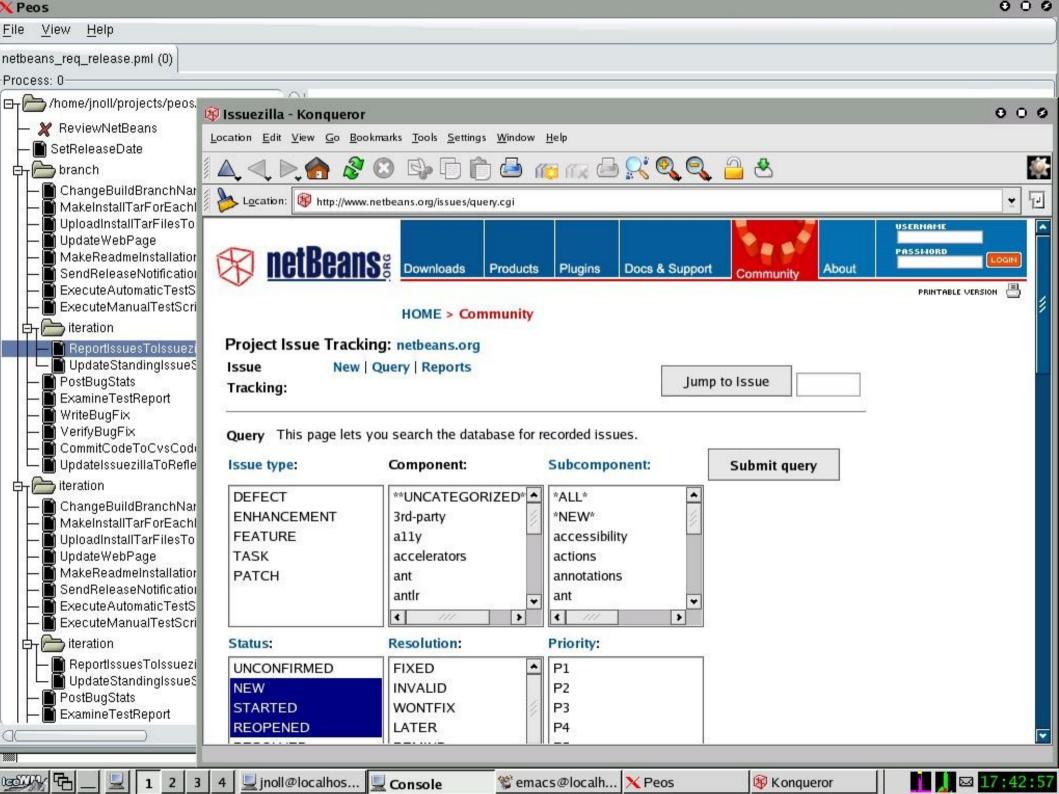
Links to all Agents



Link to Tools



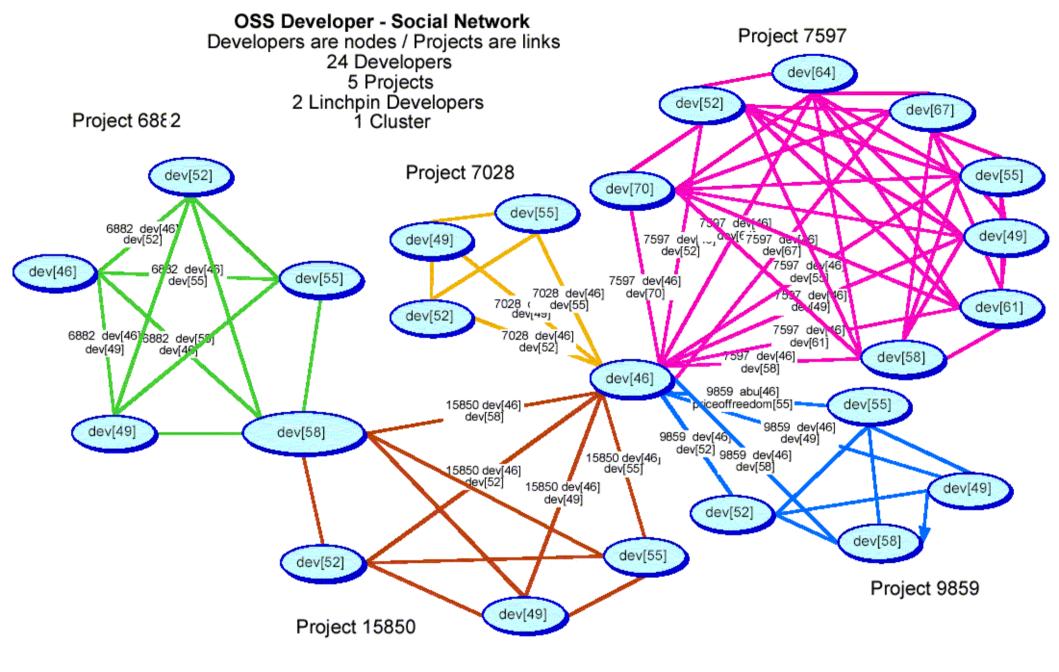
Legend: Boxes are *activities* (using *informalisms*); Ellipses are *resources* required or provided; Actor *roles* in boldface; *flow dependencies* as arrows.



Alliances, social networking, and community development

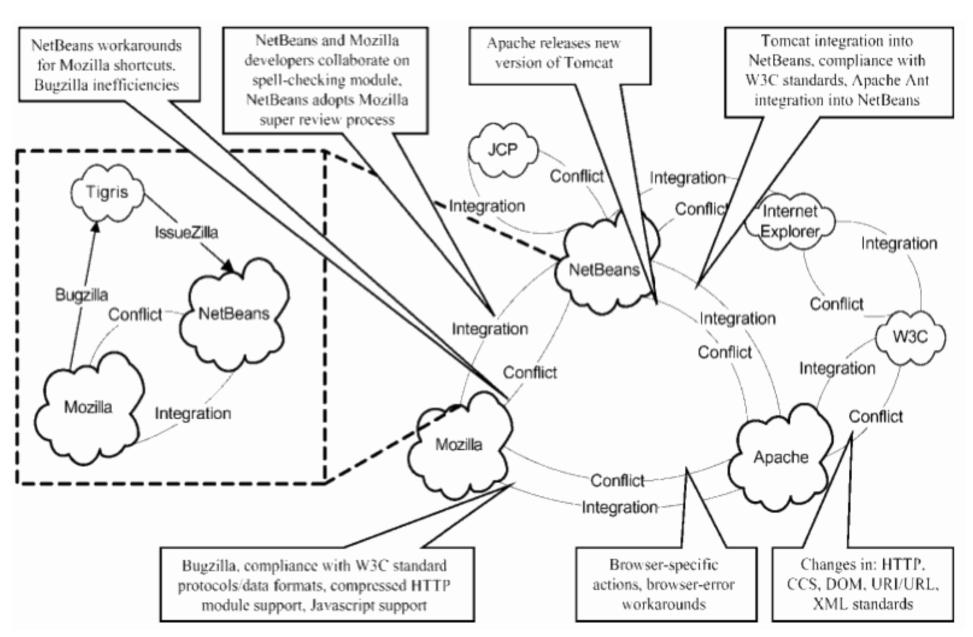


Institute for Software Research, UCI



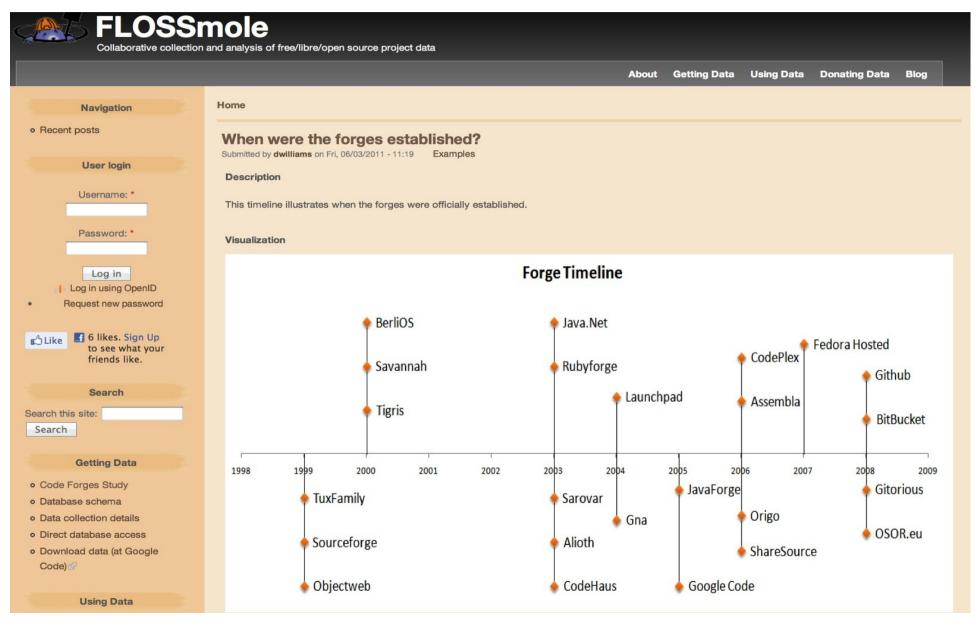
Source: G. Madey, et al., 2005

FOSS as multi-project software ecosystems



Source: C. Jensen and W. Scacchi, Process Modeling Across the Web Information Infrastructure, Software Process--Improvement and Practice, 10(3), 255-272, July-September 2005.

FOSS ecosystems develop around software forges (portals)



DoD Forge.mil



Top 10 FAQs

- What is the Forge.mil Program?
- What is the Forge.mil Community?
- ▶ What is SoftwareForge?
- What is ProjectForge?
- What is the difference between SoftwareForge and ProjectForge?
- What capabilities are available in the system?
- What are the guidelines for participating?

The Forge.mil Program

Forge.mil is a family of services provided to support the DoD's technology development community. The system enables the collaborative development and use of open source and DoD community source software. For programs and projects that require greater access control, the system supports private collaborative development with an on demand, fee for service offering. These initial software development capabilities are growing to support the full system life-cycle and enable continuous collaboration among all stakeholders including Project Managers, developers, testers, certifiers, operators, and users.

Tools & Resources



Forge.mil Brochure & ProjectForge Info Sheet

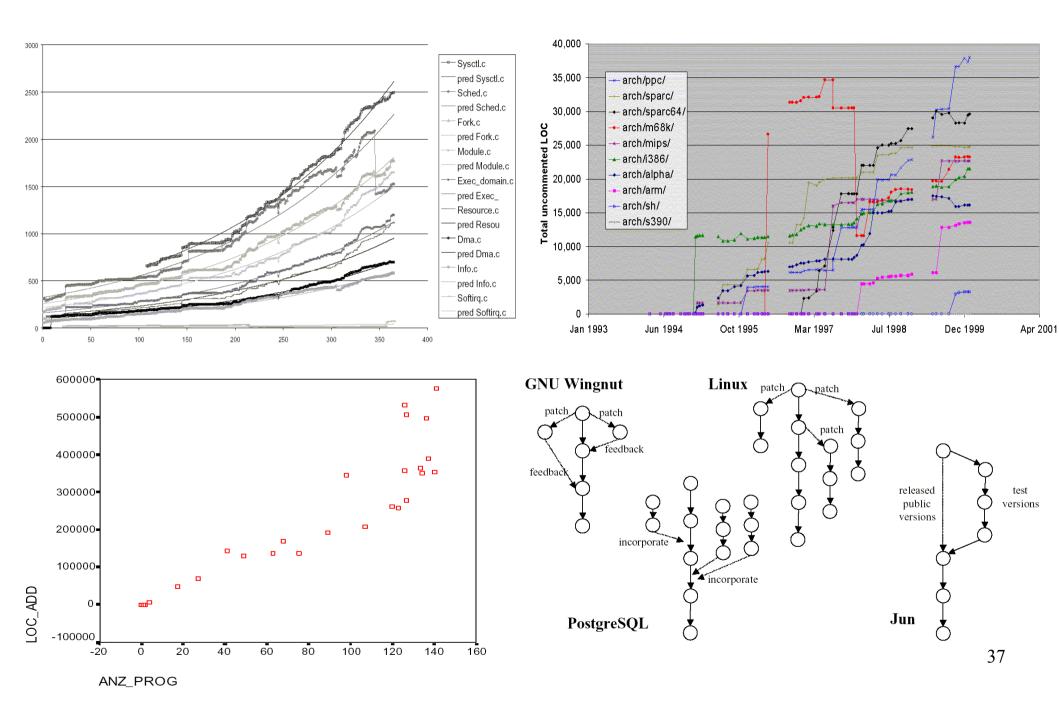
Join Community

Latest News

- ► Forge.mil: A DoD Innovation for the Enterprise
- Social Networking Comes to Forge.mil
- DISA Launches the Forge.mil
 Community Site
- Hanscom ESC Embraces New

Multi-project software ecosystem

- Mutually dependent FOSS development and evolution propagate functional software cliches/idioms, cloned code, architectural styles, dependencies, and vulnerabilities
- Architectural bricolage arises when autonomous FOSSD projects, artifacts, tools, and systems comingle or merge
 - Enables discontinuous or exponential growth of FOSS source code, functionality, complexity, contributions



Evolutionary redevelopment, reinvention, and redistribution

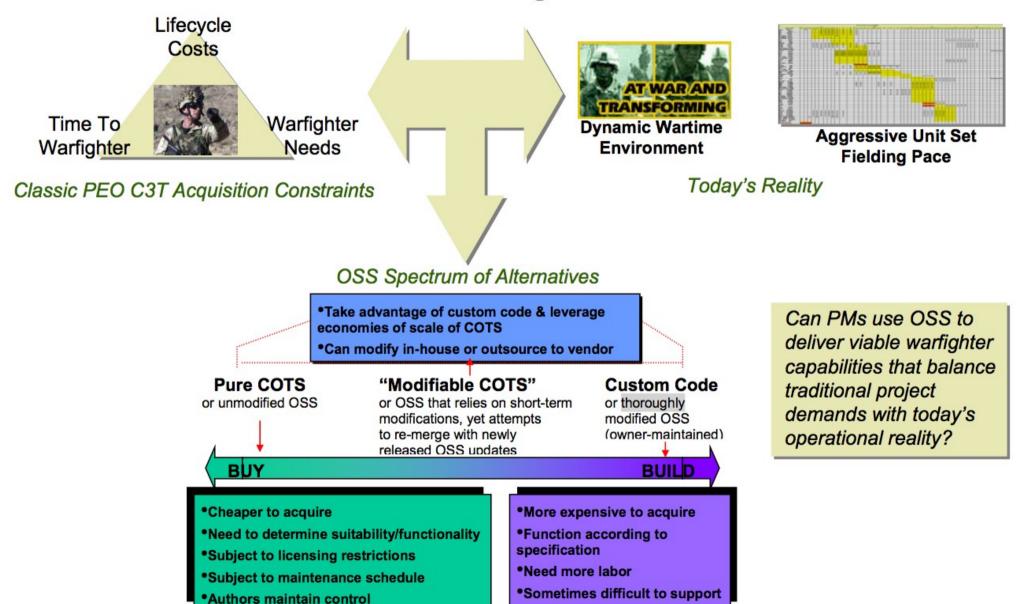
- Overall evolutionary dynamic of many FOSSD projects is reinvention and redevelopment
 - Reinvention enables continuous improvement and collective learning
- FOSS evolve through minor mutations
 - Expressed, recombined, redistributed via incremental releases
- FOSS systems co-evolve with their development community
 - Success of one depends on the success of the other

Open Architectures and OSS

Open Architectures and OSS

- Air Force sees that with its software-intensive systems, there is increasing complexity of the software (code) itself, they may be "held hostage" to proprietary legacy components, they seek more timely delivery of new solutions, and that acquisitions and requirements take too long [Riechers 2007].
- Army seeks to move away from closed source software, expensive software upgrades, vendor lock-in, and broadly exploited security weaknesses [Justice 2007a,b, Starrett 2007]
- Navy seeks to mitigate the spiraling costs of weapon systems through adoption of OA [Navy 2006], as well as the adoption of open business models for the acquisition and spiral development of new systems [Guertin 2007].

Matching OSS Alternatives to Tactical Warfighter Needs

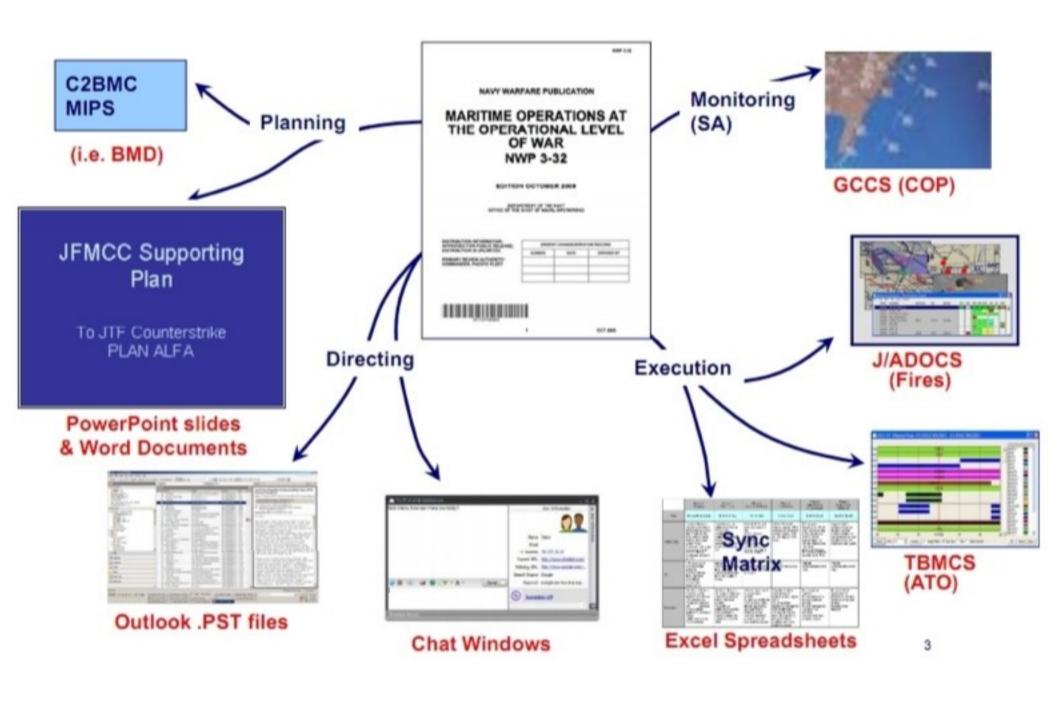


Source: MITRE

Open Architectures and OSS

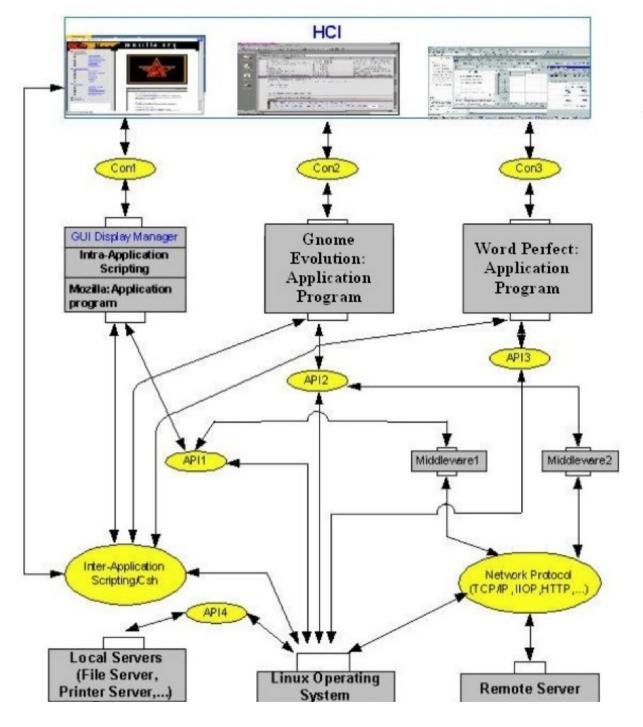
- DoD policies and initiatives encouraging OA with OSS elements
- Goal: identify software architecture principles (and OSS licenses) that mediate OA
 - OSS components subject to different IP licenses
- How to determine the requirements needed to realize OA strategies with OSS?

Source: W. Scacchi and T. Alspaugh, Emerging Issues in the Acquisition of Open Source Software within the U.S. Department of Defense, *Proc. 5th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium*, Vol. 1, 230-244, NPS-AM-08-036, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, 2008.



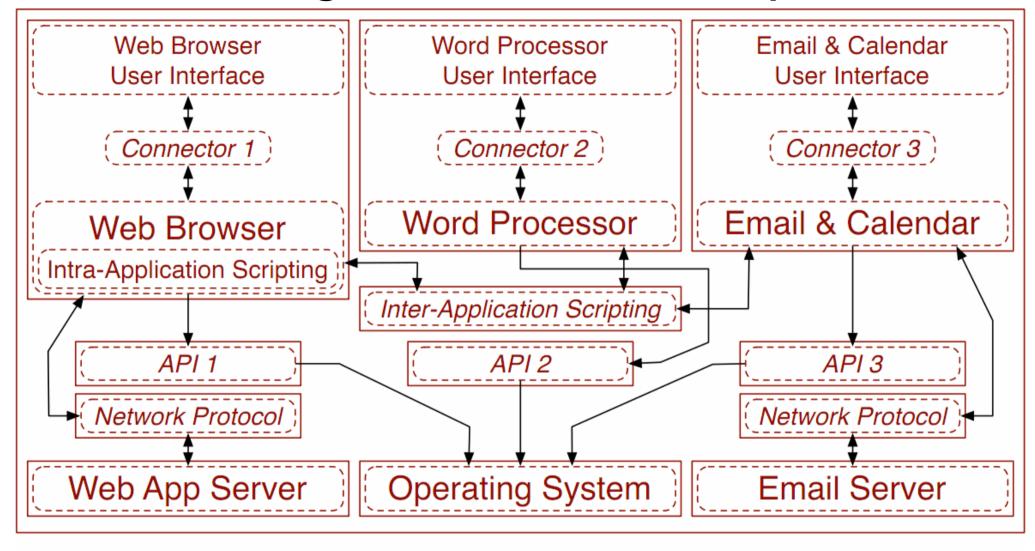
Open Software Architecture Concepts

- Software source code components
 - Standalone programs
 - Libraries, frameworks, or middleware
 - <u>Inter</u>-application script code (e.g., for mash-ups)
 - Intra-application script code (e.g., for Rich Internet Apps.)
- Executable software components (binaries)
- Application program interfaces (APIs)
- Software connectors
- Configured sub-system or system



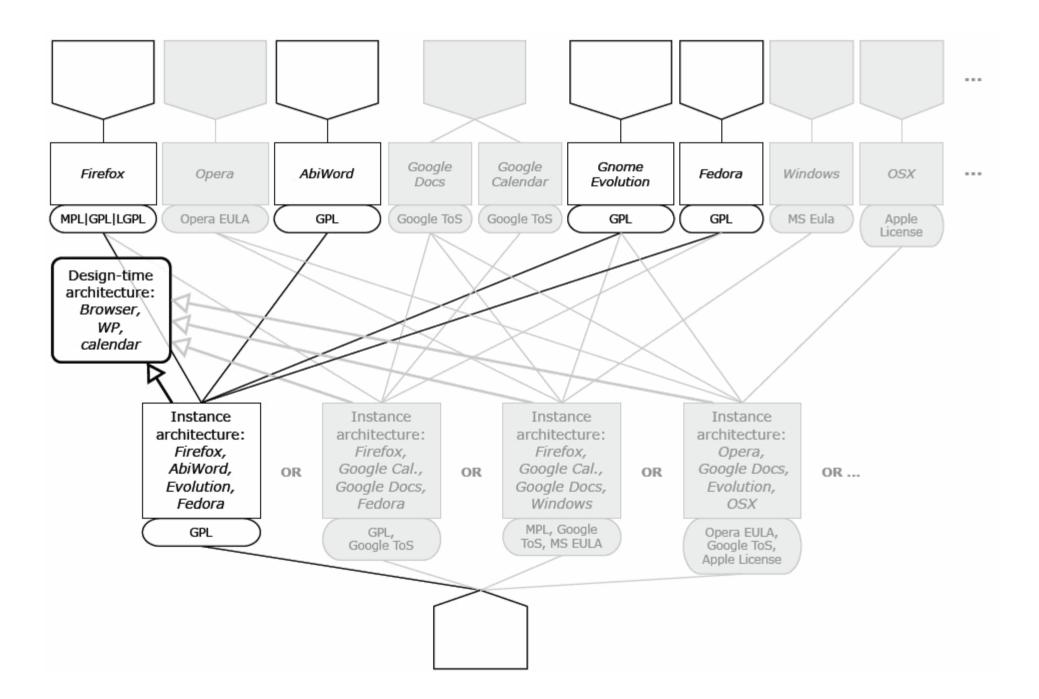
Legend: Grey boxes are components; ellipses are connectors; white boxes are interfaces; arrows are data or control flow paths; complete figure is architectural design configuration

Design-time OA example

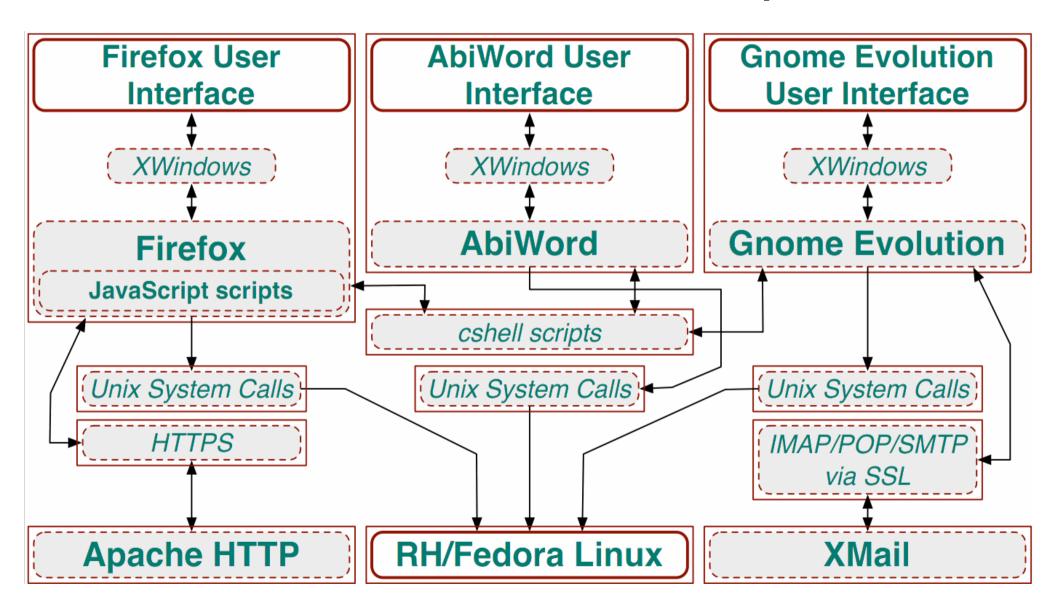


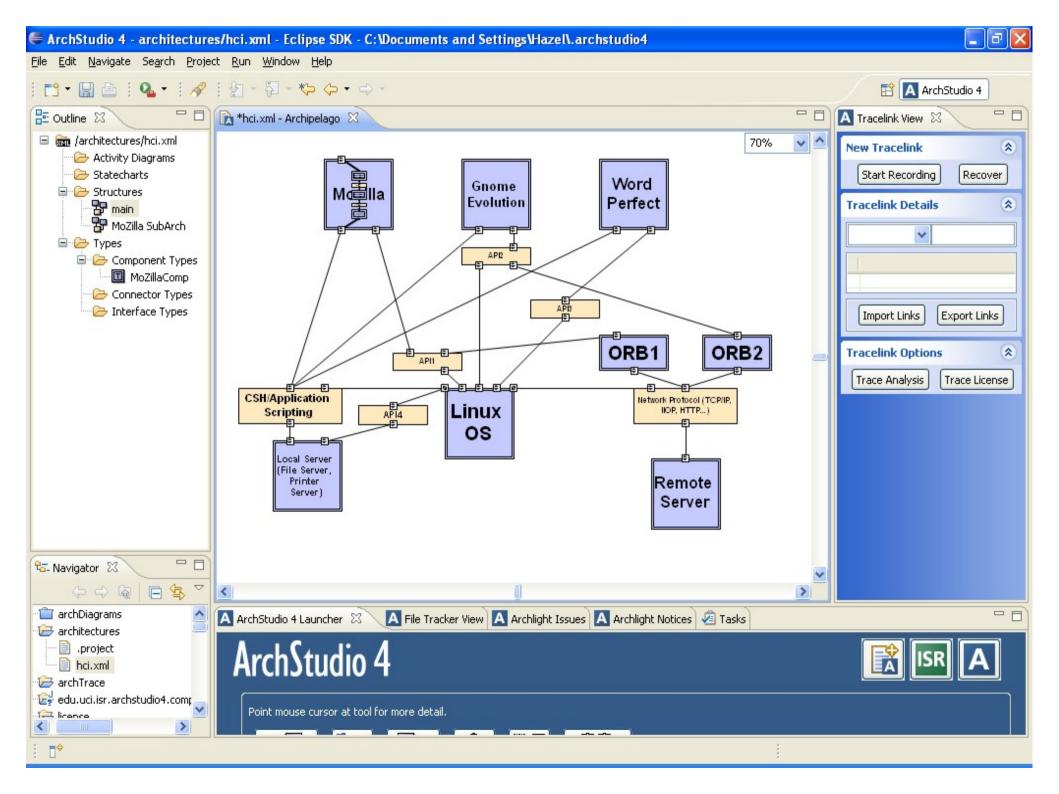
Key: Containment Vessel (Architecture Element)

OA design decisions for implementation



Build-time OA example

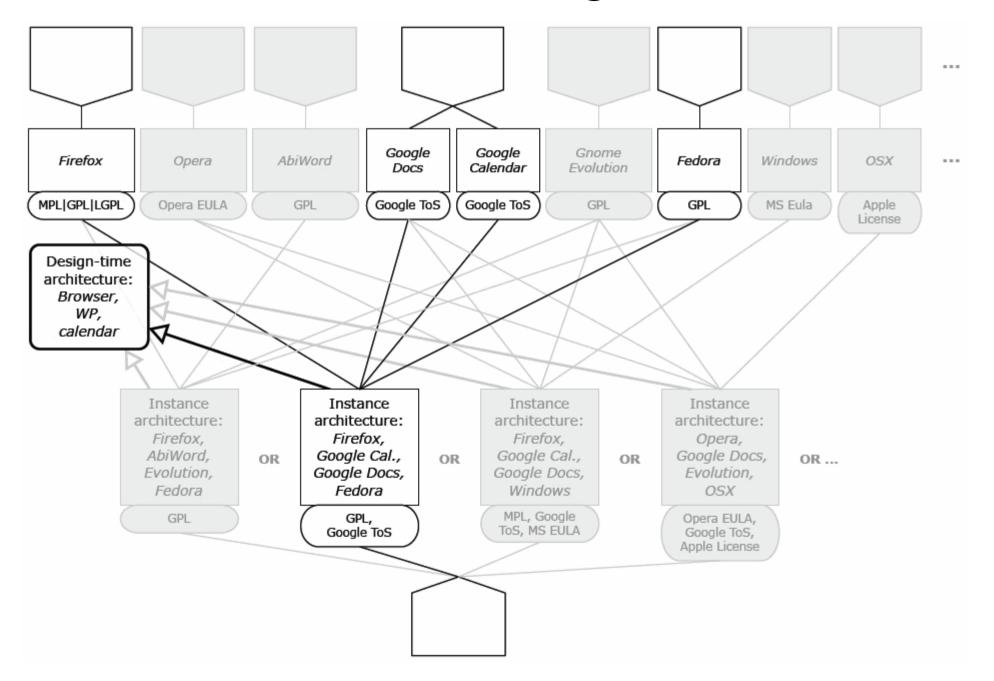




OSS elements subject to different IP licenses

- Intellectual Property licenses stipulate <u>rights</u> and <u>obligations</u> regarding use of the IP
 - GPL (Gnu Public License) stipulate right to access, study, modify, and reciprocal obligation to redistribute modified source
 - Mozilla now offers a "tri-license" for its software like Firefox:
 - GPL, MPL (lightweight), or Restricted (accommodating proprietary services)
 - Other OSS covered by different rights and obligations
- How to determine which rights and obligations will apply to a configured system?
 - At design-time (maximum flexibility)
 - At build-time (may/not be able to redistribute components at hand)
 - At run-time (may/not need to install/link-to components from other sources)
- Use architectural meta-models to define OA whose component license interactions and architecture can be formally specified, analyzed, and realized with automated OA design environment
 - T. Alspaugh, W. Scacchi, and H. Asuncion, Software Licenses in Context: The Challenge of Heterogeneously Licensed Systems, *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*, 11(11), 730-755, November 2010.

Alternative OA design decision



OSSD corporate strategies

OSSD corporate strategies: case studies

- AT&T/Lucent Technologies
- Eclipse (IBM)
- European SpaceAgency
- Hewlett-Packard
- Nokia

OSSD Strategy Summary

- AT&T/Lucent Technologies demonstrated how to start up OSSD projects by creating a small, research focused OSSD project that built from open, international standards to eventually involve dozens of contributors from their customers, competitors, and end-users.
- European Space Agency provided examples for how to use international standards to drive OSSD on different multi-vendor, systems integration projects.
- HP pioneered the concept and practice of OSS and OSSD projects behind the corporate firewall, its major (hardware) products now rely on OSSD projects, and it contributes resources and intellectual property to the support of dozens of external OSSD projects, and thousands of internal OSSD projects.
- Nokia and IBM actively support the OSSD community internal and external to their firms, has acquired software product competitors and open sourced their source code, encourages industry participations with its customers, competitors and end-users, and supports independent OSSD projects.
- Contractors/market leaders will compete on providing integrated systems and/or support services for OSS-based ground systems

OSSD and Ground Systems

(including decentralized command and control systems -- DC2)

Ground systems?

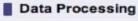
TT&C (Telemetry, Tracking & Command)

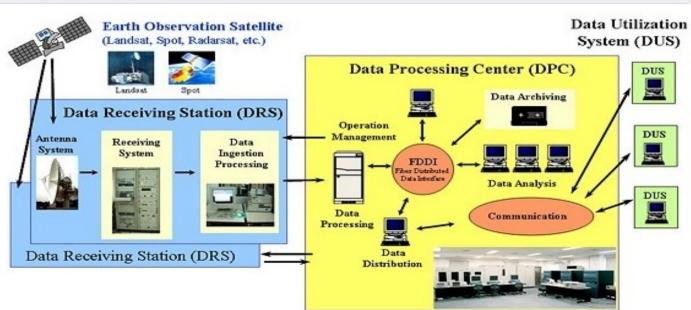


ARABSAT TTC&M Station13m DIA. Antenna (Riyadah, Saudi Arabia)



JAXA TT&C Station (Kiruna, Sweden)





Conventional C2 facility for mission management



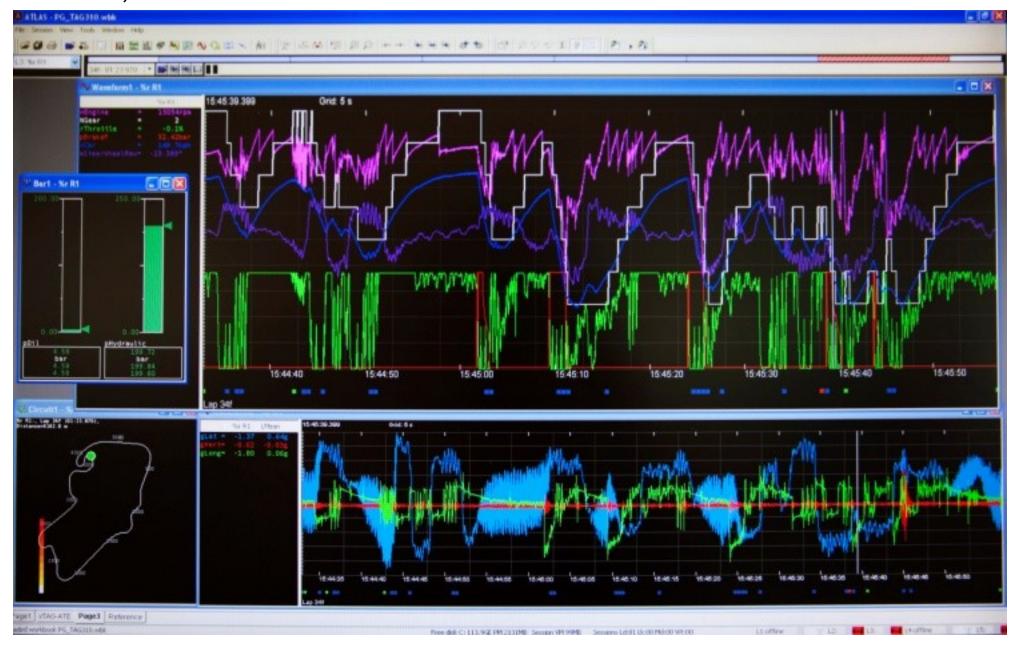
Conventional C2 facility: Formula 1 race control



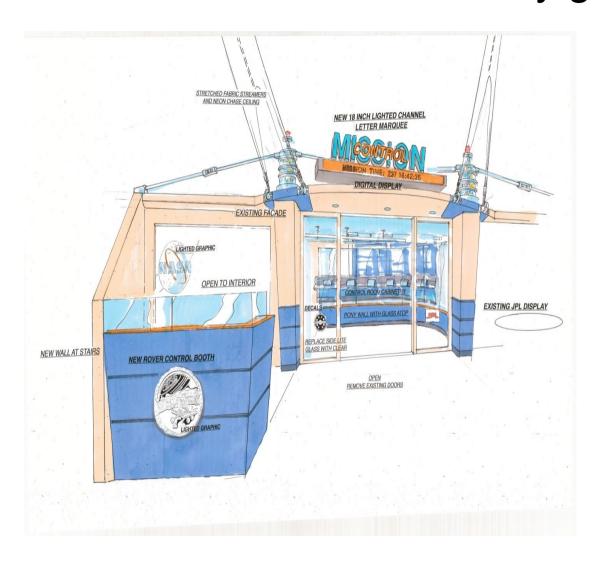
F1 race team ground systems: trackside vehicle telemetry, data processing trailer, satellite link to factory

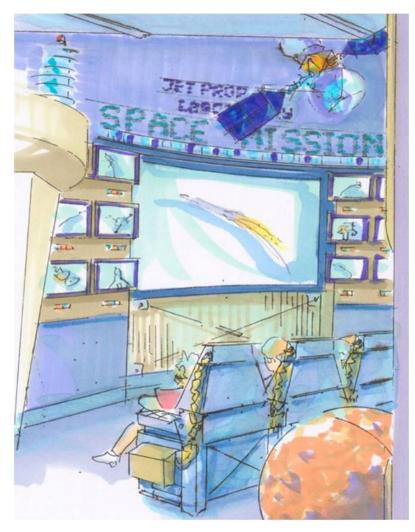


F1 race control: multiple sensors, real-time event telemetry streams, real-time information fusion coordinated across team sites



Mission Control Room at the *Discovery Science Center*: Child-friendly ground systems?

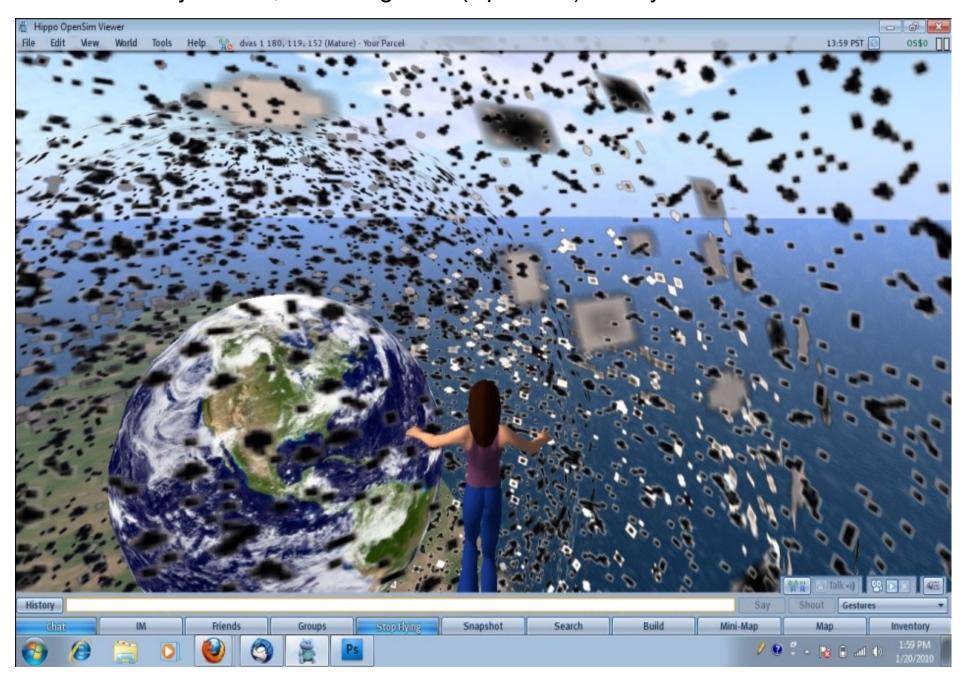




Mission Control Environment at DSC: Status (Winter 2012)

- Space Science Hall at DSC, elements in place:
 - Boeing Rocket Lab
 - Planetary Research Station
 - NASA Exploration Vehicle installation
- Mission Control Room (in development)
 - Will complete the onsite Space Science Hall at DSC
 - Partially funded (external matching fund challenge grant)
 - DSC needs to bring in resources to complete the Mission Control Room, and Mission Control game, as the onsite exhibit
 - DSC is collaborating with UCI to develop and deploy MC game
 - UCI and DSC have proposed expanding MC game to create comprehensive MCE game environment

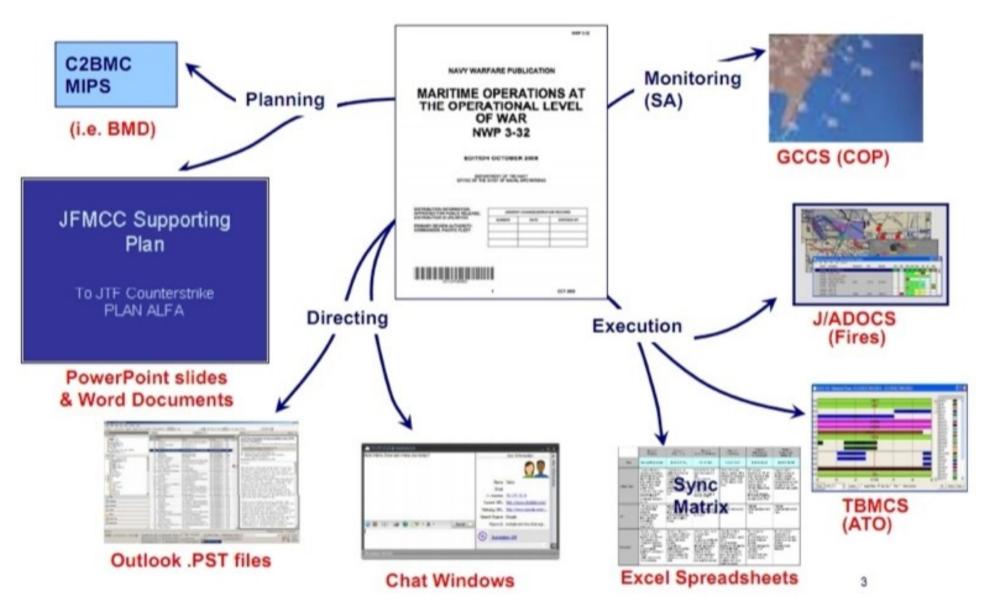
Games/Applications for MCE: space debris tracking, fly-through, clean-up, mirrored objects trajectories, etc. using OSS (*OpenSim*) and synthetic data



Play testing mission management game mockup: incremental resource allocation with shifting uncertainty and outcomes



Ground systems (or C2 systems) should embed heterogeneous software system applications within extensible *open architectures*



C2RPC (2010). Command and Control Rapid Deployment Continuum Overview, http://www.afcea-sd.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/YoungAFCEA C2RPC.pdf

Decentralized C2 (DC2) Systems coming soon

"To support high-tempo distributed operations..., this concept envisions decentralized command and control to the extend possible in both planning and execution."

Department of Defense, *Joint Operation Access Concept* (JOAC), Version 1.0, 17 January 2012.

Also see, W. Scacchi, C. Brown, and K. Nies, *Investigating the Use of Computer Games and Virtual Worlds for Decentralized Command and Control*, Final Report, Grant #N00244-10-1-0064, Institute for Software Research, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA, Fall 2011.

What is Decentralized Command and Control (DC2)?

DC2 systems are C2 systems that can be:

- logically centralized and physically dispersed
- operated as virtual enterprises
- used at "edge" of an multi-site organization
- engage agents (avatars) and human actors
- engage actors in different locations that are virtually collocated in a DC2 virtual world
- "cloud" friendly

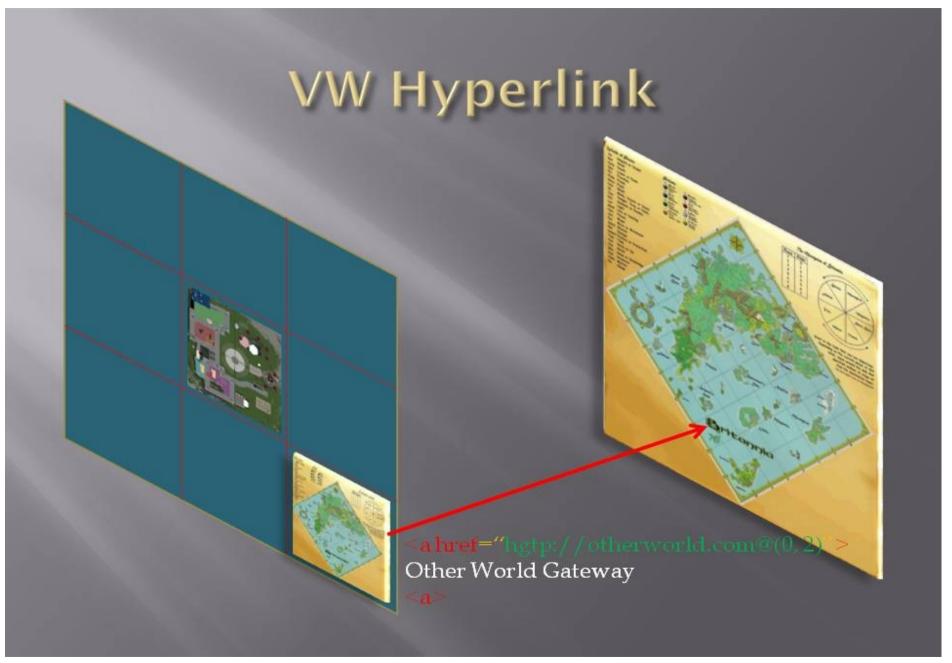
Virtualized ground system/DC2 facility using OpenSim



Virtualized DC2 actors/avatars: where are their users located?

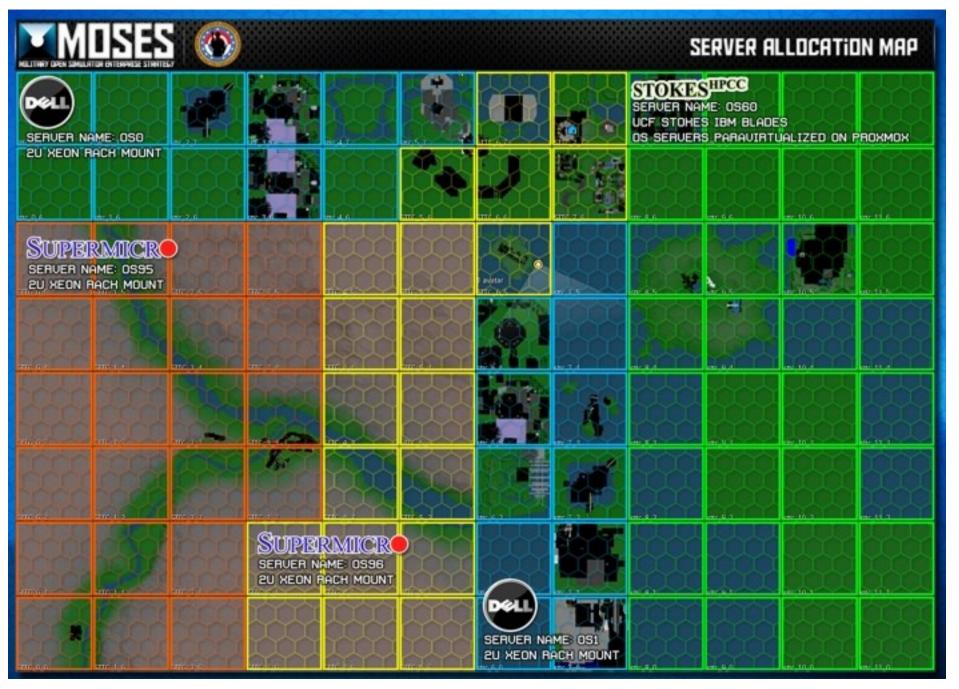


DC2 virtual worlds can be linked into interoperable hypergrids



C. Lopes, (2011). Hypergrid: Architecture and Protocol for Virtual World Interoperability, *IEEE Internet Computing*, 15(5), 22-29, Sept-Oct 2011.

DC2 worlds can be linked into hypergrids across heterogeneous platforms

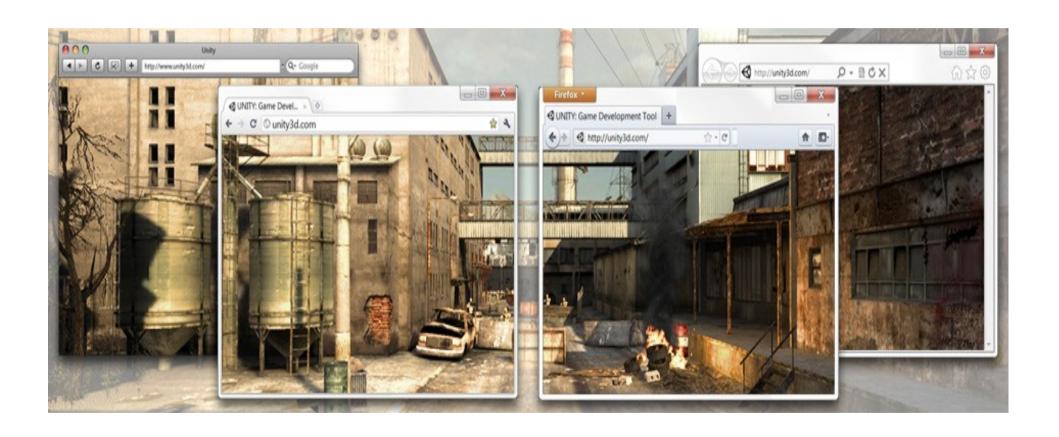


Military Open Simulator Enterprise Strategy: http://fvwc.army.mil/moses/

New DC2 platforms: personal, mobile, built into other devices/platforms



DC2 diverse clients (multi-version implementations, OSS and closed source software) accessing common world



Lessons to learn

- What is Decentralized Command and Control (DC2)?
 - Something to master; invest in now
- OSS Computer games and virtual worlds for DC2
 - Enable new ways and means for experimenting with new DC2 concepts, techniques, workforce
- Applications for OSS DC2
 - Potential for DC2 product line architectures and (domainspecific) application generators
- Scaling DC2 systems: capability versus cost
 - Finding the sweet-spot in scalable capability/cost.
- OSS DC2 challenges and opportunities for Cybersecurity
 - Great R&D opportunities; visualize security

Discussion and limitations

OSSD and Validation

- OSSD is a decentralized approach to software development
 - OSSD processes can also be open source!
- OSS is amenable to decentralized validation
- OSS may be better suited for independent validation and continuous improvement across enterprises than closed source software
- OSSD for ground systems may work best when conceived as transcending the efforts of a single enterprise.

FOSSD research limitations

- Individual participation
 - Some form of reciprocity and intrinsic, selfserving motivation is necessary
- Cooperation, coordination, and control
 - Negotiation and conflict management are <u>part</u> of the cost FOSS developers incur in order to have their believes fulfilled
 - Time, effort, and attention are spent negotiating socio-technical dependencies

Research opportunities

- Results from study of cooperation, coordination and control in FOSSD
 - Virtual project management (VPM) and role migration can provide a lightweight approach to SE project management
 - Unclear whether proprietary software projects willing to embrace VPM

FOSSD research limitations

- Alliances and community development
 - FOSSD projects give rise to new kinds of requirements for community building, community software, and community information sharing systems
 - Alliances and community require attention to sustain their effectiveness, and to prevent them from becoming self-serving and bureaucratic

Research opportunities

- Alliance formation and social networking results suggest SE projects operate at a disadvantage compared to FOSSD projects
 - SE projects tend to produce systems whose growth/evolution is limited
 - FOSSD projects can produce systems capable of sustained exponential growth/evolution of both software and developer-user community

FOSSD research limitations

- Empirical studies of FOSSD are expanding the scope of what we can observe, discover, analyze, and learn about large software systems.
 - Mining software repositories
 - Multi-modal modeling and analysis of sociotechnical processes and networks found in sustained FOSSD projects

Research opportunities

Research opportunities

- FOSSD is poised to alter the calculus of empirical SE
 - Software process discovery, modeling, and simulation
 - Repository mining can support software visualization, refactoring/redesign studies
 - Compare SE versus FOSSD approaches to software inspection and peer review
 - OSS components and processes for future ground systems?

FOSS systems R&D areas

- Development processes, practices, and project forms
- Collaboration
- Ecosystems
- Evolution
- Instrumentation and infrastructure

Development processes, practices, and project forms

- What are the
 - development processes,
 - work practices,
 - alternative project organizational forms
 that give rise to successful FOSS systems?
- What works where, when, why and how, and for whom?

Collaboration

- How does the practice of developing large or very large scale software systems depend on the collaborative work practices and communities of practice found in successful FOSS system projects?
- How do software licenses facilitate or inhibit collaboration among global software developers?

Ecosystems

- How do FOSS systems emerge within a complex, decentralized web of people, artifacts, practices, and other infrastructural resources while most FOSS projects fail to take root and thrive?
- How do those few that do succeed become widespread and transform industry, government, or science practices?

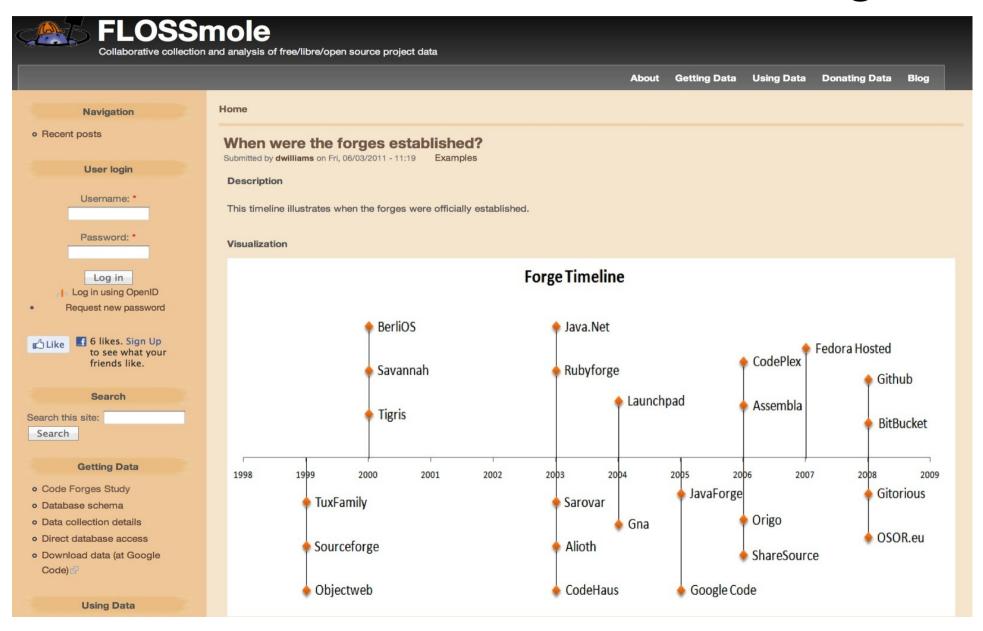
Evolution

- How can successful FOSS systems continue to grow, develop (within releases), and evolve (across releases) across ever larger communities of developer-users at sustained exponential rates?
 - Via evolution/replacement of components, architecture, component licenses, project forms, communities, tools, practices, etc.
- To what end, and following what processes?

Instrumentation and infrastructure

- Scalability:
 - Research studies range from small-scale studies of individual FOSS projects to very-large populations of FOSS projects
- Repositories and Meta-Repositories:
 - Each FOSS project is an ecology of mostly informal online artifacts
 - Source code and meta-data are formal
- Data analysis tools and analytics
 - Supporting text and software data mining, (process) knowledge discovery, data visualization, provenance, and archiving of "executable research papers"
 - See FLOSSmole, FLOSShub, FLOSSmetrics.

FLOSSmole view of FOSS Forges



Further readings on FOSS

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