

Linux and Open Source ...in the trenches

Danny Lieberman

dannyl@software.co.il

This work is licensed under the
Creative Commons Attribution License.

software.co.il

Agenda

- About us
- The top 3 mistakes companies make
- 3 examples

I'd like to thank:

Dr. Joel Issacson for contributing some of the ideas for this talk and our clients for tolerating my strong opinions and giving us the opportunity to earn their business.

About us

- Specialists in Open Source software security
 - Database, Web applications, Extrusion prevention
 - Founded 2001
- Clients who use our products & services:
 - Resolute Networks
 - Mainsoft
 - Verint
 - 013 Barak
 - ...and more

software.co.il

The top 3 mistakes

- Pick a vendor
- Who do you turn to?
- Pick a platform

1. Pick a vendor

- Picking a large global company for support is not always the best way to go for various reasons .
 - Hold on...I'll explain later.

2. Who do you turn to?

- Support yourself
 - Most effective, needs investment in time and talent
 - Everything is open, you can DIY on the Web
 - Lots of resources and books available

2. Who do you turn to?

- Small local firm
- Local companies not at a disadvantage since there are no secrets or proprietary software
 - Plenty of talent in Israel, look around you...
 - No vendor “lock-in”

2. Who do you turn to?

- Large global company (IBM, Red Hat, Montavista ...)
 - Why choose Open Source and then sell your soul to the devil?
 - Vendor “lock-in”
 - Technology lag
 - Not latest kernel or layered applications

3. Pick a platform

- Some OSS products are becoming “brands”.
 - Red Hat, MySQL, Jboss
 - Brand is not always best
- When you choose a OSS platform consider:
 - Technology
 - License
 - Fit for purpose

3 examples

- Here are three of our customers:
 - Database (Mainssoft)
 - Web application (Reconnect)
 - Extrusion Prevention (013 Barak)
- Your needs will differ and your mileage may vary 😊

Database : Mainsoft

- Needed an Open Source RDMS to be bundled with their Visual MainWin C#, VB.Net for J2EE product and sample applications
 - MySQL or PostgreSQL?
- The answer was PostgreSQL as we will see.

Database: Mainsoft

- Technology
 - Support views, triggers and stored procedures
 - Queries over views, nested sub-queries, large joins
 - Custom data types
- License
 - Distribute with a closed source product
- Fitness for purpose
 - Migrate from MS SQL without reengineering applications
- PostgreSQL met the 3 requirements. MySQL didn't.
 - Convert dotNetNuke SQL to PG
 - Change data abstraction layer (DNN provider)

Web application : Reconnect

- The United Synagogue needed to create a large virtual community for youth programs alumni.
 - Reach out to over 100,000 people worldwide
 - Non-profit, low budget
- What platform?
 - Jboss or Open ACS

Web application: Reconnect

- Technology
 - Customer didn't care
- License
 - No budget for commercial licenses
- Fitness for purpose
 - Development budget -\$10k, Hosting - \$100/month
 - Forums, classifieds, directory, bulk mail, groups, permissions, sub-sites, CMS, ticket tracker, chat and more...
- OpenACS5
 - Enterprise class toolkit for community web applications
 - Time to market: 2 months, on budget, good performance

Extrusion Prevention: 013 Barak

- Needed to provide real-time network audit on production backbone
- What platform:
 - Windows-based or Linux-based solution?

Extrusion Prevention: 013 Barak

- Technology
 - Content interception, 1Gbit wire-speed, Layer 2 Sniffer
- License
 - Required commercial support
- Fitness for purpose
 - Detect and analyze unauthorized network transfer of sensitive digital assets in real-time
 - Modest budget
- Chose a Linux-based solution
 - Fidelis DataSafe EPS, RH Linux 3.4.
 - 5-10x faster than comparable Windows solution from Vontu
 - 15' deployment

Summary

- Teams of 2-5 people can wage a small war with OSS
 - So can you.
- Links
 - www.mainsoft.com
 - www.projectreconnect.org
 - www.fidelissecurity.com
 - www.postgresql.org
 - www.mysql.com
 - www.openacs.org
 - www.vontu.com
- Visit us at www.software.co.il