OSS Watch
Supporting open source in education and research

▸ http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk/newsletters/june2010.pdf

http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk

IN THIS ISSUE:

- What's happening on the TransferSummit website?
- Using open innovation to meet ambitious carbon emission targets
- Open innovation builds success at LEGO
- Build a better Facebook through open innovation

Online newsletter available at
▸ http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk/newsletters/june2010.pdf

Welcome to a special conference edition of our monthly newsletter. The conference? TransferSummit/UK of course. In line with the conference our focus in this newsletter is firmly on open innovation in software. For this edition we bring you a series of snippets about open innovation from the TransferSummit website alongside our regular features. As we prepare for the conference OSS Watchers have been blogging on how open innovation impacts on both the academic and business sectors. Sander van der Waal considers the impact of open innovation on a specific green computing initiative, Ross Gardler tells us about LEGO, and Steve Lee considers whether open innovation can build a better Facebook.

We very much hope to see you at TransferSummit ready to contribute to the knowledge exchange between academia and business. From spinouts and startups to collaborative think-tanks, TransferSummit is the place to discuss and discover strategic opportunities, don't miss out!

Elena Blanco, Content Editor, OSS Watch ▸ info@oss-watch.ac.uk

CONFERENCE SPECIAL

We are getting ready for TransferSummit/UK.

To find out more and to register visit the TransferSummit website

To discuss online use the #TS10 hashtag.

▸ OSS Watch online

▸ OSS Watch blog

▸ Contact OSS Watch

▸ OSS Watch twitter

OSS Watch is funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee

JISC

News from OSS Watch

STAY UP-TO-DATE
▸ OSS Watch news feed
▸ http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk/rss/osswatchnews.rss

Community lessons for research infrastructure

Despite the availability of an impressive range of online systems and resources for researchers, a recent JISC-funded Community Engagement Report has identified a number of barriers to their adoption. These include competition for research funding, an inability to share resources, and a lack of extended software development support. Gabriel Hanganu takes a closer look at some of these barriers, and explores how experience from open development could be used to alleviate or remove them.

▸ http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk/resources/researchinfrastructure-community.xml

Twitter open sources FlockDB

Twitter has open sourced the code that it used to build its database of users and manage their relationships to one another, called FlockDB. This follows the release of Twitter's Gizzard framework, used to perform high volume queries of the FlockDB distributed data store.

▸ http://gigaom.com/2010/04/12/twitter-open-sources-the-home-of-its-social-graph/

Joint Mozilla/Shuttleworth fellowship - call for proposals

The Mozilla Foundation and the Shuttleworth Foundation have decided to jointly offer an Education for the Open Web Fellowship. The fellowship is a part of Mozilla's Drumbeat initiative and Shuttleworth's Fellowship programme. It offers fellows the benefits of both programmes. Applications must be submitted by 7 June 2010.

▸ http://www.mozilla.org/grants/education-fellowship.html

Google Summer of Code 2010: accepted students announced

Google has announced the publication of the list of the 1,025 students accepted for this year's Google Summer of Code (GSoC) event. Each year, Google seeks students and mentors from the FLOSS community to participate in its annual GSoC event, which takes place over a period of three months.

▸ http://www.h-online.com/open/news/item/Google-Summer-of-Code-2010-Accepted-students-announced-987578.html

LinuxCon keynotes feature Linux insiders - and outsiders

The Linux Foundation (LF) has announced keynote speakers for LinuxCon, scheduled for August 10-12 in Boston. Keynote speakers will include Virgin America's Ravi Simhambhatla, GNOME's Stormy Peters, the SFLC's Eben Moglen, and Forrester Research's Jeffrey S. Hammond, and will host a Linux Kernel Roundtable.

▸ http://www.desktoplinux.com/news/NS5569438327.html?kc=rss

▸ Spain selects EUPL for distributing free software

The Royal Decree 4/2010 adopted by Spain in January 2010 prescribes that when public authorities produce software that could be reused by other administrations, businesses or citizens, it is distributed under the terms of the European Union Public Licence (EUPL). Spain is among the first EU member states to formally recommend the EUPL in its national law.

▸ http://www.osor.eu/communities/eupl/blog/impact-of-the-spanish-royal-decree-4-2010-of-8-january-2010-1

Nokia N8: the first open source Symbian smartphone

Nokia has announced its N8, the first smartphone to use the open source Symbian 3 operating system. The smartphone will be released in the UK in the third quarter of 2010 and is priced at £321 before taxes and subsidies.

▸ http://www.24worldnews.com/nokia-n8-the-first-open-source-symbian-smartphone/9177/

What's happening on the TransferSummit website?

All of the following snippets are taken from http://www.transfersummit.com/

Innovation and IP

Fair use is a US legal term that describes various purposes for which the reproduction of a particular copyrighted work may be considered fair. Such uses include training, teaching, scholarship, and research.

According to the blog entry Intellectual Property and Innovation: Who's Got It Right?, US companies that rely on fair use generated $4.7 trillion in revenues and $2.2 billion in value added - roughly 16.2% of US GDP in 2007.

The blog cites a report released by the Computer and Communications Industry Association, which based its findings on 'fair use industries': educational institutions, software developers, Internet search and Web hosting providers, and manufacturers of consumer devices that allow for the copying of copyrighted programming.

Attend the TransferSummit and find out how your company can reap the rewards of open innovation through 'fair use' activities.

Lamest Excuses For Not Innovating

'I don't have the time'; *'I can't get the funding'*; *'My boss will never go for it'*. Sound familiar?

These are just the first three in Mitch Ditkoff's list of Top 100 lamest excuses for not innovating. Others include:

1. no-one besides me really cares about innovation
2. we don't have an innovation process
3. we don't have a culture of innovation

TransferSummit tackles all of these issues and more.

Why We Need To Talk About Innovation Now

We are often told that recession is not the time for long-term investment or the development of new technologies and industries. But Big Potatoes: the London Manifesto for Innovation, reminds us that times of economic downturn have in the past led to the creation of pioneering companies that have endured.

Now is precisely the time that a new emphasis on innovation is needed.

However, according to the manifesto, the current crisis has so far failed to produce major innovations, and 'worse, there is no public debate on innovation'. The 14-point manifesto seeks to rectify that. Among its principles are:

- putting the case for 'useless' research
- encouraging an atmosphere of experimentation and failure throughout society
- renewing the focus on actually producing innovation, rather than just circulating old ideas

TransferSummit will kickstart the debate on innovating software.

Eating Our Own Open Innovation 'Dog Food'

Did you know that the software for managing the TransferSummit website is the direct result of open innovation?

A few short weeks ago we had no software for managing the conference. Today, with the help of a couple of part time contractors and an open source content managment system (Drupal) we have a fully functional site. In the spirit of open innovation we will be sharing this work with others, just as soon as TransferSummit is over (sooner if you really need it and are willing to help us package it correctly).

Learn how you can create new software like this within weeks through open innovation in software.

Motivation In Open Innovation

The University of Cambridge recently staged a workshop looking at issues around implementing Open Innovation. The workshop focused on the needs of companies adopting Open Innovation.

They interviewed Roland Harwood of Innovation company 100% Open and made the audio of that interview available online. In this interview Roland talked about how to create an environment for open innovation. Focussing on the types and speed of collaboration between people using open and accessible networks enabled by the internet.

Roland discusses an example of collaboration between the F1 McLaren-Mercedes team and the National Air Traffic Control service in which software developed for F1 racing cars can be used to predict arrivals and departures at airports.

▸ Read more at http://www.transfersummit.com/

Using open innovation to meet ambitious carbon emission targets

Published by Sander van der Waal on May 18, 2010

The ICT sector faces big challenges to lower their carbon footprint and there are many initiatives to make technology more energy efficient. The JISC has created a separate Green ICT programme for ICT projects that address these issues.

In Oxford (where OSS Watch is based) one of these projects has been quite successful. The Low Carbon ICT project has developed several tools to lower the carbon emissions at the University of Oxford. One of these is the creation of Wake On LAN software project to remotely manage desktops in a computer network. By remotely shutting off computers at night, institutions can save a lot of energy.

The University of Oxford has recently reconfirmed that it is serious about lowering their carbon emissions by signing up to the 10:10 initiative. The University's 10:10 target is to reduce carbon emissions by between 3 and 10 per cent compared to 2009-2010 levels by 31 March 2011.

In order to meet this challenge it is very important for the University of Oxford to work together with other universities and the private sector. A lot

of innovation is needed and all institutions face this challenge. The model of open innovation, whereby ideas and solutions are shared as widely as possible, is perfectly suited to make sure a good solution developed at one university is used elsewhere. This model, perfected in open source software projects, is already working well for the Wake On LAN software that Oxford has developed. The same software is now also in use at Liverpool University and they are developing it into a national service for other HE/FE institutions in the UK.

To foster open innovation in the Green ICT sector OSS Watch has recently submitted a project proposal for a call on open innovation. Together with Sirius, PC Power Down and Data Synergy we aim to bring together academic and commercial partners to create innovative Green ICT solutions on an open platform. If funded, this platform will be based on our existing public registry of open source software projects, which currently already contains over 1500 projects.

▸ http://osswatch.jiscinvolve.org/2010/05/18/using-open-innovation-to-meet-ambitious-carbon-emission-targets/

Open innovation builds success at LEGO

Published by Ross Gardler on April 28, 2010

Six years ago, LEGO was on the brink of bankruptcy, as reported by PRESANS on the 'Open Your Innovation' blog. LEGO had suffered in the 1990s at the hands of video games and computers, and had neglected its relationship with its users during difficult times. Today, under new CEO Jorgen Vig Knudstorp, it has turned its fortunes around and the familiar little coloured bricks are as popular as ever.

Knudstorp achieved this dramatic turn-around by establishing an innovative client relationship through the creation of a social network dedicated to children and LEGO bricks. This user community - accessed through 40 'LEGO ambassadors' in over 20 countries - provides valuable market information and is completely integrated in the design of new products.

Young adult interest has also been harnessed, through LEGO Mindstorms, which are programmable by computer. When advanced users began hacking the system in ways LEGO hadn't foreseen, LEGO decided to utilise their 'collaboration' instead of fighting it. This enabled it to benefit from cloudsourcing and draw on the creativity and intelligence of a large number of users.

By opening the companies innovation processes to the outside world LEGO have recovered from its near-death experience. At the Transfer Summit we feature practical discussion, case studies and networking to enable you to realise the benefits of open development within and beyond your own project boundaries.

▸ http://osswatch.jiscinvolve.org/2010/04/28/open-innovation-builds-success-at-lego/

Build a better Facebook through open innovation

Published by Steve Lee on May 13, 2010

There is a rapid groundswell of concern about Facebook. The main issue is privacy, or rather Facebook's attitude to individual privacy and data ownership. Over the years the default settings have relaxed from most items being private, to virtually none being so. Unless the user makes a concerted effort to change settings. Accordingly, there is a lot of talk about creating an alternative to Facebook. As is often the case, many are looking towards a more 'open' version, though what they mean by that may not always be clear.

One example that currently stands out is Diaspora*, a project idea to create a distributed system where each person manages their own data rather than trusting it to a central hub run by a business. In a few days the four NYU students behind the project have gained a lot of interest and an awful lot of micro funding pledges. As noted above, it is not surprising that they propose to use open standards, open source and open development in their descriptions. But could there be a better form of 'open' to consider here?

As Social Hacking points out, if you are going to build another open

Facebook you might as well make sure it is an improvement. While the author makes several points for how to make sure you surpass the existing Facebook, one really stuck out when I read it.

3. Learn from Academic Researchers

Many people in the academic community are producing research that addresses how people interact both offline and online, as well as how people understand concepts of privacy and social networking. As websites continue to reshape the fabric of our society and Facebook in particular affects notions of privacy, you simply can't afford to ignore these studies.

My interest was piqued not only because we at OSS Watch are based in academia and support research projects. Rather, I was interested as it hints at, but does not make explicit, a powerful opportunity from being 'open'. Taking it at face value it's possible to interpret the comment as a suggestion to read papers and be influenced by the ideas they contain. I was struck by a more powerful way to embrace the ideas, namely

▸ OSS Watch online
http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk

▸ OSS Watch blog
http://osswatch.jiscinvolve.org

▸ Contact OSS Watch
info@oss-watch.ac.uk

▸ OSS Watch twitter
http://twitter.com/osswatch

through open innovation in software, or open development of open source software.

Open Innovation allows companies and developers to directly engage with academics in a collaborative relationship likely to be much more fruitful than just consuming papers. This can lead to a win-win where the project gains from the theory, leading to more profitability, and the academic gets a working implementation of their work, not to mention exposure and validation. Hopefully the Diaspora* project will take steps to actively engage some of the listed academics in their project, and so reap the rewards.

There are some hurdles to overcome on the road to open innovation. Not least are issues of trust and cultural differences, along with the need to find the right people. However there is growing understanding of how to manage these issues, building on the wealth of experience learnt in those open source projects that have successfully crossed boundaries. JISC are also encouraging pilot studies of open innovation through the recent JISC Grant Funding 1/10: Access to Resources and Open Innovation.

On June 24/25/26 in Oxford there is an excellent opportunity to directly explore open innovation with the people who are actively engaged in it. The TransferSummit provides a forum for business executives and members of the academic and research community to discuss requirements, challenges, and opportunities in the use, development, licensing, and future of Open Source technology. I hope to see you there.

▸ http://osswatch.jiscinvolve.org/2010/05/13/build-a-better-facebook-through-open-innovation/

Events

June 24-25

TransferSummit, Oxford, 24-25 June 2010

This summer, OSS Watch is sponsoring a major open source conference, aiming to connect academia with open source businesses. The main conference will be held over two days, 24-25 June 2010, at Keble College Oxford. Covering topics within both academia and business, the event will try to identify areas of activity of mutual interest, looking at how the two sectors can engage with each other.

▸ http://www.transfersummit.com/

June 26

BarCamp Oxford, 26 June 2010

OSS Watch has teamed up with Torchbox to run a BarCamp at the Oxford University Club in Oxford in 26 June 2010. In keeping with the concept of a BarCamp this is an informal, geeky event where delegates can set their own agenda for discussions. This BarCamp follows on from the TransferSummit taking place in Oxford over the previous few days so we hope to see some of the conference delegates staying on for the BarCamp but you don't need to have been to the conference to join in the fun. Why not sign up today!

▸ http://www.barcamp.org/BarCampOxford

July 16

MaharaUK 10 conference, ULCC, 16 July 2010

This conference marks the second annual gathering of practitioners interested in e-Portfolios. University of London Computer Centre (ULCC), the first UK Mahara partner and host of this year's successful MoodleMoot UK, are hosting this event at Westminster Kingsway College King's Cross campus.

▸ http://www.maharauk.org/

July 19-22

EuroPython 2010, Birmingham, 19-22 July 2010

This year's European Python conference, EuroPython, will take place in Birmingham on 19-22 July 2010. The event is for all members of the Python community from users to developers. As well as the formal conference there will be an opportunity to attend tutorials on the two preceding days (17-18) and sprints on the following two days (23-24).

▸ http://www.europython.eu/

Find answers to your questions at: http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk/about/faq.xml

▸ OSS Watch online

▸ OSS Watch blog

▸ Contact OSS Watch

▸ OSS Watch twitter

OSS Watch is funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee

JISC