



Speaker



- All-Things-Open Projektgruppe
 - REGIO-Messe 2006: MiniBit 
 - Linux Neighbours 
 - Workshops for beginners
 - Radio program (www.kanalrattefm.de)
 - ISP workshop 

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Topics

- **Why Free Software?**
- **Situation in Germany**
- **Possible Ways to Migrate**
- **Legal Considerations**
- **Where do you get support?**

Why Free Software?

Progress and Flexibility

- evolution instead of generations
- adaption to your needs
- fast development due to a worldwide community
- proprietary software is often not available for certain languages

Why Free Software?

Independancy from Vendors

- restrictions to certain hardware platforms
- arbitrary pricing
- monopoly positions

Why Free Software?

Costs

- no license fees
- free choice to use unexpensive hardware
- higher costs for UNIX specialists?
- supporting local industry -> local economy
- using and expanding software on your own whatever happens -> open source




Situation in Germany

Why do we change anything at all?

- the IT infrastructure has to be renewed from time to time
- the IT infrastructure has to be adapted:
 - new security policies
 - initiative BundOnline 2005 / DeutschlandOnline
 - to implement eGovernment

Situation in Germany

open source strategy of the Federal Government

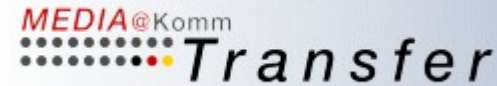
- open source competence center of KBSt 
- KBSt letter No. 2/2000 
„Open Source Software in the Federal administration“
- migration guide of the Ministry of Interior, v1.0 -
Juli/2003 
- contract for co-operation with IBM

Situation in Germany

Projects of the Ministry of Interior



- MEDIA@komm Transfer



- Standards for eGovernment

- open source competence center



- xml infopoint



Situation in Germany

European Union

- IDABC: Interoperable Delivery of European eGovernment Services to public Administrations, Business and Citizens
- open source Observatory
- eEurope
- other countries:
the Netherlands, Great Britain, Scandinavia, Finland, Sweden, Austria, Slovenia



Possible Ways to Migrate

Free Software under Windows

- existent infrastructure can be kept
- exchange of desktop applications
- reusable at later total migration



thunderbird

Possible Ways to Migrate

Free Software on the server backend

- the users keep their system
- best for servers and consolidation of different network standards due to its compatibility and stability
- special applications on the desktop are not affected



Novell Netware

Possible Ways to Migrate

Free Software on Clients and Servers

- maximum flexibility and control
- much effort in training and adaption of the users
- easier in a step-by-step migration
- should be default for new installations

Legal Considerations

Software Patents

- a big lobby tries to push Software Patents in the EU forward
- countries are forced to adapt patent policies -> TRIPS
- Hope: India adopted patent policies, but not Software Patents!
- developers, distributors and users could be charged for Software Patents

Legal Considerations

The European E-Commerce Emergency

http://swpat.ffii.org/this_is_EPO_practice

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17  Ladybugs are very useful insects. They dispose of parasites. However, software patent litigators are far too large for them in general.

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Legal Considerations

Software Patents

- international vendors are supporting Free Software



- several vendors are offering legal protection

Legal Considerations

Public Procurement Laws

- anything has to have a price
- even self-made installations have to be charged
- Solutions:
 - municipal companies
 - external service providers

Legal Considerations

Software Distribution among other Authorities

- has to be regulated -> extension for GPL?
- problem: liabilities
- problem: unfair competition
- in Germany allowed by law:
 - distribution allowed only among authorities
 - not the same as GPL (not free for everyone)
 - lobby tries to stop that with court order
 - return of patches to the community is prohibited


Legal Considerations

Maintenance Agreements

- applications just run under the given operating system
- problem: database servers
- experiences:
 - often no operating system is mentioned in the contract
 - support of database is normally limited to data recovery

Where do you get Support?

Experiences of other Authorities

- online platforms like open-government.org 
- governmental projects and competence centers
- international partnerships of Cities

Where do you get Support?

Community

- feedback to community (patches, bug reports)
- provide whitepapers of standards and procedures
- international standards would increase the interest of the community -> wider use

Where do you get Support?

Companies



Novell



The End

Thank you for your attention!

