Will Open Source Projects Become the SSOs of the Future?
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Lessons Learnt

- The move to ubiquity has been long and hard – mainly because of lack of understanding and past 'lock-in'
- It is difficult to generalise
- Business models for IT/Telecomms remain 'different'
- A single ICT market does not yet exist
- Open Standards not solely the remit of Open Source
- Fora/consortia standards lead the way in IT
- Going “Open Source” on its own doesn't make it a great project
- Industry involvement in Open Source is now dramatic
What makes a Good Open Source Project
- A Personal View

- Meets a clearly defined user need
- A wide and representative community of stakeholders
- A balanced governance structure
- A licence model that meets user needs and allows the community to thrive
- An open culture
What do you Mean by 'Open'? – the Holy Grail

The 'OFE Openness Principles'*

- User Centricity
- Competition
- Flexibility
- Sustainability
- Community

* dsm.openforumeurope.org
Why is Industry Adopting Open Source?

- Skills shortage?
- Development costs?
- Access to open technology?
- Market demand?
- Software no longer the core of their business?
- Software now the foundation UPON which the real value is being generated
Recognition innovation can come from outside a company through partnership. 'Open Services Innovation'

Open Source often used as an example.

Key decision for a company is what is its core value?

Increasingly the decision is to put resource into a collaborative open source project.

- Shared resource
- Speed
- Open access
- Governance?
Do Open Source Projects Need SSOs?
- Maybe

- Open Source is built on the concept of openness of interoperability and platform
- In some cases existing Open standards will meet the need
- But in others APIs will have to be generated
- How do you onward develop these APIs in order to secure longevity, independence?
- But without diverting scarce resource from the core development?
- Partnership within SSO would seem a real win-win
- Seek strong governance, process, independence, timeliness
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Do SSOs Need Open Source? - Probably

- Ubiquity of Open Source can only but increase across IT sectors
- Telecomms?
- Pre-funded standards development are already non-existent in IT
- Fora/consortia standards are preferred by industry
- Timeliness, direct involvement, market led, peer working
- But will Open Source projects overtake both as a source of Open Standards
The Must Haves for Both Groups
- Conclusions

- Recognise the different strengths on offer
- 'Open Innovation' relies on collegiate recognition amongst all stakeholders, and identifying stakeholder values
- But recognise the entry criteria.....
- Long term needs of a standards process
- Open Culture, that means be prepared for
  - Independence
  - Appropriate licensing terms
  - A wide stakeholder community approach
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