

Applying the Open Source development model

- Technologies
- Open Source?
- Drawbacks of Open Source
- Advantages of Open Source
- System outline

Technologies

- Apache

- open-source HTTP server for modern operating
- mod_auth_pgsq built in authentication

- PHP – PHP: *Hypertext Preprocessor*

- Designed for server side web scripting
- Large, Open Source developer community
 - Integration – existing systems (MR Project, Evolution, Outlook)
 - Libraries – PEAR already implemented templates and database abstraction

- PostgreSQL

- Object-Relational DBMS (database management system)
- More akin to Oracle than MySQL

Open Source?

- Open Source Initiative (OSI)
 - <http://opensource.org/>
- GNU General Public License (GPL)
 - <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.txt>
 - Allows distribution of project
- Free Software Foundation (FSF)
 - <http://www.fsf.org>

Drawbacks of Open Source

- Project Forking
- No hard deadline in open source projects
- Organisational Structure
 - Keeping track of developer contributions
 - Benevolent Dictatorship
 - Core Members

Advantages of Open Source

- Large code base to reuse
- Contributors likely to be users and passionate about coding
 - Hackers
 - "given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow" – Eric Raymond (The Cathedral and the Bazaar)
- Large community for ideas and problem solving

The Project

- Aims
 - Investigate Open Source development
 - Write a project management system that integrates with existing technologies
 - Central location for tasks instead of disparate systems
- <http://assistant.sourceforge.net>
- Modular design
- Natural Language Independent