



Olliance Open Source Think Tank – Spring 2012

Summary and Review

Olliance Group and DLA Piper hosted the 7th annual Open Source Think Tank in Napa California at the Silverado Resort. The event included presentations, panels, Q&A sessions and two deep-dive case studies.

The following summarizes the event and includes feedback and reviews from a post-event attendee survey.

Sessions

Keynote: Industry Luminaries Panel

- Rod Johnson – *Founder* - Spring Framework
- Doug Cutting – *Founder* – Hadoop
- Jono Bacon – Ubuntu *Community Manager*, Author – *The Art of Community*
- Andrew Aitken – Olliance Group (*Moderator*)

Panelists shared real-world experiences, insights and lessons learned from building and nurturing communities around key open source projects. The keynote provided useful contrasts among different types of communities and project audiences, in this case addressing the leading frameworks for building enterprise applications with Java (Spring) and for Big Data management (Hadoop), and one of the leading desktop Linux distributions (Ubuntu).

Key takeaways:

- It is difficult and time consuming to build sustainable communities, and there are different models based upon whether the project has grown organically, was launched by a single vendor or was created by a group of multiple participants.
- You can increase your chances of running a successful community by establishing core values and organizing your projects as soon as possible.
- Companies, not just individuals, can participate in communities to share development and maintenance costs, ensure responsiveness of key projects, and attract critical talent in strategically important areas of technology.

Genivi Alliance Case Study

- Steve Crumb – GENIVI Alliance Executive Director
- Graham Smethurst – GENIVI Alliance President, Head of Infotainment Arch. Design, BMW
- John Lehman – GENIVI Board, Sr. Marketing Mgr., Automotive Solutions, Mentor Graphics
- Dan Cauchy – GENIVI Alliance Board, VP of Marketing and Business Dev., MontaVista
- Doug Welk – GENIVI Alliance Chair, Chief Engineer, Advanced IVI & Driver I/F, Delphi

This case study highlighted key challenges faced by the Genivi Alliance as well as a recap of the progress made to date. The Genivi Alliance is a 170-member strong automotive industry consortium that was founded on a mission to foster development of shared infrastructure (Linux-based middleware) for next-generation in-vehicle infotainment (IVI)

systems. After a presentation that provided attendees with background information as well as recent activities, attendees broke into ten groups to address case study questions. Over the course of three days, they discussed the issues while focusing on striking a balance between openness and existing ecosystem values and practices.



Key recommendations of the brainstorm groups:

- Open your projects and manage their development with proven OSS governance models.
- The specifications and compliance program are sufficient to justify membership of industry participants.
- Key investments to ensure success are delivering great code and building an active community.

Keynote: Open Government

- Chris Vein, U.S. Deputy CTO for Innovation, Executive Office of the President

White House Deputy CTO Chris Vein offered an informative and upbeat presentation that focused on how open source software is making a difference in the U.S. government as well as in governments and countries around the globe. He cited a number of specific ongoing activities in which the principals of open source, collaboration and transparency are the underpinnings for transformative initiatives.

Key takeaways:

- Opengov is an active and vibrant community with dozens of signatories from around the globe.
- Opengov is beginning to have a positive impact on our daily lives through green initiatives and facilitating more participative government.

Case Study: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

- Roger Baker, VA Assistant Secretary for Information & Technology and CIO
- Peter Levin, VA Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Chief Technology Officer
- Mike O'Neill, Senior Advisor, VA Innovation Initiative

This case study highlighted the OSEHRA Project (Open Source Electronic Health Record Agent). The Veterans Administration (VA) and the ecosystem that supports it are marshalling an industry-wide effort to bring the legacy VistA health records system into the 21st century. The case study, comprised of input from ten groups of Think Tank attendees, considered key questions regarding development, integration, licensing and community of tens of millions of lines of VistA source code.

Key recommendations of the brainstorm groups:

- The permissive Apache license is a good choice, but open governance and solid code-base management by "committers" are also essential to building broader participation. Leverage OSS community experience to build these capabilities.
- Modular architecture with well documented, language-agnostic APIs will make broader participation possible, and should be designed to enable web/cloud architectures.

- Leverage cloud architecture and adoption trends to help build a commercial ecosystem.
- Engage the broader, traditional open source community, not just those elements tied to government or healthcare.

Panel: Open Source and Cloud Computing

- Larry Augustin, CEO, SugarCRM
- Tim Golden, SVP, Bank of America
- Diane Mueller, Cloud Evangelist, ActiveState
- Phil Robb, Dir. OSS Program Office, Hewlett Packard

The panelists and moderator discussed the progress of open source software in cloud infrastructure and in application implementation, sharing real-world experiences based on working with both FOSS projects and commercial suppliers of cloud solutions.

Key takeaways:

- Open source is largely driving the cloud computing evolution since the underpinnings and the bulk of the code of most cloud technologies and applications is FOSS.
- Scores of large and small commercial companies are working to deliver cloud technologies, but the OSS Communities are functioning as the arenas for the collaboration necessary to create solutions for the users.

Panel: Industry-Driven Community Innovation

- Claus Von Rieger, Moderator
- Michael Schonberg, NYSE
- Jim Zemlin, The Linux Foundation
- Mike Milinkovich, Eclipse Foundation

Participants shared experiences and opinions gleaned from building and working with open source communities to support business-critical operations including community dynamics, real-world costs and risks.

Key takeaways:

- If you're launching an industry effort around open source, consider working with an existing OSS Foundation for credibility, neutrality, accepted governance and IP models and/or infrastructure.
- Any software in a corporation that is not a strategic differentiator is a liability, not an asset. It is essential that we convince our organizations that sharing code is more valuable than exclusive ownership.

Open Source Legal Update

- Mark Radcliff, Partner, DLA Piper

In what has become a hallmark of the Open Source Think Tank, Mark provided his always-timely and informative round up of the open source legal climate covering licenses, software patents and other intellectual property topics and challenges facing today's users and deployers of open source software.



Key Note: Red Hat

- Paul Cormier, EVP Products, Red Hat

In this brief pre-gala key note address in the tasting room at Markham Vinyards, Red Hat EVP of Products Paul Cormier celebrated his company's recent announcement of US\$1 billion in revenue and the meaning of this financial milestone for open source and the IT sector.

