

ORCHESTRA

Business Block: **Open Source** [1]

- Open Source Development
- Free Software Licensing
- FOSS Business Models
- FOSS Community Building
- The Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo)
- OSGeo Incubation

OGC Meeting December 12th 2007 – Stresa, Italia

[1] in a nutshell. For full coverage please go to <http://www.opensource.org> and <http://www.sfs.org>

Open Source Development

- Open Source is a development methodology that aims at making **all** processes transparent.
- One central paradigm is to "Publish Early and Release Often". This will help to "build"^[1] a community of high interaction.
- Development is coordinated through roles. Roles must be managed by a clear governance model.
- Good Open Source projects are highly organized and trunk commit access is restricted to well known developers.
- Public code repositories, bug and issue trackers, mailing lists ,etc. are essential to "grow"^[1] professional communities.

[1] communities cannot be "built", "managed" or "grown" but they need to grow by themselves. Open Source project management can only facilitate and enable communities.

Free Software Licensing

- Free Software describes a legal licensing model for software
- Open Source code is one precondition to Free Software
- There are several types of Free and Open Source Software licenses, some more restrictive some more relaxed
- Most Free and Open Source Software licenses specify user's rights to:
 1. run any number of copies of the software
 2. pass on copies of the software including the license and copyright notice
 3. look into the code, understand it and modify it to suit one's needs
 4. pass on modified versions of the code

FOSS

For most practical purposes Free Software and Open Source can be used synonymously in the acronym FOSS.

Free and Open Source Software

There is a (probably unintended) symbolism in this term conveying that Free Software licenses surround and thus protect Open Source development from becoming proprietary.

Copyright, Licenses and the Copyleft Myth

FOSS licenses protect software from becoming proprietary. The legal background of the strong protection of the GNU GPL is straight forward:

"To copyleft a program, we first state that it is copyrighted; then we add distribution terms, which are a legal instrument that gives everyone the rights to use, modify, and redistribute the program's code or any program derived from it but only if the distribution terms are unchanged. Thus, the code and the freedoms become legally inseparable." [1]

Copyleft is not a virus but a vaccination.

[1] from: <http://www.fsf.org/licensing/essays/copyleft.html>

Arnulf Christl, Open Source Geospatial Foundation - <http://www.osgeo.org>

FOSS Business Models

Using Free and Open Source Software in commercial context is perfectly legal and encouraged. Revenue comes from:

- Consultation
- Installation
- Customization
- Maintenance
- Support
- Training
- Implementation
- Generic Development

A good 95% of the revenue generated using FOSS identical to any other software business. The only difference is that no usage license fees are sold.

Business outside and inside of FOSS

FOSS is nowadays embraced by all larger businesses and enterprises the difference being exclusive use and collaboration (examples):

- IBM
- Autodesk
- Microsoft
- E.S.R.I.
- Sun Microsystems
- WhereGroup
- Oracle
- Frank Warmerdam

Business models range from ignorant, hybrid to fully embracing all benefits offered by FOSS.

Hardware and Software

Hardware	Software
If hardware (or any physical good) is sold (given away) the supplier suffers a loss of that good that can be compensated by payment.	If a copy of a software "product" is given away, the original is still there. The supplier suffers no physical loss of the "product" because it is only a copy.
If hardware brakes, it becomes useless.	Software cannot brake in this sense. A data carrier can be scratched (for example a CD) but the original of the software is not affected [1].
Hardware cannot be duplicated. Every copy needs the same amount of raw material and energy as any other. Copies of complex hardware will always be imperfect, not digital duplicates.	Software can be duplicated. Each successful copy of a software product is an identical reproduction of the original (the "raw material" is the source code, it does not run out).
Hardware can wear, rust, or decay, and will eventually break and cease to function.	Software does not wear down, rust, decay or break. It may fall out of use, but it never loses its functionality.

from: <http://wiki.osgeo.org/index.php/Software>

FOSS Community Building

- Open Source development follows a complex set of rules. Do not think that you know! [1]
- The idea behind publishing early is to get broad response at the soonest time possible (during drafting)
- Releasing often helps to consider user's experiences, reduce frustration and improve communication.
- The distinction between user and developer blurs.
- The antagonism between vendor and buyer dissolves into a productive community.

[1] unless you read: <http://producingoss.com/> by Karl Fogel

Common Pitfalls when Talking about FOSS

- Free Software is not anti-business. Instead it is a business enabler because it boosts availability and dissemination of code and software.
- Free Software is not unlicensed software. Instead it is a licensing model.
- Open Source does not mean that everybody can go hack the release code. Instead it has a well defined governance and transparent processes.
- Open Source is not insecure, instead it allows for highest security through process transparency.

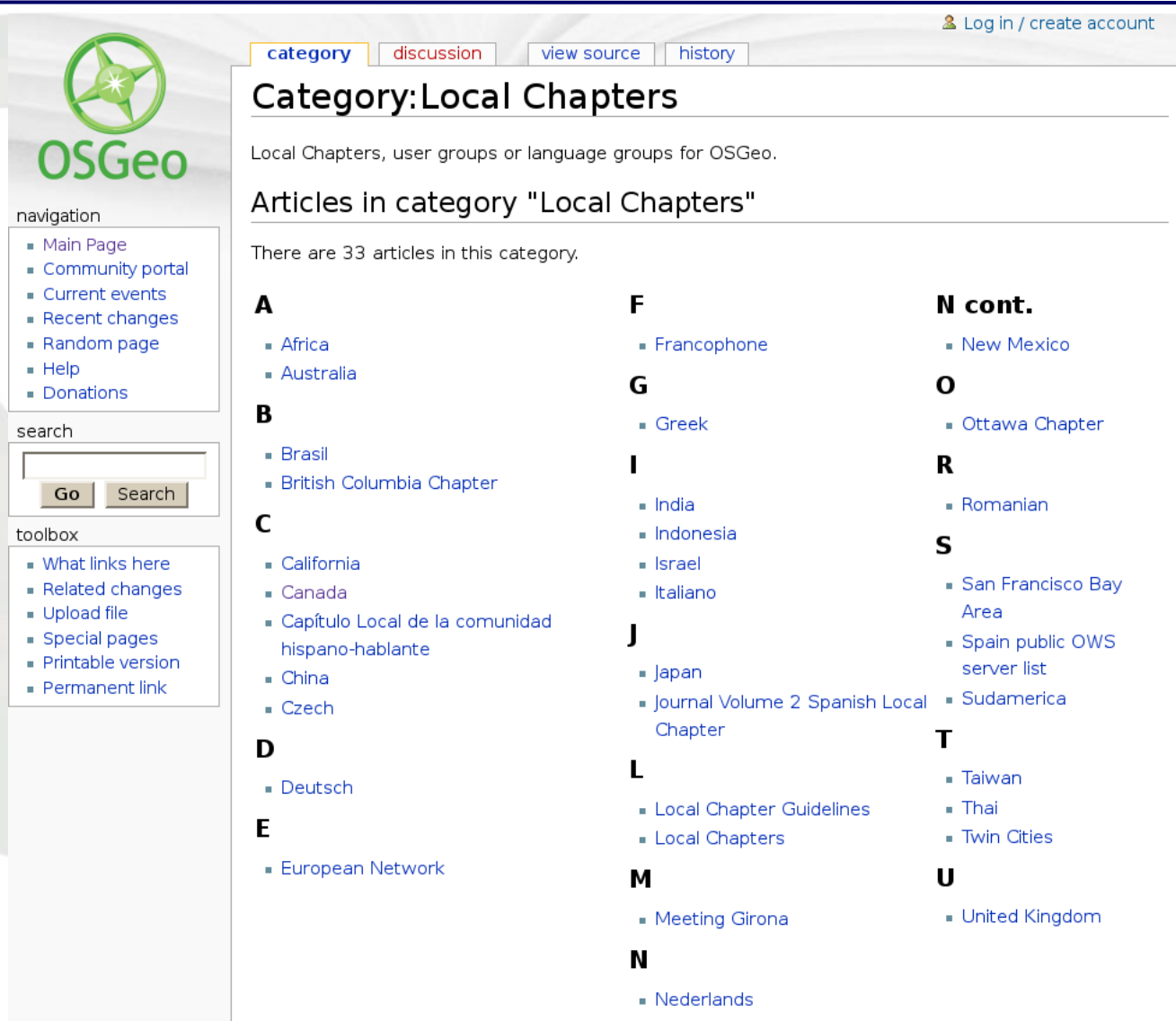
The Open Source Geospatial Foundation

- OSGeo is a non-profit organizations dedicated at promoting and furthering Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial Technology and Users
- OSGeo provides for organizational, legal and financial support in a long term perspective
- OSGeo is global and transparently governed
- OSGeo is a Community of Communities:
 - Software Projects
 - Spatial Data Projects
 - Education and Research

<http://www.osgeo.org>

<http://wiki.osgeo.org>

Outreach and Communities



The screenshot shows the OSGeo website interface. At the top right, there is a 'Log in / create account' link. Below it are navigation tabs for 'category', 'discussion', 'view source', and 'history'. The main heading is 'Category: Local Chapters'. Below this, a description reads 'Local Chapters, user groups or language groups for OSGeo.' The section is titled 'Articles in category "Local Chapters"' and states 'There are 33 articles in this category.' The content is organized into a grid of letter-based categories: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, L, M, N, N cont., O, R, S, T, and U. Each category contains a list of links to specific articles or chapters. On the left side, there is a sidebar with the OSGeo logo, a navigation menu (Main Page, Community portal, Current events, Recent changes, Random page, Help, Donations), a search box with 'Go' and 'Search' buttons, and a toolbox menu (What links here, Related changes, Upload file, Special pages, Printable version, Permanent link).

category discussion view source history

Category: Local Chapters

Local Chapters, user groups or language groups for OSGeo.

Articles in category "Local Chapters"

There are 33 articles in this category.

A <ul style="list-style-type: none">AfricaAustralia	F <ul style="list-style-type: none">Francophone	N cont. <ul style="list-style-type: none">New Mexico
B <ul style="list-style-type: none">BrasilBritish Columbia Chapter	G <ul style="list-style-type: none">Greek	O <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ottawa Chapter
C <ul style="list-style-type: none">CaliforniaCanadaCapítulo Local de la comunidad hispano-hablanteChinaCzech	I <ul style="list-style-type: none">IndiaIndonesiaIsraelItaliano	R <ul style="list-style-type: none">Romanian
D <ul style="list-style-type: none">Deutsch	J <ul style="list-style-type: none">JapanJournal Volume 2 Spanish Local Chapter	S <ul style="list-style-type: none">San Francisco Bay AreaSpain public OWS server listSudamerica
E <ul style="list-style-type: none">European Network	L <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Chapter GuidelinesLocal Chapters	T <ul style="list-style-type: none">TaiwanThaiTwin Cities
	M <ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting Girona	U <ul style="list-style-type: none">United Kingdom
	N <ul style="list-style-type: none">Nederlands	

navigation

- Main Page
- Community portal
- Current events
- Recent changes
- Random page
- Help
- Donations

search

Go Search

toolbox

- What links here
- Related changes
- Upload file
- Special pages
- Printable version
- Permanent link

OSSGeo Membership and Governance

- Hundreds of thousands of users and operators
- 8 figure \$ investment core software
- Estimated 10.000+ loosely associated membership
- Estimated 1000+ active OSGeo members
- 189 Registered developers (OSGeo only)
- 49 Charter Members
- 9 Board of Director Members (4 European)
- 1 President (Frank Warmerdam)

OSSGeo Project Incubation

- Software Projects can apply for Incubation to become an OSGeo Project.
- The Incubation process is accompanied by an OSGeo officer who acts as mentor to provide guidance and oversight to the processes:
 - ✓ Thorough code provenance review
 - ✓ Transparent and open governance model, documents and practice
 - ✓ Functioning and open community model
 - ✓ Quality of development process and technology

Discussion and Questions

Visit: <http://www.osgeo.org>

Collaborate: <http://wiki.osgeo.org>

Discuss: <http://lists.osgeo.org/mailman/listinfo>

This presentations is licensed under the GNU FDL. Feel free to reuse and distribute keeping the master, first and last slide as invariant sections. Find the full license text here: <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/fdl.txt>

Author: arnulf@osgeo.org



Sponsored by:

WhereGroup

Arnulf Christl, Open Source Geospatial Foundation - <http://www.osgeo.org>