Press release from the Open Source Business Alliance

Institutional crowdfunding project to improve OOXML in LibreOffice/Apache OpenOffice successfully finished, next user-driven development phase planned

Stuttgart, 17 September 2013 – SUSE and Lanedo have implemented improvements regarding interoperability of LibreOffice with Microsoft files. The work was funded by the City of Munich, the Swiss Federal Court, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, and other public agencies that use the open source office suites LibreOffice and Apache OpenOffice. This user-driven crowdfunding development project was coordinated by the Office Interoperability Working Group of the OSB Alliance. The next project will be kicked-off in a workshop on 29/30 October 2013 in Stuttgart.

Public authorities in Germany, Switzerland, and France have invested jointly € 160,000 to improve OOXML integration in LibreOffice/Apache OpenOffice[1]. The programming work was completed this summer as a partnership between the SUSE LibreOffice Team and the open source experts at Hamburg-based Lanedo. Over the last 12 months all the major requirements defined in the specification[2] have been successfully implemented and committed into the main development branch of LibreOffice. The features went public within the official 3.6, 4.0, and 4.1 releases of LibreOffice. As it was mentioned in the July 2013 release announcements by The Document Foundation interoperability has again increased significantly in the latest LibreOffice 4.1 version[3].

As required in the specification all the code patches of this project are made available by SUSE and Lanedo to be relicensed under the Apache License 2.0. The Apache OpenOffice developer community is thus able to review the code and if possible to integrate it into Apache OpenOffice. All development results, prior press releases and presentations about this open source development project can be found on this website:

http://www.osb-alliance.de/index.php?id=120

To start a next institutional crowdfunded development initiative the Working Group Office Interoperability organizes a requirements engineering workshop on 29 and 30 October 2013 in the OSB Alliance office facilities in Stuttgart. The goal will be to define further commonly required improvements of LibreOffice/Apache OpenOffice. This time the area of change tracking interoperability with the OOXML standard (Microsoft Word .docx files) is in focus. Several public institutions such as the City of Munich, City of Jena, City of Leipzig, the Swiss Federal Court, the Swiss Federal IT Steering Unit FITSU as well as core developers of LibreOffice and Apache OpenOffice will be participating. The result will be a specification released as a Request for Proposal (RfP) based on which open source providers may hand in their offers.

Participation in the workshop on 29 and 30 October 2013 costs € 2500 (CHF 3000) per institution. The fee is funding the organization of the workshop as well as the development of a detailed specification for implementing the required features. The workshop is limited to 20 persons. For registration and more information please contact the Working Group Office Interoperability spokesperson, Dr. Matthias Stürmer: stuermer@osb-alliance.com, phone +41 76 368 81 65

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1 http://www.osb-alliance.de/fileadmin/Working_Groups/OfficeInteroperability/Project1/2012-07-18_Press_Release_OOXML-implementing_EN.pdf

2 http://www.osb-alliance.de/fileadmin/Working_Groups/OfficeInteroperability/Project1/SpecificationOOXMLimprovements_EN_V06.pdf

3 http://blog.documentfoundation.org/2013/07/25/libreoffice-4-1-interoperability/

About the Open Source Business Alliance

The Open Source Business Alliance - Alliance OSB short - must be developed with 230 members of Germany's largest network of businesses and organizations that open source software, build on it or apply it. Alliance goal of OSB is to make open source software and other forms of open co-operation successful. This is achieved by disseminating information, creating a favorable environment for manufacturers and users as well as through active networking of manufacturers, customers and service providers. This particular play interoperability between different open source and proprietary software systems play an important role. Emerging Alliance is the OSB in 2011 from the merger of LIVE Linux-Verband and Linux Solutions Group (LiSoG). The Open Source Business Alliance has its headquarters in Stuttgart. CEO Peter H. Ganten.

Press Contact

Bernd Hertl
Head of project team communication / marketing
OSB Alliance
Open Source Business Alliance Association
Breitscheidstraße 4
D-70174 Stuttgart
Phone: + 49 711/90715-316
Fax: + 49 711/90715-350
hertl@osb-alliance.com