

Speech script: Hironobu SUZUKI/Japan

Start:

Today, I'd like to talk about Free Software and OpenSource situation in Japan. First of all, we have to make clear what Free Software is. Sometime, a term "Free" in English makes trouble, because "free" is used as two meaning. For example, "free" is as in "free beer", charge-free. Our "free" is as "free speech", the matter of freedom. People who speaks Latin language like as French, Spanish or Italian uses "Libre" instead of "Free". FLOSS stands for Free Libre OpenSource Software.

Next, I have to mention about what different between Free Software and OpenSource. Free Software is a matter of freedom in Software and Software developers. Term was created by Richard Stallman, founder of Free Software Foundation, around 1985. OpenSource is definitely a marketing term of business people. Term was created in 1997 at an office of VA Linux.

Anyway, Start slides.

Who Am I :

I'm Hironobu SUZUKI, Japanese male, born in 1963, Co-Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of Free Software Initiative of Japan. Working as software consultant. I have Unix background over two decades and teaching Unix and Internet technology in Japanese universities as part-time teacher. Also, I have my own Free Software project, OpenPKSD.ORG please access to URL www.openpkSD.org . WCLSCAN project is a kind of research project, have joined with multiple universities and companies. This web site is www.wclscan.org.

Embedded(1)

When we think about Japanese industry, it is easy to remind us about electronics devices. Embedded market is one of characteristic thing about Japanese industry situation.

Such devices on screen, Wireless Router, Home web server, LAN disk, and special devices use GNU/Linux. In this slide,

a term “Linux” is used as the meaning of Kernel, the heart of operating system. GNU/Linux means a whole of operation system included module library and some applications.

You might think, “I don’t know such Japanese company, I don’t use such device, where is SONY, where is Panasonic, Where is...”

OK, I show you now.

Embedded(2)

SONY. Sony use GNU/Linux for their hard disk video recorder. GNU/Linux is already used in home electronic products. This hard disk video recorder can record very high screen quality as know as “Digital Hi-Vision”. This recorder provides so-many-multiple-functionality as well as other SONY’s products.

Embedded(3)

Smaller GNU/Linux. This is a PDA product by SHARP. I think that there no different between Laptop computer and PDA except box size. Internet access, PIM, text editing, multimedia application and other factions are available on this PDA as well as Laptop computer.

Embedded(4)

More smaller GNU/Linux. Those mobile phone is running under GNU/Linux. Today, mobile phone is used not only talking but also e-mail, web browsing, game and mp3 player. Most of people use mobile phone as not only to talk to someone but also to edit, to send, and to receive emails. It is just work as network terminal.

GNU/Linux is able to support small devices and to provide functionality of complicated network information platform. Panasonic and NEC use GNU/Linux for their mobile phone product. Those products are popular and is available at electronics shops such a Yodobashi Camera at Akihabara, Sakuraya at Shinjuku. Actually, I don’t know sales results but I guess thousands of thousands products have been sold.

Government Support(1)

METI, Ministry of Electronics, Treading and Industry.

Budget for “OpenSource Software”, they always use term “OpenSource”, started in finance year 2003. Budget is almost 9,000,000 USD per year. They supported 19 projects in 2003, 15 project 2004. Such METI support plan have been operated via Information Technology Promotion Agency, called IPA. The Japan OpenSource Software Promotion Forum was created. This organization includes electronics companies, industry companies etc. etc. It looks like METI’s endorse for OpenSource Software.

Government Support(2)

MITI has supported OpenSource system development. Desktop environment for school users, and government users. Last year, GNU/Linux was used in junior high school but it was experimental, I mean trial case. In embedded system case, MITI has supported not only GNU/Linux but also other OpenSource system.

Government Support (3)

“Exploratory Software Project”. This name sounds something difficult but concept is very easy. That concept is “support individual developers”. This project accepted not only OpenSource Software but also proprietary software, I mean closed software, not open to the public. This project has been operated by IPA but had been managed by special project managers who were invited from outside of IPA. It was remarkable thing. Mr. Niibe, is CEO of our organization, FSIJ, was one of manager of this project between 2002 and 2003. Mr. Ukai is CTO of FSIJ was also manager between 2003 and 2004. Thus, FSIJ was technically able to accept some developing proposals related to Free Software. I show three projects on this slide, but there are 6 or 7 Free Software projects were done.

Government Support (4)

Survey, there are 3 reports. First is survey about developers, second is about how to use it, third is about security of OpenSource Software system. Reports was intended to encourage OpenSource market in Japan . Also, reports are very helpful book for OpenSource beginners.

Industry (1)

GNU/Linux is already provided by major SI-ers. NEC,

Hitachi, Fujitsu, well-known Japanese BIG companies.

Industry(2)

How Apache is popular in JP domain. According to the report of E-Soft, private company, 82.21% sites have been running Apache for web site service. It is incredible thing. Microsoft share is only 8.79%

Industry(3)

Linux Server Shipment. According to Yano Research Institute, GNU/Linux had 13.9% share of server shipment market. They estimate it will increase 20% in 2007. Which GNU/Linux distribution is popular? Last year, 2004, Red Hat Linux was top market sales share.

Organization and Groups

There are many-many organization and groups in Japan. Debian, VineLinux, Gentoo are name of GNU/Linux distribution. BSDs. FreeBSD, NetBSD, OpenBSD.

Non profit organization, NPO. FSIJ, this is our organization. OSSAJ, JOSAO, OSCAR, blah, blah, blah. Regional NPO. Okinawa, Hokkaido, Gifu, blah, blah, blah. Bunch of Linux Users Groups, 30, 40, 50? I don't know.

FSIJ

Free Software Initiative of Japan was established in 2002. Non profit organization, certificated by Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Our mission is to encourage Free Software developers and OpenSource developers in Japan.

For example, FSIJ hosted Summer Code Dojo, financial supported by Google Inc., in this summer. Two CodeFest Japan were hosted in Japan. CodeFest is 24 hours programming marathon. Last March we visited to Asia CodeFest 2005 at Beijing. I have to say "thank you" to Asia CodeFest 2005 staffs in China. They are so kind and helpful.

We have some special interest groups, that is small group to do something special interest. Gentto, Zope, Debian Archives. Debian archives SIG provides file archive facility to everyone via Internet with over two terabyte size file cluster. We have web site www.fsij.org.

Japanese Developer

According to FLOSS-JP report 2003 by Mitsubishi Research Institute, 745 projects and 6385 members on SourceForge.JP.

Hacker.

I have to show true meaning of “Hacker” before showing slides. Hacker means someone who loves to program and enjoy being clever about it.

Not cyber criminal thing, not something stupid. If you want to know about true Hacker in Chinese, please access www.rons.net.cn

Japanese Hackers

Approx 2-3 % Japanese contributors in major global OpenSource project. Not many. Japanese should contribute and commit on OpenSource community more and more. We have to work to create good community.

Japanese Core Hackers

Debian, 3.7%. FreeBSD 2.2%. Small number. I'm really sorry that. NetBSD looks bigger than others but NetBSD developer's population is small. It is magic of statistics.

Conclusions.

Embedded Linux is already in your living room, in your bag, in your pocket. GNU/Linux is now everywhere. Japanese major SI-ers provide GNU/Linux well. Japanese government supports and promotes OpenSource Software. There are many FLOSS organizations and groups in Japan. Japanese FLOSS developers are not popular in global FLOSS community

Thank you, Any Question?

End of script.