

Use Of FOSS in Malaysian Grid For Learning (MyGfL)

UNCTAD
Expert Meeting on FOSS
22-24 September 2004

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CONTENTS

1. Background
2. Use of FOSS in MyGfL
3. Progress of Initiative
4. Benefits of Using FOSS in MyGfL
5. Lessons Learnt
6. Conclusion

1. Background

What is MyGfL?

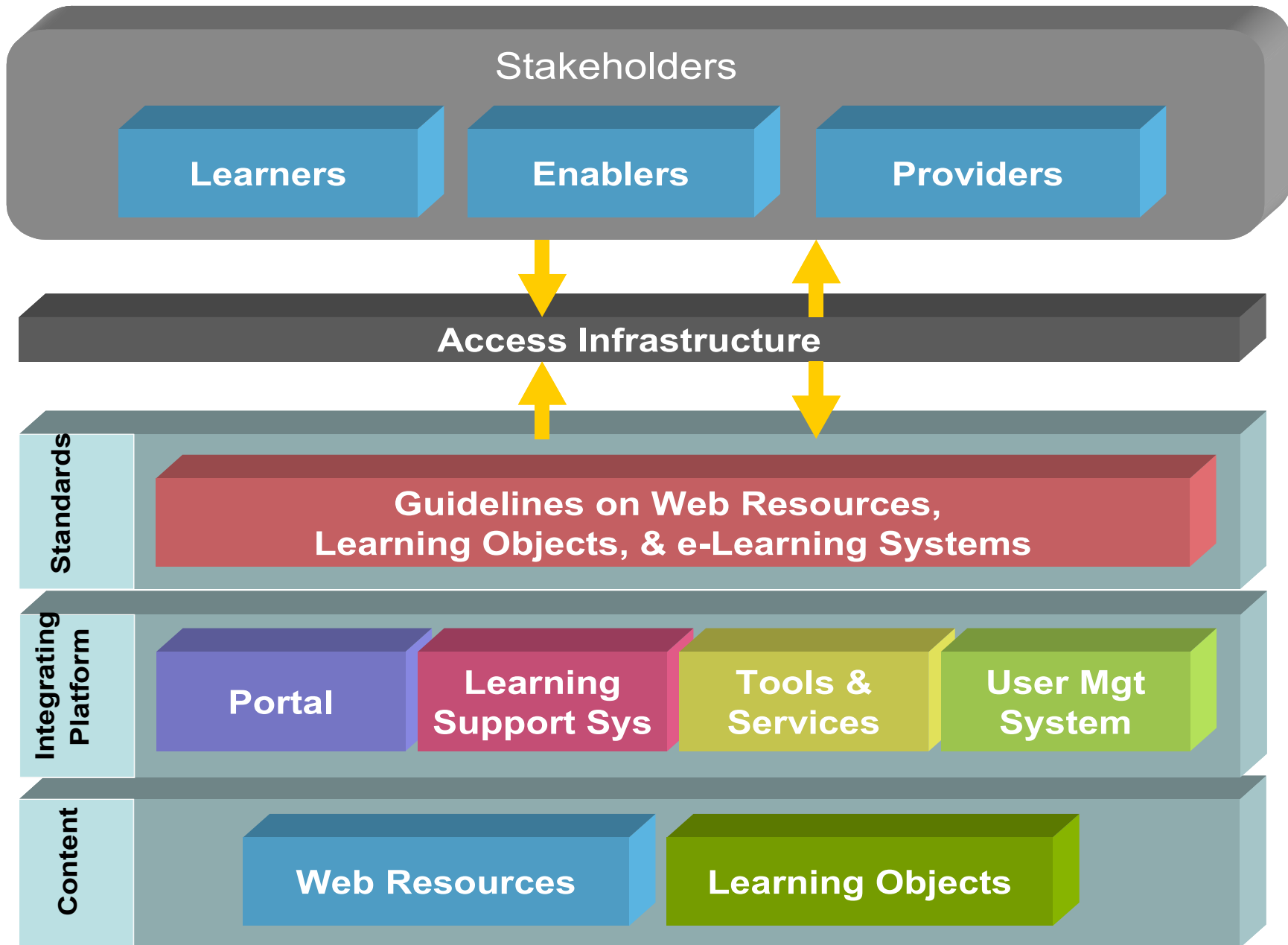
- MyGfL is an initiative to provide e-learning technologies and solutions to support the life-long learning agenda in Malaysia through the use of ICT.

Strategic Intent

To enable **anyone** to **learn**, **unlearn** and **re-learn** from **anywhere** at **anytime** through **any device** so as to accelerate the growth of knowledge-based society in Malaysia

Objectives

- To enhance discoverability of e-learning content from heterogenous sources
- To develop technologies to allow learning content to be delivered through any digital device
- To develop e-learning standards to ensure conformance and adoption of best practices in e-learning content and systems
- To encourage development of indigenous content so as to preserve Malaysian values and cultural heritage
- To stimulate the growth of web content industry in Malaysia



Life-Long Learning is for Everyone!

MyGfL Framework: Content

- MyGfL shall host both free and commercial content. MyGfL content types are :
 - Web Resources - information objects in the form of web pages, html documents, pdf
 - Learning Objects - digital content that have the following characteristics:-
 - Centred around a Learning Objective
 - Instructional Content that support the objective
 - Practice and Feedback to ensure mastery of the subject

MyGfL Framework: Integrating Platform

- **MyGfL Portal** - is a One-Stop-Centre for quality assured online learning content, web resources, tools and services
- **Learning Support System**
 - **Collaboration Tools** - tools to support learning activities
 - **Learning Management Systems** - to facilitate learning processes
- **Tools & Services**
 - **Metadata Repository** - a repository of all catalogues of learning content
 - **Metadata Management System** - facilitates the metadata tagging process which conforms to Dublin Core and SCORM 1.2/2004
 - Career Guide, Learning Object Authoring, Web services for content sharing
- **User Management System** – manages user profiles

MyGfL Framework: Standards

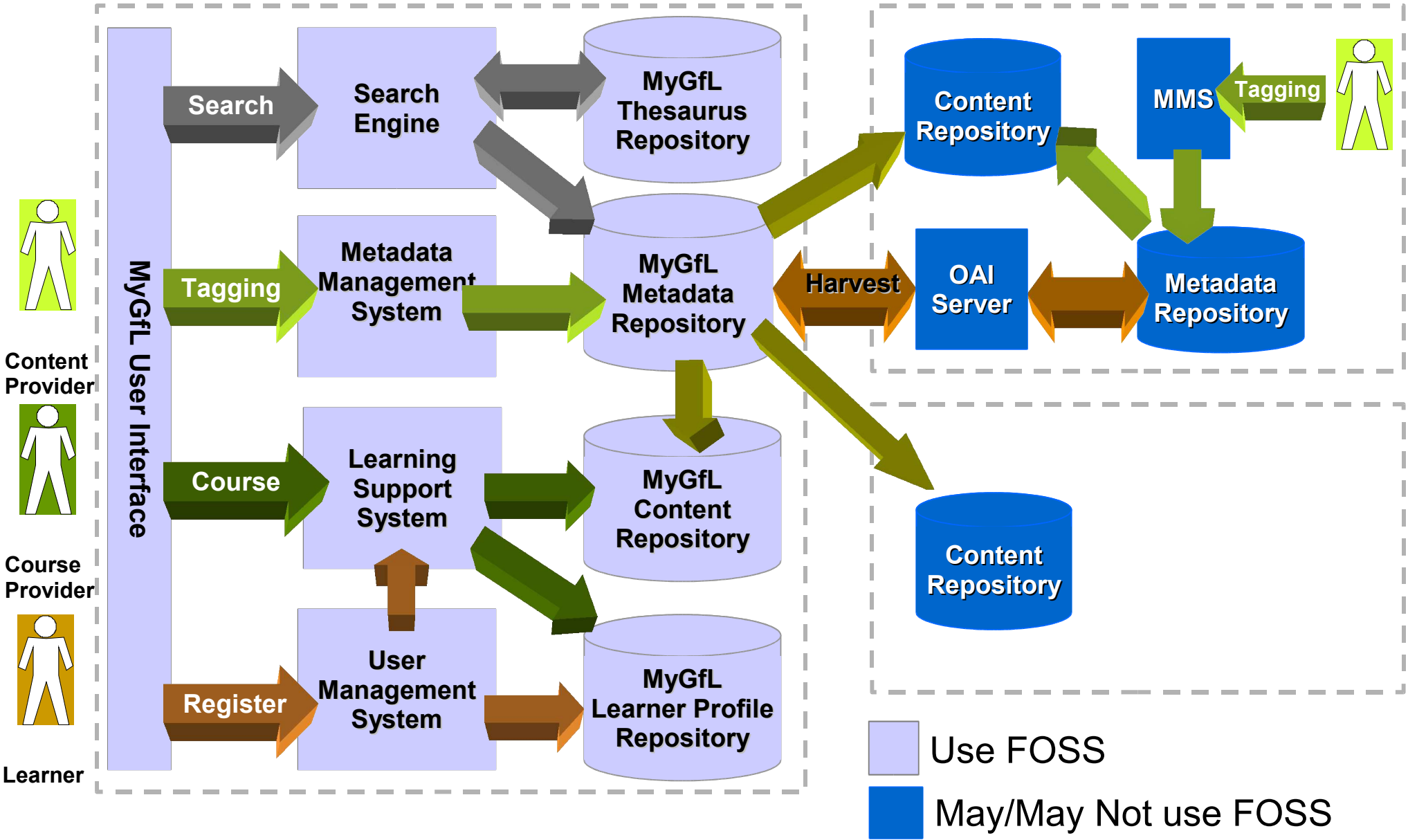
- Objectives
 - to guide MyGfL content providers to conform to a set of standards and guidelines for content development
 - as a single point of reference to all relevant e-Learning standards
 - to achieve Interoperability, Reusability, Manageability, Accessibility and Discoverability of MyGfL content and systems
- Scope
 - Content Guidelines for Learning Objects
 - Content Guidelines for Web resources
 - Technical Guidelines for Courseware Mgmt Systems

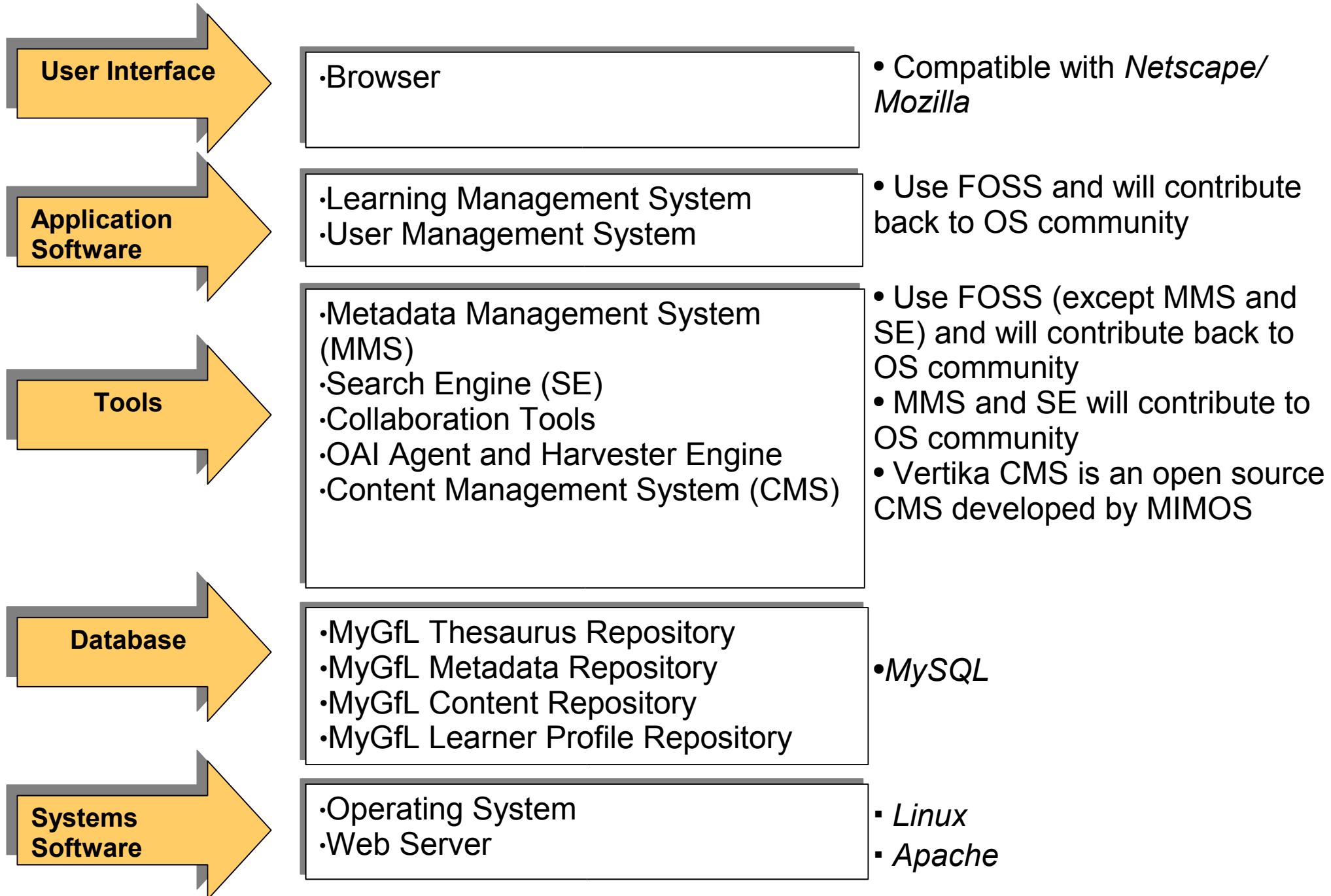
2. Use of FOSS in MyGfL

FOSS in MyGfL Components

MyGfL

Content Providers





Vertika CMS

Open Source Content Mgt System

- Vertika Presence is an open source Content Management System developed by MIMOS Berhad. (<http://vertika.dynu.com/presence3/>)
- Vertika Presence is a dynamic application that empowers the creation of a web presence. It was designed to eliminate the difficulties faced by a layperson in managing the contents on his/her website. Vertika CMS embeds the tasks and processes for managing contents through its lifecycle - create, manage, control, publish, and operate websites.
- In 2001, MIMOS contributed Vertika CMS to the Open Source Community under the GNU General Public License.
- Selected list of Vertika Presence users:
 - Jaring (<http://www.jaring.my>)
 - Jabatan Pendidikan Terengganu (<http://www.jpntrg.edu.my/>)
 - Malaysian Grid for Learning(<http://www.mygfl.net.my>)
 - Titian Digital (<http://www.titian-digital.net.my>)
 - AgriBazaar (<https://www.agribazaar.com.my>)

3. Progress of MyGfL Initiative

- Content
 - Continuously aggregating content from various sources (local and international)
 - Developing local content, examples:
 - Storytelling for School of Deaf
 - Skills oriented content
 - Basic English
 - Science Facts (National Science Centre)
 - Basic ICT
 - Engaging content partnership with various content owners

- Standards
 - Submitted to Malaysian standard body (SIRIM) to get accreditation as Malaysian Standards for e-Learning.

- Deployment

- Will roll-out MyGfL portal at telecentres in rural areas around Malaysia
- Will conduct a series of workshops and seminars to:
 - Create awareness on MyGfL initiative
 - Create awareness on the importance of producing high quality e-learning content
 - Get more participation of learners in MyGfL
- Will provide incentives to content owners and e-Learning providers to develop quality indigenous content.

4. Benefits of Using FOSS in MyGfL

Choice and Empowerment

- A lot of choices for selecting the best components (e.g. LMS, Collaboration Tools, harvesting Engine) for MyGfL.
- Easy to localize, enhance and customize the MyGfL components

Develop Local Industry + Skills

- Sharing of MyGfL components with local e-learning players will contribute to the development of local e-learning industry and skills.
- Support, enhancement, design, development of MyGfL components can be done locally without depending too much on external parties

Sovereignty + Security

- MyGfL components are free from malicious coding (e.g. Buried logic bomb, viruses, trapdoors)

Financial Benefits

- Reduce the cost of development – resources, time and licensing fee
- Reduce the cost of deployment at telecentres – no licensing fee.

5. Lessons Learnt

- Documentation

Some FOSS applications do not provide complete documentations (e.g. User manuals, Technical Specifications, Design Specifications, Coding comments, Deployment manuals/guides, Roadmap)

Lesson : To conduct proper evaluation before selecting and implementing FOSS applications

- Support

Not all user groups of FOSS applications actively participate in providing support. Cannot guarantee that we will get quick response from FOSS contributor or user groups(e.g. Due to time difference)

Lesson : To take own initiative and not to rely too much on the support from the FOSS contributor or usergroups.

- Learning curve

Due to poor documentation and training unavailability, it may takes time to understand the system design and coding of the selected FOSS applications.

Lesson : To select FOSS based on own competencies and skill-set to minimize learning curve

6. Conclusion

In Conclusion

- FOSS is the primary technology enabler for the MyGfL initiative to fulfil its life-long learning agenda to take place from anywhere, at any time, through any device and by anyone.
- MyGfL encourages the development of quality indigeneous learning content, hence stimulates the web content industry in Malaysia.

Thank You

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