

Building a National Operating System: Iran's Experience in GNU/Linux

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How the project was started?

- Feb. 2001: The feasibility study of localization of the GNU/Linux at ICT research center of Sharif University was started
- May. 2001: The proposal for “GNU/Linux localization project” was submitted
 - Some demos to show the strength of GNU/Linux against other alternatives such as Windows was prepared
 - Meetings with Government officials were held
 - Free software?= free of charge software
- After 2 years of hard work on Feb. 2003 the project was started
- May 2003: A 3 years Master Plan (management and executive plan) was prepared



Why the government was convinced?

- National Security
- Software Independence
- Open Source: ease of localization
- IPR and WTO issues
- Long term financial benefit
- Promoting local software industry



Goals of the project

- Providing a National OS based on the GNU/Linux localization
 - GNU/Linux localization
- Filling the Persian Language gaps in Open Source Softwares
 - Popular FOSS localization
- Promoting the GNU/Linux and Open Source softwares in both Server and Client sides



Strategies

- Getting all the stakeholders involved in the project
- Free training for all
- Promoting the GNU/Linux and Open Source culture among the professionals, users and policy makers



Getting all the stakeholders involved



- Government: Funding and leading the Steering Committee
 - Steering Committee members
 - Policy makers in the government
 - University Professors
 - Experienced professionals in the field of FOSS
- ICT research center at Sharif University (AICTC.com)
 - Offering technical leadership of the project
 - Gathering all experts in GNU/Linux and Open Source in a technical committee to provide technical consultant
 - Providing and updating project's Master Plan



Getting all the stakeholders involved



- Preparing the project RFPs based on the Master Plan, managing the tenders and maintaining the Persian GNU/Linux Portal: www.farsilinux.org
- Integrating and Maintaining the documents and sources of all projects (projects.farsiLinux.org)
- Establishing Iran GNU/Linux User Group
- Publishing a monthly newsletter: Horizon of Linux
- Private companies:
 - Carrying out the sub-projects in order to support Persian language in GNU/Linux and Open Source software



The short-term and long-term goals



- Long term: A National Persian OS based on GNU/Linux
 - It takes a long time (at least 3 years).
 - Lack of Persian language support in GNU/Linux and Open Source software
 - Shortage of human resource
- Short term: providing the Persian language support in different levels of GNU/Linux: from Kernel to GUI
 - Persian specific libraries
 - General Persian support in GNU/Linux libraries
 - Application and GUI level support
- But the people and the Government can not wait for three years: A live/installable GNU/Linux CD shows the progress of the project and integrates the results



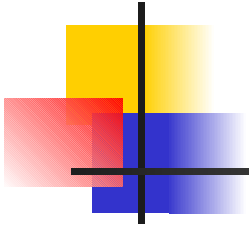
Free training for all

- 120 hours of free GNU/Linux training materials (around 2000 ppt slides)
- 120 hours of free E-learning GNU/Linux courseware
- 24 computer based training GNU/Linux courses
- GNU/Linux courses for TV Educational Channel
- Financial support for GNU/Linux and Open Source books
- Financial support for GNU/Linux and Open Source projects at the Universities
- Iran GNU/Linux User Group (ILUG) Seminars and workshops



Cultural readiness for GNU/Linux and Open Source acceptance

- Financial support for migration
- GNU/Linux and Open Source seminars at universities, schools, departments
- TV programs and interviews
- Success stories
- Promotion of governmental IT staff to use GNU/Linux and Open Source software
- Starting the promotion of GNU/Linux from schools



Thank you for your attention.

Any question?

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