

OSS Watch's Technology Transfer and Business Community Engagement Work

Advisory Committee Meeting
29/10/2007

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Why?

- An unrecognised stakeholder group
- Realising value from IP and other assets
- Increased government (and funder) focus on knowledge transfer
- Increased business focus on combinatory innovation strategies
- Open source helps meets these goals, but could be squeezed out

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Events

- AURIL event April 2007
- Workshops at Oxford's Isis Innovation
- Workshop at Soton's Centre for Enterprise and Innovation
- Forthcoming workshop with British Computer Society
- Follow up AURIL event
- Possible conference subject

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Outreach

- CCLRC (STFC)
- Coventry University
- Keele University
- Kingston University
- Liverpool City of Learning
- MRC Technology
- Queen Mary, University of London
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- The Open University
- University College for the Creative Arts at Farnham
- University of Derby
- University of Leicester
- (University of Limerick)
- University of Oxford
- University of Reading
- University of Southampton
- University of Teesside
- University of Westminster



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Materials

- New 'KT Professional' stakeholder section on web site including:
 - 'Security and open source'
 - 'OSS, patents and your software assets'
 - 'Business and other exploitation models associated with OSS'
 - Case studies of open source businesses
 - Licence usage matrix

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Problems?

- Document stylistics
- Perception that OSS release and realising value are opposed goals
- Consequent perception that OSS is irrelevant to KT
- Imbalance between business and community support metrics
- Massive variation of structure / organisation between institutions

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What now?

- **JISC Business and Community Engagement Study:**
- *"We recommend that JISC revisits its open source policy; some institutions will not be able to suggest an alternative form of licence until they have entered into negotiations to exploit software."*
- Collaboration with kegoodpractice.org
- Scoping the activity of software development in UK HE/FE (?)

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What now?

- Published article co-written with Christine Reid of Northwood Reid
- AURIL event (possible link to web site section launch)
- Simon Whitemore's BCE JISC call
- Licence selection web application
- Widening licensing/exploitation models to include content licences

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Questions for the committee

- How can we scope software development within UK HE/FE?
- How can we identify and collaborate with European KT agencies?
- How can we (should we) sell the kudos argument?
- Which events should we target to unearth software developers?