OSS Watch's Technology Transfer and Business Community Engagement Work

Advisory Committee Meeting
29/10/2007

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Supporting Tech Transfer / BCE in UK Higher and Further Education

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 Whittemore'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?