





Open Forges and Open App Stores: Joining the dots

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What are the differences

Forges are focussed around the code and the tools for the developer community, with perhaps a "prosumer" user experience.

Its up to projects if they want to build their own more user-centric "shopfront"

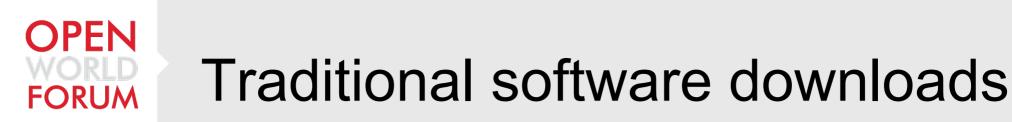
App stores are more focussed on the consumer experience with a generic shopfront





App Stores

- Platform-centric: iOS, Android, Mac App Store, Windows 8...
- Operator-centric: Vodafone, Orange...
- Plugin directories: Wordpress, Chrome, Opera...
- Open Web Apps: Mozilla, OpenAppMkt Niche stores: ITEC, SURFNet, Widgr, internal enterprise stores



CNet Tucows Soft32 Open Source Mac Softpedia





Joining Up

What are the issues?

Contracts and licenses Metadata Publishing and synchronisation Intermediaries





Joining Up: Legal issues

Some FOSS licenses are not necessarily compatible with app store terms of service (e.g. GNU Go, VLC...)

- App Store model isn't necessarily a good fit with distributed open communities
- Need to interpret different store contracts, agreements and T&Cs
- http://oss.ly/appstores



Joining Up: Metadata issues

Forge metadata is focussed around information related to the management of the project, the code and community (developer-centric)

App store metadata is focussed around discovery, use and suitability (user-centric) Standards?



Joining Up: Publishing

Integrating stores and forges Multiple target stores Signing and Packaging Beyond one-shot publishing - synchronising releases



Joining Up: Intermediaries





OPEN WORLD FORUM

Is it worth it?

- App stores seem to have a natural maximum size before becoming less useful for discovery
- App stores may be a side-channel rather than the main channel for distribution doesn't replace having a user-centric website as well as developer-centric forge page
- For many open source projects that are crossplatform, many potential app stores to target How important is it to forges?

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