



Open Source Software for SMEs in developing countries

Rogério Lam
Geneva, 9th of December 2003

UNIDO Work in Mz

- Project supported by UNDP and carried out with UTICT
- Study on ICT in relation to SMEs development
 - Norms and Regulations impacting on business environment
 - Access to Business Information for SMEs by using ICTs
 - Recommendations to the government regarding the Open Source Software - OSS

UNIDO Work in Mz

- Findings on OSS
 - OSS islands in Moçambique
 - Large number of MS Windows/Office unlicensed running
 - OSS solutions might not have equal chances in public tenders
 - Governmental agencies act uncoordinated with no common buying agency.



What is OSS/FS

- OSS/FS – Open Source Software/Free Software
- Low cost or free
- It is distributed under the GNU Public License - GPL
- Four Freedoms
 - Run
 - Redistribution
 - Source Code
 - Improve and release to public

Benefits of OSS

- For the Government
 - Low cost and no eternal license fees
 - Savings on country hard currency
 - Proven security and reliability for mission critical applications
 - Bridges the digital divide and ensuring affordable access to ICT
 - Freedom to contract support from multiple vendors
 - Ability to modify software to suit one's specific needs.
 - Local support for local solutions

Benefits of OSS (cont.)

- Example – Education
 - Lower total cost of ownership (TCO)
 - Greater learning of concepts rather than products
 - Lower costs for students' home systems
 - Customization
 - Works well on older hardware, which makes it applicable for SchoolNets and Telecentres
- Existing Project
 - eSistafe – Financial System for the Government
 - 2000 nodes over 200 locations
 - OSS adopted on the Desktop and Server environment

Benefits of OSS (cont.)

- For the SME's and ICT community
 - Empowerment
 - New business opportunities
 - Shift from consumer/Importer to producer/exporter
 - Development of an ICT community
 - Access to local knowledge
- For the consumer
 - More interaction with software
 - Narrow the digital divide
 - Participation on the information society

Roadmap for OSS adoption

- Legal framework which provides equal chances to OSS
- Provide schools with OSS installed equipment
- Demand Open Standards based solutions
- Focus in defining functionality and interoperability instead of products.

Way Forward

- Clear commitment from the government of Moçambique in OSS adoption
- OSS community in Moçambique
 - MzOSS Portal[existing]
 - <http://www.Softhimahala.org.mz> [15/01/2004]
- Capacity building / training
- Twining with existing entities
- Champion

Conclusions by Adopting OSS

- Creation of Business Opportunities for National SMEs
- Increase of SME productivity through cost effective solutions
- Hard currency savings
- Skills development
- Local support for local solutions

MzOSS Portal

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Title Bar:** MzOSS - Mozambique Open Source Software. - MzOSS - Mic Stop Time Remaining: 00:50
- Address Bar:** http://mzoss.value-4u.net
- Navigation Bar:** bem vindo | notícias | membros | documentos | buscar
- Header:** MzOSS Mozambique Open Source Software
- Main Content:**
 - MzOSS** - Comunidade de Software de Código Aberto em Moçambique.
 - Comunidade,
 - Já tem havido contribuições do pessoal para este portal, muito especialmente do Martin Hardie, que tem continuamente contribuído com artigos interessantes sobre o que está a ser feito a nível de *Open Source* em instituições públicas por este mundo fora.
 - Provavelmente voçês também querem contribuir mas ainda não viram como fazer.
 - Ora bem, existem duas opções:
 1. A mais fácil é enviarem o artigo, link, texto, imagem, etc para [mim](#) e pedirem que eu publique. Não se esqueçam de dizer em que área querem que essa informação fique publicada (neste momento temos, bem-vindo, membros - que é a vossa área, notícias e documentos);
 2. A segunda opção é a melhor para todos pois permite que voçês publiquem a informação directamente. Para fazerm isto, primeiro tem que se [cadastrar](#) no site. Depois fazem o login e basta seguirem as instruções indicadas nos seguintes [artigos](#). Se tiverem dúvidas, podem contactar-me [directamente](#).
 - Agora, toca a dar mais vida.
 - Abraços,
- Sidebars:**
 - eventos:** Washington: Open Source for e-governement; World summit on the information society
 - sobre:** Criado por admin; Documento; Última modificação 2003-11-13; Estado publicado
 - notícia:** WSIS Digest No. 3 (2003-11-23); IDLELO (2003-11-13); Information Technology and International Cooperation (2003-11-13); CARTA DE SÃO PAULO (2003-11-13)
- Calendar:** Calendar for December 2003 with the 9th highlighted.
- Footer:** Terminé Internet