

The world is adapting to the
standard born at WG3

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Agenda

- Problems to address
- Missions
- Approach
- Outcomes
- Intro. To IMSPI
- Intro. To IMBus
- Intro. To iBus

Problems to address

- After long years of evolution of input method, many input method frameworks became available, which is great, however, the core logic part (known as IMEngine) of them are all on different private interfaces.

Which means

- No interoperability among different input method frameworks.
- Any existing frameworks are not easy to accommodate commercial engines

Missions

- Provide single reliable platform for IMEngine
- Do it right at once from the scratch

Approaches

- Examine the existing major IM Frameworks in terms of architecture and interface, revisit all design issues encountered and resolved, consolidate best practices.
- Suppose we will have an ideal modern IM platform in mind, rather than being biased by any existing IM platforms, design clean standard from the scratch



Outcomes

- IMEngine SPI (Service Provider Interface) standard
- The OSS community project implementing the ideal platform architecture designed as bi-product, initially referred as IMBus project, then succeeded by iBus project
- The community starts producing usable implementation
- The major Linux distributions start adapting to it.

Intro. To IMEngine SPI

- Accommodate both very simple function call model and extensibility, so that simple IMEngine can be written quickly while serious commercial IMEngine vendors can also relay on same SPI
- Separate IM Logic part from UI presentation components
- Define services that IMEngine can call
- Easy to port existing IMEngines written for other IM Platforms.

Intro. to IMBus

- Ideal IM Platform that is based on the concept of “Bus” .
- All framework functionalities are recognized as a service module that can be dynamically inserted onto the Bus.
- UI components are also provided as replaceable service.
- Use own highly optimized Bus daemon
- All services are positioned equally, and can be service provider as well as consumer
- Name service and dynamic discovery

Intro. to iBus

- Successor of IMBus project.
- Simplified architecture and implementation by using the dbus which is used for Linux Desktop infrastructure.
- Fedora 11 already adapted.
- Other distributions will follow

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