

OSS related activities in Hokkaido

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METI

Ministry of Economy
Trade and Industry

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1. Local Community Activities

Major OSS Communities

Hokkaido Linux Users Club (DoLUC)	Established in April 1999
i-day Project	Established in July 2000
Northern land BSD Users Group (NoBUG)	Established in February 2001
Open SOAP Project	Established in April 2001
Japan PostgreSQL Users Group Hokkaido Office	Established in June 2001
Sapporo Linux Association	Established in August 2003
NPO Hokkaido Open Source & Security (HOSS)	Established in March 2004
Nature's Linux Users Group	Established in April 2004
Xcast fan club EZO System	Established in June 2004
OOo Hokkaido Users Group	Established in June 2004

- (1) **Activities of OSS communities, such as the Hokkaido Linux Users Club (DoLUC), the Northern land BSD Users Group (NoBUG) and NPO Hokkaido Open Source & Security (HOSS) are thriving.**
- (2) **On July 24, 2004, ten OSS related organizations in Hokkaido assembled with an aim to establish a model for academia-industry-government-OSS community collaboration and held “Get into Open Source Hokkaido 2004,” the largest open source community event in the prefecture.**

2. Regional governments are also enthusiastic about OSS introduction

(1) The Hokkaido Government's expression of its intention to enthusiastically introduce OSS

November 2002 · · · The Governor stated in the Hokkaido Prefectural Assembly:

“Utilization of OSS, such as Linux, is indispensable for the principle of competition and is also important for the cultivation of new industries.”

Pioneering introduction of OSS into the public system as a regional government

Major OSS systems in operation

Hokkaido portal “Hokkaido-jin”

(operating since October 2001) <http://www.hokkaido-jin.jp/>

Educational network for prefectural high schools in Hokkaido “Hokkaido School Net”

(operating since November 2002) <http://www.hokkaido-c.ed.jp/>

(2) The Ebetsu City Government built the “Ebetsu Brand Encyclopedia” website utilizing OSS. <http://www.ebetsu.city-brand.jp/top.php>

March 2004 · · · Utilized OSS to build a website designed to disseminate information on tangible (materials and products) and intangible (techniques and nature) things, which are becoming to Ebetsu and can be boasted of nationwide

Made the source code freely available for the WebDB software and natural language navigation software: attracting keen interest as a academia-industry-government collaboration project

3. Hokkaido University begins IT Top Gun (human resource) development

(1) Establishment of “Information Technology & Systems (ITS) Course” in Hokkaido University Graduate School (April 2003)

‘ITS Course’ is the generic term of the Real Software Systems Development Engineering Course and the Open System Engineering Course

Objectives of the ITS Courses

- Fostering of IT Top Gun candidates who can lead the IT industry**
- Development of real IT human resources, who are in short supply at universities (ITS-oriented universities)**

(2) Managed by Academia-Industry Collaboration

Managed by contributions from 20 domestic IT companies

Sapporo Information Network Co.,Ltd. NS Solutions Corporation Sumisho Computer Systems Corporation
SOFTBANK BB Corp. IBM Japan Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd. FUJITSU
Microsoft Corporation ARGO21 Corp. NEC Soft, Ltd. Sun Microsystems, Inc.
Information Science Research Center Oracle Corporation Japan Nippon System Development Co., Ltd.
NEC Corporation Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. Hitachi, Ltd.
NTT COMWARE Corporation NTT DoCoMo, Inc. Nihon Unisys, Ltd.

Instructors relocated from IT companies

- Abundant experience in system architecture and software development**
- Dispatch of top-notch engineers as part-time assistants and lecturers**

4. Development of “Open SOAP,” an OSS Project through Academia-Industry

Collaboration

Objectives of the Open SOAP Project

Encouragement of participation and development of IT ventures

Consortium-type collaboration

Development of a Web Service Platform

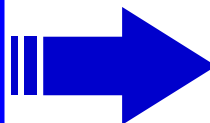
R&D on middleware products

Provision of a technological platform that everybody can use

Open source, freeware

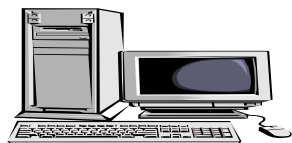
**Establishment of a university-
originated venture company**

A middleware based on common
protocol specifications (SOAP) designed
ces,
researchers mainly from Hokkaido;
as an open



“Middleware Development for Common
Platform of IT Services Business”, a
commissioned research project through
academia-industry collaboration, lead the
foundation of Technoface Corporation (a
university-originated venture) utilizing Open
SOAP as its core technology (April 2002)

Open
SOAP



TechnoFACE

5. IT companies in Hokkaido have an edge in OSS fields

(1) Advantageous to local large- and medium-scale IT companies that have many engineers (“Survey on New Development Measures by Open Source of IT Companies in Hokkaido” by METI Hokkaido in March 2004)

75% of IT companies located in Hokkaido have experience in system development using OSS
20% of engineers in IT companies with development achievements , have experience in OSS development

The number of people who have acquired Linux-related qualifications is also **1.4 times** of the national average.

(2) Major OSS-related companies in Hokkaido

IP TELECOM, Inc. Based on “Nature’s Linux”, an Operating System dedicated to a highly secure management-type server

NEC Software Hokkaido, Ltd. System solution services, package software development

Softcomm Co., Ltd. Based on “Strucomm” , a Web application development framework

Technoface Corporation Based on “Open SOAP” , distributed Web services integration middleware

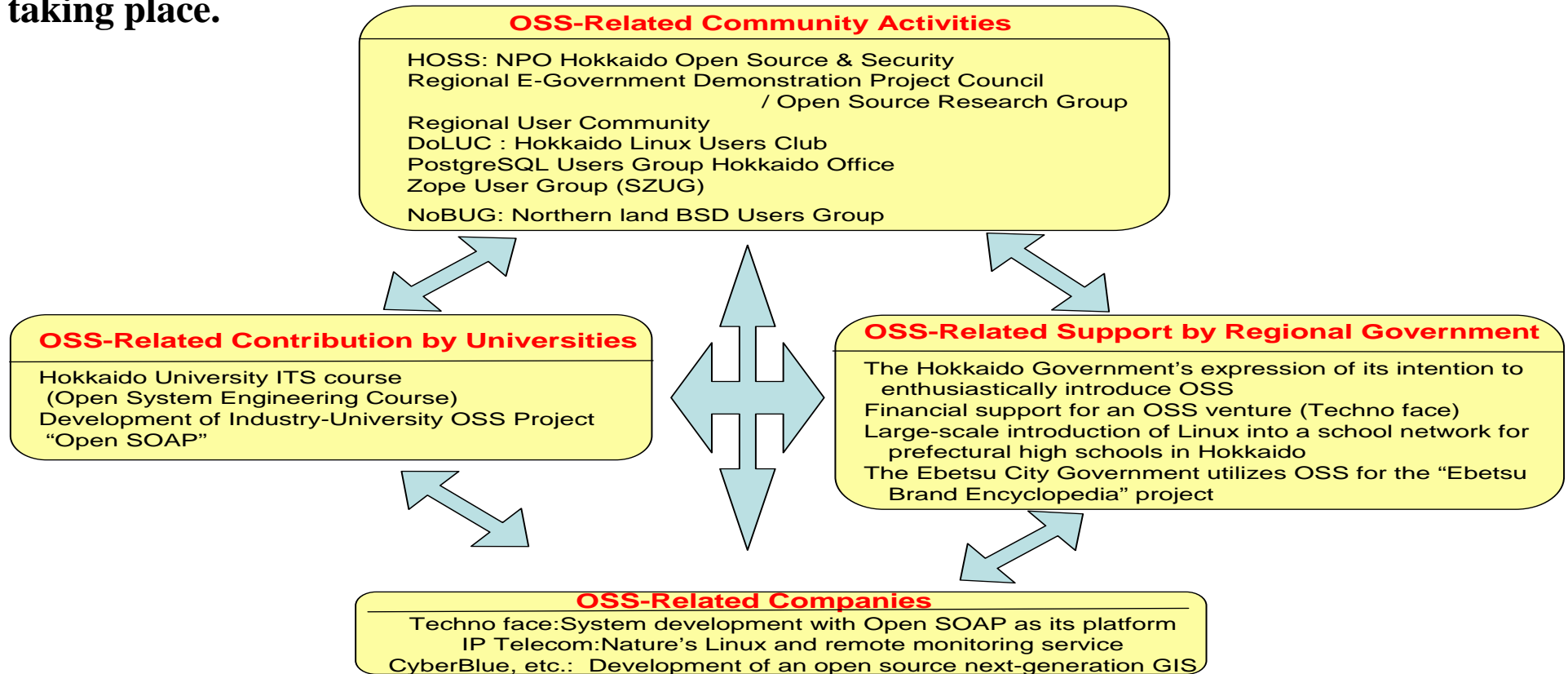
CyberBlue Co.,Ltd. Core program development for Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Atmark Techno, Inc. System house venture with embedded Linux-related technology as its core technology

acadama A venture seeking a new business model for Web solutions

6. Hokkaido, where academia, industry, government, and OSS communities collaborate with each other

In addition to the activities thriving in local communities, it is characteristic that regional governments were also early to focus on OSS in Hokkaido, and the multilateral collaboration among local IT companies, universities, NPOs, administrations, etc. has been taking place.



Since promotion of OSS introduction and utilization is expected to create synergetic effects for the improvement of elemental technology and product development capability of IT companies in Hokkaido, and also is beneficial for cluster formation in the IT industry, METI Hokkaido conducted the “Survey on New Development Measures by Open Source of IT Companies in Hokkaido” in August 2003 and published its report in March 2004.

Although it is in Japanese, please take a look!

http://www.hkd.meti.go.jp/hokim/open_houkoku/index.htm

To invigorate OSS business, it is important for user companies, regional governments, etc. to understand the utilization method, merits and demerits of OSS among introducing OSS. For this purpose “Points to Note for Open Source Software Utilization” was also published as a User Manual.

Since it is distributed here at the venue, please take a copy .

Thank you very much.

Inquiries

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