How to "Open Source" a commercial product

or

The view from the other side of the fence

Mark Hessling

2005 Rexx Symposium
Redondo Beach, California, USA
April 19, 2005

Overview

- Milestones

- Transition Phase

- The *Real* Work

- What next?

Milestones(1)

- **4 May 2004** - IBM announces at Symposium intention to "open source" Object REXX.

- **16 September 2004** - Open Object Rexx (ooRexx) settled on as name and domain names secured

- **12 October 2004** - IBM announces withdrawal of Object REXX and the transfer to RexxLA

- **29 November 2004** - IBM and RexxLA announce the finalization of the transfer of Object REXX source code to RexxLA

- **30 December 2004** - First build of Windows port, still using Object REXX to bootstrap ooRexx

- **7 January 2005** - First build of Windows port without using Object REXX to bootstrap ooRexx

- **12 January 2005** - First build of Linux port using *autotools*

- **25 Januray 2005** - First build of Solaris port (sparc)

- **4 February 2005** - First build of Solaris port (x86)

- **16 February 2005** - First public release of 3.0.0 beta source and Windows binaries

Milestones(3)

- **25 February 2005** – Linux RPM built

- **3 March 2005** – Solaris (sparc and x86) PKG built

- **25 March 2005** – 3.0.0 Release

- **27 March 2005** – Source available on SourceForge CVS

Transition Phase

- RexxLA offers IBM to take responsibility

- Nominates Transition Team

- Project Proposal with eminent Rexx people

- Wait for IBM decision...

The *Real* Work

- Initial Work
    - Transition Team
    - Rick and David
- Organizational Tasks
- Differences between Closed Source/Commercial vs Open Source/Free

Transition Team

- Confirming goals and targets

- Identifying who to get onboard and when

- Planning next phase

Rick & David

- Reorganizing source code
  - Renaming files
  - Changing directory structure
- Generating Documentation
- Controlling source

Organizational Tasks

- Formalizing Roles and Responsibilities

- Define Project Charter

- Build Web Site

- Host Domains

Open vs Closed Source

- Control of Build Platform

  - Closed Source: Full Control

  - Open Source: No Control

- Source Code Focus

  - Platform specific

  - Functional specific

Source Code Focus

Object REXX

```
#ifdef AIX
 struct timestruct_t Rqtp,
                     Rmtp;
#else
 struct timespec Rqtp,
                 Rmtp;
#endif
...
#ifdef AIX
 nsleep( &Rqtp, &Rmtp );
#else
 nanosleep( &Rqtp, &Rmtp );
#endif
```

ooRexx

```
#if defined( HAVE_NANOSLEEP )
 struct timespec Rqtp, Rmtp;
#elif defined( HAVE_NSLEEP )
 struct timestruct_t Rqtp, Rmtp;
#endif
...
#if defined( HAVE_NANOSLEEP )
 Rqtp.tv_sec = 1;
 Rqtp.tv_nsec = 0;
 nanosleep( &Rqtp, &Rmtp );
#elif defined( HAVE_NSLEEP )
 Rqtp.tv_sec = 1;
 Rqtp.tv_nsec = 0;
 nsleep( &Rqtp, &Rmtp );
#else
 sleep( 1 );
#endif
```

Other Issues

- Autotools
  - autoheader, automake, autoconf
- Bootstrap problem
  - Need Object REXX to build Object REXX
- Solaris at SourceForge
- Access to AIX

What Next?

- AIX port

- Other ports
  - *BSD, MacOS X, OS/2

- 64 bit support; BIFs and API

- Distributions

- Bug fixes and enhancements
  - Object REXX bugs
  - ANSI compliance