How to “Open Source” a commercial product

or

The view from the other side of the fence

Mark Hessling

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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 January 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
Object REXX

#ifdef AIX
   struct timestruct_t Rqtp, Rmtp;
#else
   struct timespec Rqtp, Rmtp;
#endif

#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;
#else
   sleep( 1 );
#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