CPE 802
Open Source Office Productivity Tools

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Housekeeping

- Meeting Times
  - 6-9 pm Monday/Wednesday/Friday
- Mondays/Wednesdays at LT15
- Fridays at Computer Lab 1
- Grading:
  - 50% quiz
  - 50% finals – in late July
- TA: Mr Shi Bin, shib0002@ntu.edu.sg

Wikified Course

- Course materials are drawn from both experience and web resources
- Not meant to be the final say in but to give a flavour and a review of the lay of the land
- The course will be driven out of a wiki at: cpe802.pbwiki.com
- You are welcome to add to the wikipage as the way it should be

All important EXAM

- There will be some quizzes and possibly some homework and labwork
- As per the NTU dictum, there is a 2.5 hour written exam

Let's dive in

- Why is Open Source so interesting?
  - History
  - Main players
  - Terminology
  - Licensing
  - GandhiCon

Pure FLOSS

- Brief introduction to pure FLOSS (Free/Libre Open Source Software) environments
  - Linux
  - XWindows
  - Window managers - KDE, Gnome, XFCE, Blackbox ...
  - Concept of separation of privilege

Heterogeneous Worlds

- Mixing OSS environments with proprietary OSes
  - cygwin and xwindows under Microsoft Windows
  - Running a full OSS stack on a closed/proprietary OS

Why FLOSS Succeeds

- Prerequisites:
  - A benevolent leader who can communicate and is sorta charismatic
  - A workable/plausible promise to create something that "scratches an itch"
- Reward System:
  - Contributing to an FLOSS project increases one's recognition in the community
  - "ego" satisfaction cannot be discounted

Main Contributors

- Richard Stallman: Free Software Foundation providing GNU tools – emacs, c compiler, debugger
- Linus Torvalds: provided the kernel to complement the GNU tools
- Coders from the BSD (Berkeley Software Distribution), Perl, PHP, MySql, Postgres, Apache, Python etc
- Eric Raymond – Cathedral and the Bazaar (CatB) in 1998

What's Open Source?

- Software whose code is readable from a human point of view
- Offers:
  - Ability to understand what is being done
  - Ability to change the code to suit new needs
  - Ability to port the code to a new hardware environment

Why it fails!

- Success limited to things that hackers/coders care about – no sense of roadmap; whatever that needs to be done for the "now"
- When there are no published and open standards available on royalty free terms
- When it is driven by "hate" for the other side – not healthy

Fear Uncertainty and Doubt

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FUD
- The changes FLOSS was bringing to the IT industry is best document in the so-called "Halloween documents".
  - Came from leaked documents written by Msoftie, Vinod Valloppillil
  - There has been numerous other documents leaked from MSFT since then