Open-source and no-cost tools for collaboration

DrupalCamp Helsinki 2009

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Why "no-cost"?

"Free" is a debated word in the open-source community. For the purposes of this presentation, "no-cost" means "you don't have to pay for it."

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Suites and integrated packages

Google Apps, Zimbra, and the Atlassian suite

Google Apps

‣ URL: google.com/apps

‣ Proprietary

‣ No-cost

   ‣ Paid plans are available, though not usually necessary for most uses

‣ Includes tools for email, groupware, collaboration, document sharing, and instant messaging

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Zimbra

‣ URL: zimbra.com

‣ Open-source

‣ No-cost

   ‣ Hosting plans are offered by Zimbra and third-party companies like 01.com

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Zimbra

‣ Includes tools for email, groupware, collaboration, and document sharing

   ‣ Documents cannot be edited simultaneously

‣ Purchased by Yahoo!

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Atlassian

‣ URL: atlassian.com

‣ Open source

‣ No-cost for open-source firms and projects

   ‣ You must apply for an open-source license

   ‣ Application: atlassian.com/software/views/
opensource-license-request.jsp

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Atlassian

‣ Not a comprehensive groupware suite

    ‣ Does not handle email or calendaring

‣ Handles issues tracking, project management, documentation/wiki, version control, code review, and continuous integration

‣ Issue tracking (JIRA) and documentation/wiki (Confluence) apps are perhaps most useful

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Chat, conferencing, and telephony

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Chat: Openfire

- URL: igniterealtime.org/projects/openfire

- XMPP/Jabber provider

- IM gateways: AIM, Yahoo!, MSN, ICQ, etc.

- Supports group chats (chat rooms) and "broadcasting" to multiple users

- Secure and logged chatting

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Chat: Skype and IRC

‣ Skype

 ‣ Text and voice chat, including international calling

 ‣ Secure

‣ IRC

 ‣ Not secure or logged

 ‣ Logging requires a channel bot

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Telephony: Asterisk

‣ URL: asterisk.org

  ‣ (Site runs on Drupal!)

‣ PBX, VoIP, and telephony application

‣ To take full advantage of Asterisk, you may need to purchase a Digium appliance and VoIP phones

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Other helpful apps and services

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Delicious

‣ URL: delicious.com

‣ Bookmark and link sharing

‣ Create link feeds for your website

‣ Send links to other users using the "for:username" tag

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Remember the Milk

‣ URL: rememberthemilk.com

‣ Tasks and reminder sharing

‣ Create company- or project-wide to-do lists and reminders

‣ Some syncing features require a Pro account

‣ US$25/year

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Doodle

‣ URL: doodle.com

‣ Schedule meetings quickly and with minimal hassle

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Etherpad

‣ URL: etherpad.com

‣ Document collaboration and sharing

‣ Changes are visible instantly

‣ Not secure

   ‣ Paid version offers secured editing

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Atlassian tools

‣ JIRA

  ‣ issue tracking and project management

‣ Confluence

  ‣ documentation and document sharing

‣ Crowd

  ‣ single sign-on for all Atlassian products

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Document sharing

‣ Confluence

   ‣ text documents such as proposals and how-to guides

‣ Google Apps

   ‣ spreadsheets and presentation outlines

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Zimbra groupware

‣ Handles email, calendaring, and a shared address book

‣ Hosting provided by 01.com

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Telephony, chat, and conferencing

‣ Asterisk PBX

  ‣ Installed on Digium's Asterisk Appliance

‣ Openfire

  ‣ Jabber, Gchat, AIM, MSN, Yahoo!

‣ Skype

  ‣ Text and international conferencing

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Minimizing maintenance

‣ Running one's own software requires significant effort

   ‣ Stable web host

   ‣ Software upgrades, patches, and maintenance

‣ Paying for software support or hosting is sometimes more cost-effective than doing it yourself

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What we maintain

‣ Atlassian suite: JIRA, Confluence, and Crowd

   ‣ Issue tracking, project management, documentation, document sharing, and single-sign on

‣ Openfire

   ‣ XMPP/Jabber chat and AIM, MSN, and Yahoo! gateways

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What we *don't* maintain

‣ Zimbra

   ‣ Email, calendaring, and shared address book

‣ Google Apps

‣ Asterisk — sort of

   ‣ Hardware is installed on-site

   ‣ We also have a support plan through Digium

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