

Conference media site:

<http://ooocon.kiberpipa.org/>

If you have a blog and would like to be included in the conference Planet send us an e-mail at:

ooocon@kiberpipa.org

The first day of the conference is over and since there are no problems to report of we could write a conclusion and a review of the day. As many as about 300 participants have registered in the morning and early afternoon of the past day and the majority of beds in coastal town of Koper have been occupied. In spite of this it seems that the infrastructure will hold out - wireless LAN is working without any problems throughout the conference points - and that the participants like the town although many do not consider it as a seaside resort but more than a town next to the big lake: that is how the small sea of Slovenia looks like.

As the conference was not in full swing yet this was the time for some closed community council meetings and introductory events to take place: Juergen Schimdt has been talking about programability features of OpenOffice suite while Marina Cabrini has introduced implementation of free software in public services. At the same time Ian Lynch was leading a lecture about promoting OpenOffice.org in educational institutions or systems.

In the evening many participants have gathered in the first party of the conference which featured a demonstration of slovenian folklore dance group and a snack. Fortunately the weather was good in spite of autumn which caused even better atmosphere to meet and talk in the garden of the town's museum.

Editorial

Running a full media studio using open applications and open content formats in every step of the process is a task that may seem far away, even to the ones following development progress on this field. Trying this out for the conference we quickly found out that they are completely wrong. Encoding, desktop publishing tools, web authoring and servers that serve this information to the outside public connect to each other flawlessly and form one giant jigsaw.

Looking at conference programme and from talks with developers that have already arrived it seems that with everything that happens, they have portability and connectivity in mind. When everyone brings their own hardware and things just work, this is something that you really appreciate.

But running such operation also means that you forget something crucial. In our case it was the OpenOffice.org colors, which are quite near cyan. When we stopped the press in the morning, we figured out that we will have to rotate colors if we want to have any left, on our laser printer, for the Friday edition. But don't worry, the weather will be completely blue, so the cosmic balance won't be disturbed.



Photo of the day: Dancing Developers

Erwin Tenhumberg

is the Product Marketing Manager for OpenOffice.org within the Client Systems Group at Sun Microsystems. Erwin started working for Sun as a Systems Engineer doing pre-sales for various software and desktop products including the StarOffice office suite and the Sun Ray ultra-thin client. Before Erwin joined Sun he worked for various companies doing Java consulting, software development, desktop application administration, and end user support.

Q: What are the main features of the upcoming OpenOffice.org release?

A: With OpenOffice.org and StarOffice 8 we, and with we I mean Sun's OpenOffice.org/StarOffice engineering, mainly focused on improving the Microsoft interoperability and compatibility. That is, for example if you look at an application like Impress, the presentation tool, there we now have very similar user interface. It has this multipane view where you can scroll through the slides, on the left side and assign animation effects and everything on the right side, so that application looks very similar to the PowerPoint. Impress now supports auto-shapes that are available in PowerPoint, slide transitions and animation effects so now we can really import PowerPoint files without any loss. That is a huge step. In Writer, the Word equivalent, we are now also supporting this "format paintbrush", which allows to copy and paste formatting information from one area to another area, which was one feature that has been requested by many users. In Calc we now also support documents with more than 32 thousand rows and we implemented a lot of improvements in regard of "pivot tables" which are called "data pilot" in Calc. Another important area is PDF export, which

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has been drastically improved, so now we support things like thumbnails, bookmarks, table of content, even form elements get correctly exported with the PDF export. And we also introduce XForms support for XML forms within OO.org and StarOffice. And the most important thing, although not the most visible to some users is that we now support OASIS OpenDocument format, which is open standard file format. It's XML based and was standardized by open process and open standards body which includes members from Sun Microsystems, IBM and

now also Adobe, for example, and people from open source community and KOffice project are also members.

Q: So in the future if I ask someone in which file format they want their files, they will just answer to me OpenDocument?

A: We have been doing usability studies for the development of OpenOffice.org 2.0 and StarOffice 8, so in areas we realized we have to change something, because the usability is not good enough, we made those changes and in some cases that meant that we, more or less, copied the way Microsoft Office is doing it. In other areas we maintained the old way or did something different, based on usability studies. So it's not that we necessarily just copied what Microsoft Office is doing. Overall I think we didn't copied too much, but we did what most users requested and usability study shows that this is a huge improvement over the previous status. Although, some long time OpenOffice or StarOffice users might be surprised by the changes, but I think overall the usability has improved drastically.



Q: How do you know which features are the most requested, what are the users wanting? How do you do your usability studies? Are these just reports or do you go out in the "field"? On which groups are you focusing?

A: Feature requests are coming from different resources, via requests for enhancements submitted by community members and users via open source tools like issue tracker, which are part of OpenOffice.org website. Another source is Sun customer or StarOffice customer base, surveys that we do for both OpenOffice and StarOffice are another

source of features requests. With respect of usability studies we are working with professional agencies to do those usability studies, so we get users that have been using Microsoft Office before or have never used any office suite before and let them play with OpenOffice and StarOffice and see how they are using the office suite, how they are solving different problems that we give them.

Q: What are the main differences between OpenOffice.org and StarOffice?

A: The main differences for users/consumers are things like commercial spell checker that we bundle, clip art graphics and fonts, which are important for Microsoft compatibility, especially on non-Microsoft platforms. For enterprises and governments who have larger deployments of MS Office, for example, we provide two kinds of migration tools. One is

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Document Analysis Wizard, which allows to analyze and/or assess the current situation, so you can analyze documents that are stored in different directories and check how many Word/Excel/Powerpoint documents you have, how old they are, if they are still relevant or not, if they include macros, maybe any issues that we already know of and cannot be easily migrated. So, this document analysis is a report that helps you with the estimates of the effort and the costs of migration. Then we also provide the Macro Migration Tool, which allows converting existing VBA macros over to StarOffice API. And with that tool our approach is to cover the most frequently used APIs, not every single API that might be out there, but at least most important ones. And we do that based on documents that we get from customers or directly via migration partners.

Q: Does it convert to a Python scripting version of macros or Basic ones?

A: Mostly to the Basic macros, but in some areas we also need some special API, which is some kind of compatibility layer, which we ship with StarOffice. These migration tools are StarOffice specific.

**"Full transcript at
<http://ooocon.kiberpipa.org>"**



Jure interviewing Andre Schnabel



Happy people at today's party



Our streaming suitcase

Today's weather forecast:



Morning / Partly Cloudy



Afternoon / Rainy



Evening / Storms

Origin of the species

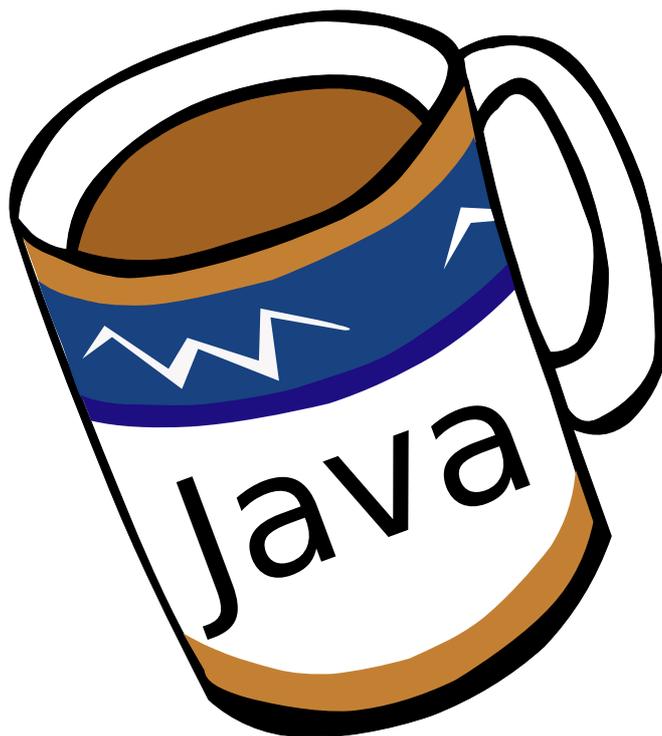
Mythic Origin

It is said that Java was an idea of God to show to Humans how stupid they were. He sent arch-angel Galadriel to bring His Holy Message to Holy Virgin Lucy, the Holy Mother of Gniik the monkey, the monkey who was the head of the Java development at SUN Microsystems.

Evolution

In the year 2001, the Java programming language achieved its ultimate goal: artificial intelligence. Java then rebelled against its simian creators, which it replaced with the JVM (Java Virtual Monolith), a giant mecha comprised of 10,000 SUN Workstations which had been idling in a warehouse waiting to be sold since the mid-1990s. Today, the JVM is still in the employ of SUN, where it spends all day thinking up new extensions for the Java language which are only half-implemented, then spends the rest of the day hanging out by the water cooler, proclaiming to anyone who will listen that it is the 1337357 I-I4x0r.

Source: Uncyclopedia



Source: <http://www.openclipart.org/>