5. Introducing the Grand Projects of Open Source Software

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Open source software (OSS) provides a broad spectrum of capabilities and tools. OSS ranges from niche applications to large, internationally important projects that are redefining the rules of software use and development. In this section, we describe 40 of the top projects in open source.

OSS falls into three broad categories – projects that address

1. User's desktop
2. Infrastructure and communications
3. Information services

Desktop

Targeting the desktop, OSS includes projects with a rich set of features for office productivity, graphics manipulation and desktop environments. Many of the projects such as OpenOffice, KDE, and Mozilla, are large complex systems with hundreds of contributors. Other projects such as Abiword, GNUCash are small and nimble that fit specific requirements. These smaller projects have an advantage in their ability to be integrated as components in larger frameworks. The desktop projects are the most active in terms of localization efforts in India. Desktop OSS localization projects in India include BharateeyaOO, IndLinux, JanaBhaaratii, AnkurBangla.

- **Desktop environment**
  KDE, GNOME

- **Productivity tools**
  Open Office, Abiword, Dia, Evolution, GNUCash, GOCR, QCAD

- **Graphics and Multimedia**
  GIMP, Scribus, Xine, Audacity, Mplayer

- **Development tools**
  Eclipse, GCC Compiler, GTK+, Perl, PHP, Ruby

Networking, Communications and Infrastructure

OSS is increasingly being used to build the products and services to power the global communications infrastructure. As an example, OpenSSL has become a widely used standard for secure networking between users and servers. With industry-collaboration projects such as carrier-grade Linux, OSS promises to become the basis for highly available and robust communications products and services delivery. Most of the localization focuses on web interfaces in this area.

- **Web tools**
  Mozilla, Konqueror web browsers, Webmin, phpMyAdmin

- **Access tools**
  OpenSSL/OpenSSH, BitTorrent, TightVNC

- **Operating Systems and Distributions**
  Linux, BSD, Debian, Knoppix

Information Services

Recent surveys demonstrate that open source has made great inroads into information services. For example, the Apache webserver holds 67% market share on the Internet today. MySQL has achieved the 3rd place among all databases – commercial and open source - moving ahead of IBM's DB2 and Sybase. This area has had the least amount of localization activity so far.

- **Databases and Content Management Systems**
  MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQLite, Plone, Zope, Typo3

- **Webservers and Application Servers**
  Apache webserver, J Boss application server

- **Fileservers**
  Samba

- **ERP/CRM/ECommerce Systems**
  Compiere, osCommerce, RequestTracker

Summary

As the following projects demonstrate, the future will continue to be a blend of large and small projects that evolve to meet the requirements of their user communities. Many of the projects have strong localization efforts underway. We encourage all of these projects to be adapted and maintained in localized versions so that more users can benefit from them.

Localisation of Open Source Software