

# Encouraging Free and Open Source Software in Malaysia

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# Presentation Outline

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- Thanks for your help in allowing us to to this
- Studying FLOSS in Malaysia
- FLOSS and Knowledge Networking
- Processes essential to vibrant FLOSS KNing
- The state of these processes in Malaysia
- What is to be done

# Studying FLOSS in Malaysia

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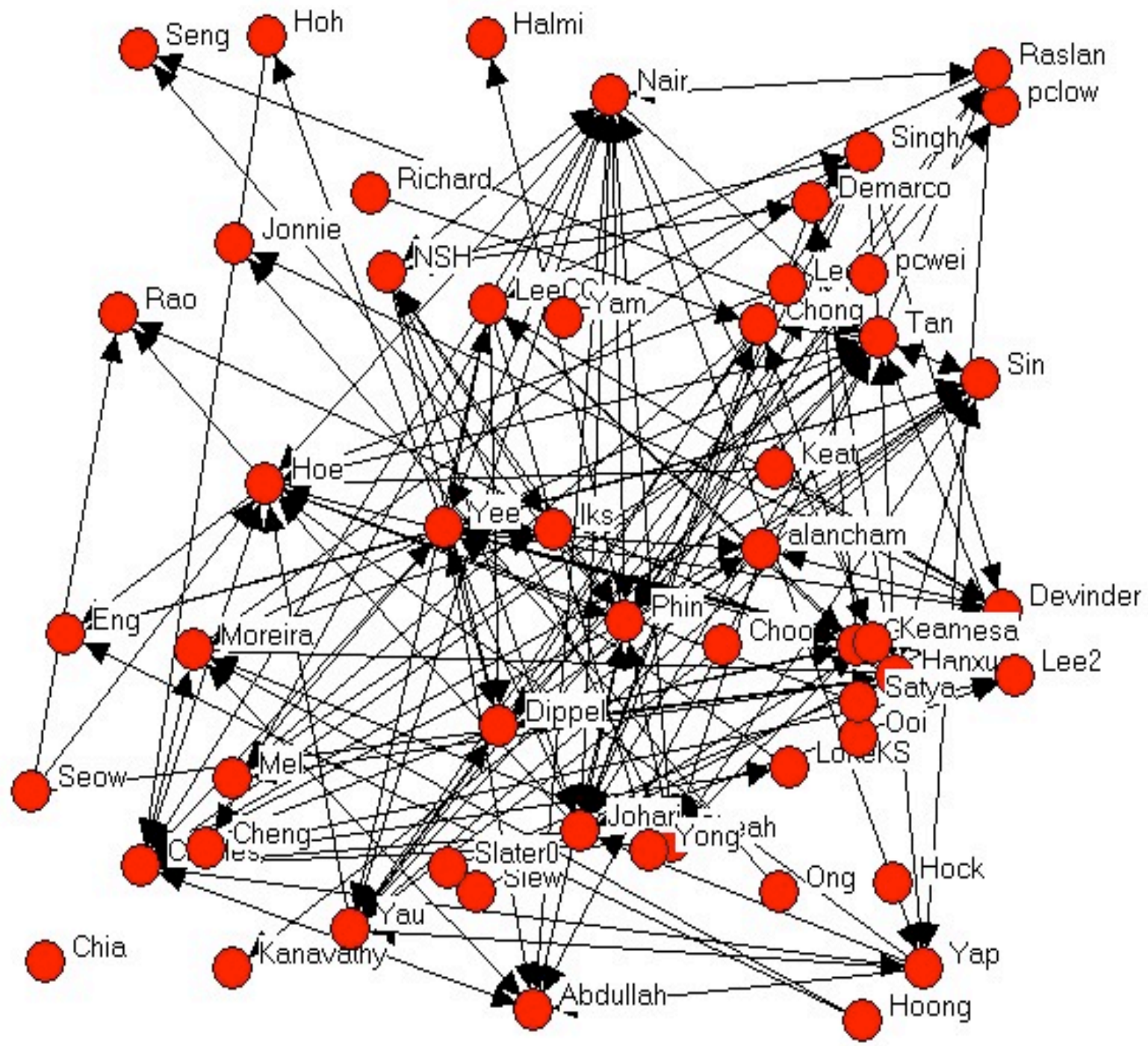
- Composite ethnographic field work
- Pre-site virtual
- On-site
- Post-site virtual

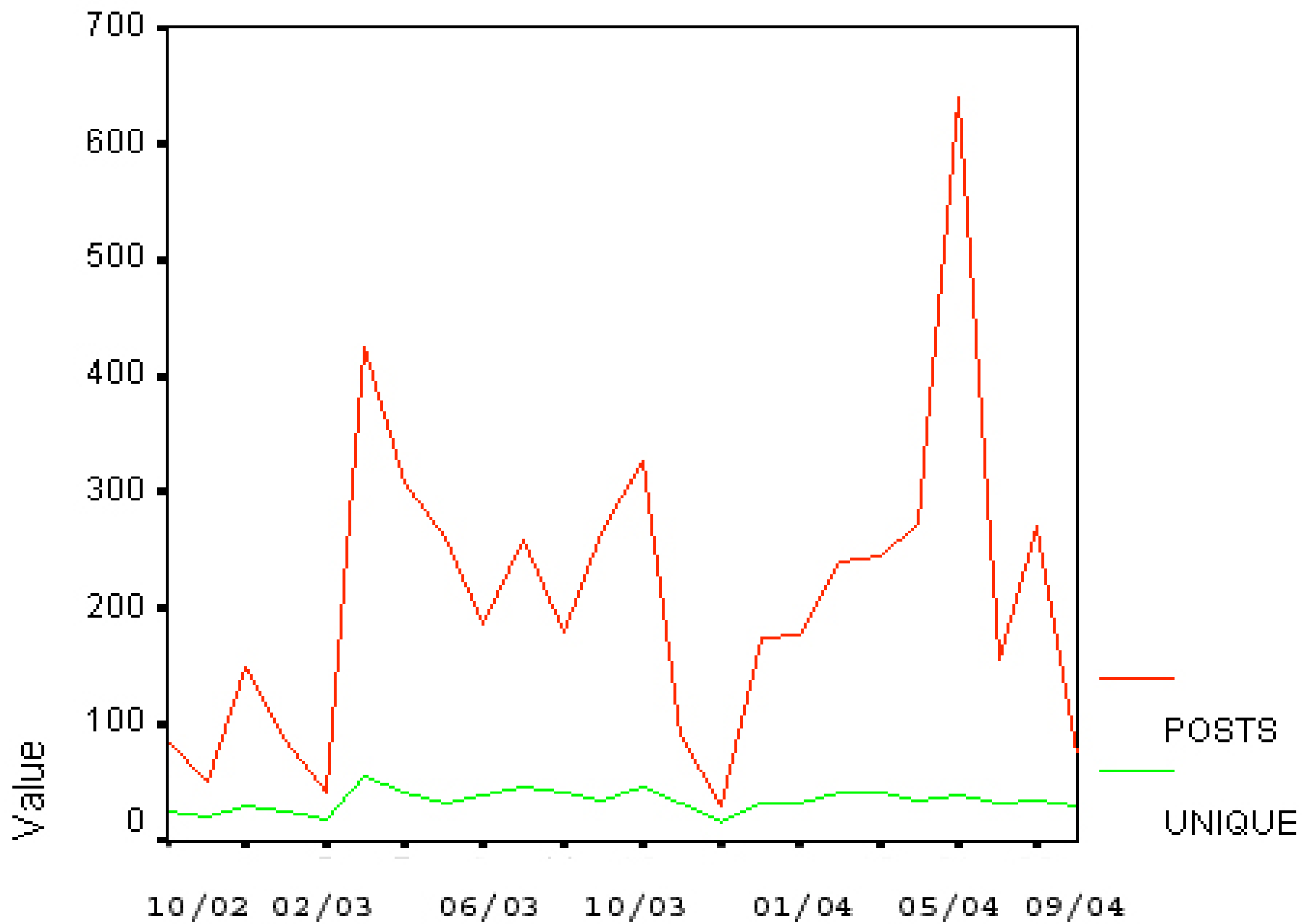
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	ID	Name	Interest 1	Interest 2	Interest 3	Interest 4
2	Abdullah	Alawi Abdullah	Software Implementati	OS Business News		
3	alancham	alan cham	Software Training			
4	Charles	Colin Charles	IT Business News	Misc	Microsoft-Linus Debat	OS Prjects
5	Cheah	Molly Cheah	microsoft-linux debate	Open Source Project	IT Business News	Software Training
6	Cheng	Choong Hong Cheng	Sotware Implementati	OS Business News		
7	Chia	Wai-Sun Chia	Software Implementation			
8	Chong	Tsewai Chong	IT Business News	IT Economics		
9	Choo	Michael Choo	IT Business News			
10	Demarco	Chris Demarco	MDC-OSSIG project	Software Training		
11	Devinder	Devinder Singh	IT Business News	MDC-OSSIG Projec	Software Training	
12	Dippel	Uwe Dippel	Software Implementati	IT Business News	Microsoft Business	Software Training
13	Eng	Tan Bun Eng	Software Training	Software Implementation		
14	Gegathesa	Sathesan Gegathesa	Software Implementati	Software Training		
15	Halmi	Halmi	Software Training			
16	Hanxue	Lee Hanxue	Economics	OS Business News	IT Business News (x2)	Microsoft Busines:
17	Hock	Yeoh Tih Hock	MDC-OSSIG project			
18	Hoe	Nah Soo Hoe	MDC-OSSIG project	OS Business News	Software Training	List Details
19	Hoh	Sunny Hoh	microsoft-linux debate			
20	Hoong	Chan Ying Hoong	Software Implementation			
21	Johari	Mukhsein Johari	MDC-OSSIG project	List Details	IT Economics	Software Implemer
22	Jonnie	Jonnie	Software Training			
23	Kanavathy	Gansean Kanavathy	microsoft-linux debate			
24	Kean	Kean	OS Business News	IT Economics		

testmap1 / Sheet2 / Sheet3

Ready

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# On-site activities

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- ❑ Attend public events--meet-ups, trainings, conferences
- ❑ Interviews
- ❑ Presentations
- ❑ mini-projects--grant applications, curriculum
- ❑ continue virtual activities

# Post-site activities

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- ❑ shifting to Pajek as analysis platform
- ❑ developing specialized social network models
- ❑ developing tools for comparative studies of FLOSS dynamics
- ❑ Curriculum in Informatics in International Perspective

# *Knowledge Networking*

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- All FLOSSing depends on a broader, “open” cultural imaginary--e.g., open standards, open access, “free culture”
- All also depends on vibrant discussion about the adequacy of specific code snippets, and
- Reflexive meta-discourses about broader issues of software architecture and legal, economic, and organizational contexts.
- e.g., IBM, in opting to eliminate “house” coders and depend on leveraging “open” resources, relies more on FLOSS KNIing

# Proprietary Organizations and KNIing

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- These also depend on KNIing, but of a different sort and to a lesser degree, for:
  - Their code need only be sufficiently usable to be sellable
  - If large, big staffs can be organized bureaucratically organized--e.g., “waterfall,” “structured programming” (have to, for IP)
  - Also, if also in a competitive, private market place, have large advertising budgets and funds for securing market position and to scare off competition.
  - Can also plan and execute very large programs over a long time horizon
  - As demonstrated by large number of bugs in proprietary software, it just doesn't need to be all that good to achieve market success
- All these conditions mean lower need for quality KNIing

# KNing in FLOSSed Organizations

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- Depends upon volunteers rather than employees to examine code for bugs
- While are FLOSS mechanisms that focus attention on coding issues of pressing time or release priority, no way to force sufficient attention on each particular problem (no Weber bureaucracy)
- For FLOSS to displace proprietary, there must be a sufficiently high enough general level of FLOSS KNing for all issues to be dealt with
- Need to examine FLOSSing as a KNing process to identify necessary steps/conditions

# *Elements Necessary if FLOSSing is to promote Vibrant Kning*

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- Direct Factors
- Indirect Factors

# Direct Factors

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- An accessible, and adequately large and wide range, of IT application options, a “market”;
- Moreover, this market needs individuals and groups/ organization with sufficient discretion to choose FLOSS;
- Effective access to a sufficiently large and wide range of quality FLOSeD software products/development tools/ platforms;
- An adequate, continuing supply of experienced, skilled developers;
- A sufficiently skilled, engaged, engageable, and reflective support “community”; and
- An adequate range of sufficiently dedicated and persuasive FLOSS leaders, promoters and organizers.

# Context Factors

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- Technical: Effective access to a diverse range of FLOSS projects (for fostering developers);
- Organizational: Good organizational support, for, e.g., KNIing; and
- Appropriate public policy
- Legal: An appropriate framework, balancing good access to and use of “free” culture with sufficient protection for “permission” culture;
- Economic: Sufficient big organizations to demonstrate sufficient market viability;
- Social: Strong civil society to support discussion—relatively “free” flow of ideas;
- Rich mix of AITed communications media
- Cultural: Sufficient localization, both actual and potential, to provide local groups leverage in relation to big organizations;
- A rich Open Cultural Imaginary;
- Intellectual: A good research base, both in AIT R&D and AIT in use.

# Where Malaysia Stands re: Direct Factors

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- ❑ IT Market accessible, and adequately large and generally wide, with some exceptions;
- ❑ CIOs, etc., have sufficient discretion? Somewhat questionable, for purchasing sometimes skewed by state, and tendency to buy “big and safe”;
- ❑ Access to FLOSS products, etc. generally sufficient, for accessible on line and generally good infrastructure;
- ❑ Supply of experienced, skilled developers generally held to be inadequate now and in the future (the big issue?);
- ❑ Similarly, while current support “community” sufficiently skilled, its small and not always engaged, and engageable;
- ❑ FLOSS leaders, etc., adequate in range, sufficiently dedicated and persuasive, but small and inconsistently engaged.

# Malaysia re: Contextual Factors

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- ❑ Technical: Is access to a diverse range of FLOSS projects (for fostering developers), but local relevance may not always be clear or sufficient;
- ❑ Organizational: Good support, for networking, but insufficiently organized?
- ❑ State: Substantial formal policy, but will follow through be adequate?
- ❑ Legal: Effective framework insufficiently clear; inconsistent or inadequate enforcement of software copyright protection, threat of counter-productive patent “protection”;
- ❑ Economic: “Big” organizations do demonstrate sufficient market viability, but tend to displace small, new ones, which must depend on “patronage”;
- ❑ Social: Are some good networks (lists, “meetups”) but array may not be rich enough; Also, while some strong areas of “free” flow of ideas, such as websites and blogs, even these periodically threatened, civil society generally underdeveloped; controlled press and weak civil networks/spaces for “free” culture;
- ❑ Cultural: Inconsistent localization, both actual and potential, to provide local groups sufficient leverage in relation to big organizations, and an insufficiently developed Open Cultural Imaginary; and
- ❑ Intellectual: Research base, both in AIT R&D and AIT in use, could be stronger.

# Conclusions: Priorities

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- ❑ Increase the number of those involved in FLOSS development projects--education
- ❑ Expand localization efforts
- ❑ Join and work in organizations, not just networking, to affect policy
- ❑ Expand the local FLOSS public sphere



Screenshots...

Civil Society?

