

Iran Free/Open Source Software (FOSS) Project

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a vertical black line intersecting several overlapping colored squares in blue, red, and yellow.

Mohammad Khansari,
Director of
Iran Free/Open Source Software Project

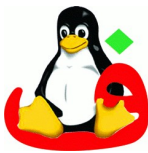
Advanced Information and Communication Technology Center
of Sharif University, Iran

khansari@aictc.ir

WSIS second phase, Tunisia
Nov. 18 , 2005



What is Free/Open Source Software?



- Free Software is a program which gives users the freedom
 - to run the program for any purpose,
 - to study and modify the program, and
 - to redistribute the original or modified program (without having to pay royalties to previous developers)
- “Free” comes from freedom and **NOT** free of charge



Why the FOSS is important for the government?

- Building a reliable and secure Information Technology infrastructure
- Vendor Independence
- Ease of localization
- Copyright and membership of WTO issues
- Long term financial benefit
- Promoting local software industry



The project goals

- To set the ground for an alternative operating system in Iran based on the localization of GNU/Linux and the most widely used FOSS.
- To eradicate the essential problems associated with the Persian language in the GNU/Linux internationalization process and most popular FOSS.
- Enhancing people awareness and promoting the culture of using FOSS



Policies for the project success (1)

- Involving all stakeholders
 - The government makes the policies and funds the projects
 - The university leads the project technically, and
 - The private companies execute different sub-projects and internationalize the outputs.
 - The community bug reports and help new users to benefit from FOSS



Policies for the project success (2)

- Provision of human resources by producing training materials which are going to be available to all people at negligible costs.
- Promotion of FOSS



Localization technical phases (1)

- Basic tools and libraries to support Persian language in the GNU/Linux. Five projects: "Unicode Bi-directional Algorithm and Joining," "Persian Sorting, Loose Searching and Persian Locale Requirements", "The Jalali Calendar", "Persian Keyboard", and "Persian Open Type and Reference Font" (completed)



Localization Technical Phase (2)

- Applying the results of the first phase to the important GNU/Linux libraries and applications.
 - Libraries: GNU C library (glibc), KDE base library (QT, KDEBase), GNOME base library (gtk+) and ICU (in progress).
 - Server-side: MySQL, PostgreSQL, IMP (Web-based mail client) and webmin (web-based server administration) (all done).
 - Desktop applications: Korganizer, NOVELL Evolution, aspell, OpenOffice.org, Mozilla (in progress)



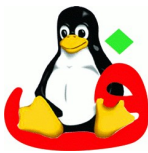
Other Localizataion activities

- The Persian Graphical User Interface Specifications and Guidelines project and a reference translation dictionary activities standard and compatible other activities (both done).
- Translation of KDE and GNOME desktops and OpenOffice.org (in progress).
- A multi-calander library is under development.
- Font design (in progress).
- A Persian to English dictionary (done)
- Iran Free/Open Source hosting: <http://projects.FOSS.ir>



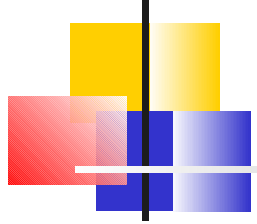
Iranian GNU/Linux distributions

- **Shabdix:** A live GNU/Linux CD based on the *Knoppix* with Persian interface. The first disto has been intended to familiarize users with GNU/Linux (proof of concept).
- **Learnix:** A live/installable distro based on *Slacks* included 2200 training slides for 120 hours teaching material and 60 white papers.
- **Parsix:** another Live distro based on *Kanotix* and *Debian sid* with Persian to English dictionary and GNOME interface.
- **Karamad:** Another live distro from scratch supported by DPI
- DPI (the highest ranking Iranian IT company) commercial distros will be available by mid 2006: different distro's for different applications (ISPs, Embedded, Server, etc)



FOSS promotion

- Books:
 - Financial support of writing and publication,
 - The first book titled “Introduction to Free/Open source software” is under publication.
 - 10 other books by mid 2006.
 - Feeding news agencies, newspapers and TV news
- GNU/Linux communities and forums: Iran GNU/Linux User Group (www.Lugir.org), www.technotux.org, www.foss.ir.
- Monthly newsletter: Ofogh-Linux (Linux horizon)
- Monthly e-magazine (IranTUX)
- e-newsletters
- 120 hours E-learning and CBT courses are at the final preparations



Thank you for your attention.

Any question?

Contact:

Mohammad Khansari

khansari@aictc.ir

www.aictc.ir , www.FOSS.ir

www.FOSS.ir