Free For All (including the media)

THE OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE COMMUNITY WILL GATHER IN GENEVA FROM 7-12 JULY FOR LSM 2012. THE EBU IS PRODUCING CONFERENCE SESSIONS ON FREE AND OPEN SOFTWARE IN MEDIA.

Product incompatibilities and vendor lock-in are some of the biggest hurdles we encounter every day. Sometimes these are due to mediocre design and engineering, but more often they are the result of conscious decisions to limit a product's capabilities. Vendors hope to make money by forcing the user to take a specific path. There is nothing new about this and it may be simply the way the marketplace works. However, proponents of a different model seem to be gaining ground.

For many years now we have grown accustomed to the use of free(ly adaptable) software on the Internet. Think of Linux, Apache, Mediawiki, etc. These products evolve rapidly thanks to their open nature and of course the efforts of active developer communities. For the user their quality, ubiquitous use (interoperability) and zero price tag are the main attractors. Is there any sign of similar solutions for our professional needs? That was the question we asked back in 2007, when the EBU organised a two-day Open Source Seminar dedicated to solutions for the audio-visual industry. This year we will do the same, but we have made it part of the much larger Libre Software Meeting (LSM) in Geneva – the city of many free-thinkers. What will be there to see?

The EBU-organised part takes place on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 July. It is a two-day seminar with over 20 presentations and a handful of workshops on open source tools to help production and distribution of content. Topics covered include the development of open

TUX THE LINUX PENGUIN VISITED THE EBU FOR THE OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE WORKSHOP IN 2007

ONE WEEK OF FREEDOM

The 13th edition of Libre Software Meeting (LSM) takes place from 7-12 July in Geneva and covers free software for all sorts of applications: office, health, security, politics, education, research, software development, internet, operating systems, system administration, etc. There will be demos, workshops and free beer too! **http://2012.rmll.info/en/**

hardware (including an open camera!), cloud storage, graphics, video editing, audio editing, hybrid radio, radio play-out, 3D animation, MXF low-latency streaming, SIP audio contribution/intercoms, interactive TV, IPTV, OTT streaming, and open radio tools. A number of EBU Members will present
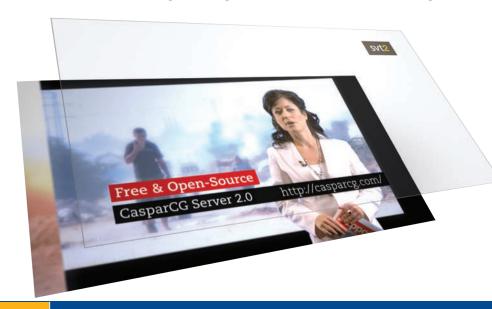
their experiences with free software. Here are a few examples.

CLOUD STORAGE (BBC, UK)
BBC's David Butler will introduce OpenStack, which is a collaborative software project designed to create freely available code, badly needed standards, and common ground for the benefit of both cloud providers and cloud users. His presentation will outline why the media industry is interested in virtualization and cloud, the components of OpenStack and a brief description on what is needed to create a private cloud using the OpenStack software.

NEWS MANAGEMENT (RAI, ITALY)
For RAI, Dr. Maurizio Montagnuol will show how the RAI Hyper Media News aggregation system helps managing news streams from different media sources using the Apache OpenNLP library for text analysis. News topics are contextualized within automatically extracted information and indexed using the Apache Solr engine. This makes unified search

LSM
GENEVA 2012

and browse services available to any web user. Additional resources, such as the broadcaster's archive, can be accessed as well.

24/7 GRAPHICS & VIDEO PLAY-OUT (SVT, SWEDEN)
The Swedish public broadcaster has created a professional broadcast quality graphics and video solution, combining free and open source software and cheap hardware. Motion graphics designer Jonas Hummelstrand (SVT) will explain how the software works and how it forms an integral part of everything from news shows, channel branding, and game shows to special events, such as election coverage. Additionally a CasparCG workshop will be given by Robert Nagy (Redpatch).
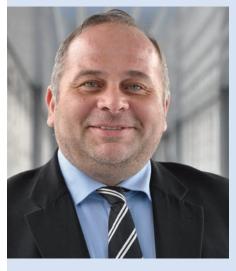
INTERNET TV DISTRIBUTION CHAIN (VRT, BELGIUM)
VRT of Belgium has built a complete chain for distributing audiovisual material over the public internet, which combines tools for encoding (ffmpeg, x264 and MP4box) with solutions for distribution (Apache and mod_smoothstreaming). The whole workflow is glued together with some bash scripts and automake-magic. The result is an easy-to-use toolkit, which serves the three most popular videoformats (Adobe, Apple and Microsoft) from a single disc-format.

**The complete programme of the EBU sessions can be found at: http://tech. ebu.ch/opensource2012
For more information, you can also contact: coinchon@ebu.ch**

WHAT IS 'FREE'?
There is quite some confusion about the words 'free' and 'open', when applied to software. For 'libre software' proponents, the meaning comes down to 'free to use as you like', not necessarily 'free' in the sense that you cannot charge for it. Similarly what is called 'open' may not be free to use or adapt, it simply means you can 'look under the hood' to understand what is going on. Open software may still require a paid licence and prohibit you from making any changes.

Kazimir Bacic HRT

IN EACH ISSUE OF TECH-I WE INVITE A MEMBER OF THE EBU TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THEMSELVES. THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF 13 PEOPLE WHO ARE ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE EBU MEMBERS AS A WHOLE. ELECTIONS FOR THE 2012-2014 TERM WILL TAKE PLACE IN JUNE AT THE TECHNICAL ASSEMBLY IN ZAGREB.

WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES AT HRT?
I am responsible for technology development and operations in TV production as the head of a technical department which has about 950 employees. Our team includes engineers, technicians, cameramen, editors, and maintenance staff.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER AS YOUR FINEST PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE?
I have been either the Project Manager or Head of many projects such as "File-based News Production", the planning and installation of our two large digital production studios, our CNCT Digital project, and the digitization of continuity and play-out at HRT. In the realm of production I'm particularly proud of the technically very demanding coverage of the Papal visits to Croatia (4 times) and the FIS Ski World Cups in January each year since 2005.

WHY DID YOU STEP FORWARD AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE EBU TECHNICAL COMMITTEE?
I have worked at HRT for 28 years, first as a Broadcast Engineer in the TV studios, CNCT (the national technical coordination centre) and continuity, and for the last 10 years as the Technical Director. HRT had been the EBU technical centre for JRT (the former Yugoslav Radio Television) since 1967. So, from the very start of my HRT life I was collaborating with EBU Operations, and I realised the importance of good collaboration between the EBU and its Members. This was my main reason to participate more in the EBU's technical development from the Members' side.

WHAT, FOR YOU, ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES FACING EBU MEMBERS TODAY?
I see the main challenges for public service broadcasters as the coordination and harmonization of their activities in the transition to an all-digital and file-based environment. It is also important to continue to develop the EBU Contribution Network.

TELL US ABOUT SOME OF YOUR INTERESTS AWAY FROM THE WORKPLACE.
I like to ski and to sail. I also enjoy travelling and exploring other countries. I have big family with four children and we spend a lot of our free time together.