



Why am I here?

My personal reasons to
contribute to OpenOffice.org

- About this presentation
- About the speaker
- My reasons and goals
- What have I achieved?

Why did I choose this topic?

- Motivations to contribute to Open Source projects are different
- A lot of theory and studies, why people contribute
- Are all the theories correct?
- I'll try to give "my" answer
- Hope to get feedback

Non OOo related background

- Born 1972 in Zwickau (GDR)
- My first computer: Atari 800 XL (about 1987)
- Computers as hobby and profession since that time
- Moved to Switzerland in 2002
- Working a application developer for a smaller (non open source related) company

Open source related background

- Fascinated by the PD-scene of the early 90's and the idea of sharing ideas and code
- User of free software for a long time but no “evangelist”
- First project with closer contacts: PostgreSQL
 - user support
 - some documentations
 - smaller business related projects
- “using is not enough” -> start contributing (2001 / 2002)

Why OpenOffice.org?

- Fascinated by the complexity of the software and the project
- Interested, how the OpenOffice.org project deals with the “end users”
- First contact on release of OOo 1.0 (May 2002)
 - Had problems, installing the dictionaries
 - Wrote my first mail to users@de.ooo
 - Got answer within 30 minutes
 - Another 30 minutes to get the message, that the problem was verified by the developer
 - A couple of days and the problem was fixed in source
 - Fixed in 1.0.1

Reasons to join

- Help other people (just to say “Thank you”)
- Be part of a community (that has one common idea)
- Learn about
 - Open source development process
 - Community (how it works, what it is ...)
 - Open source project with strong end user focus
- Become known, find acceptance
- -not- coding

Help others / being part of the com.

- Started my participation at users@de.ooo, helping others to cope with their problems
- Contributed to documentations at the germanophone project
- Moved on to several other projects
 - Quality Assurance
 - Bizdev
 - Website
 - Documentation
 -
- I now more and more try to meet the “people behind”

Learn about OS development

- it even works without a fully defined process
 - In Open Source projects activities often simply happen
 - You “only” need to know what happens where and how to make the best of it
- sometimes a process is helpful
 - It's much easier to know what happens where, if you are following a process
 - some processes within OOo are much better than those found in a “professional” environment
- OpenOffice.org is not the typical Open Source project
 - By size, by complexity and the fact of one strong contributor
 - But .. what is “the typical open source project”?

Learning about the community

- Learning by doing 😊
- Greatest strength of the community is sometimes causing problems, but it's a challenge:
Diversity
- The idea of the community will move on
 - If once a community is strong enough

How to deal with end users?

- Assumption: open source works best, if users are potential developers as well
- In OOO, users are non-developers (non-coders) to 90%
- But it works if you widen the definition of “developers”
 - Contributors at user lists, documentation, qa
 - Native lang projects
- Always a difficult problem:
new users vs. established community members

Become known, find acceptance

- The selfish slide 😊
- Within the project
 - Co Lead at the germanophone project for two year
 - Project lead of the QA project
- Outside project
 - Always great to hear “thanks” from users
 - Ever got unexpected greetings from Turkey or Georgian Republic?
- To me it's fun to be invited to events, give interviews, hold presentations
- Opportunity to meet people of other projects (Debian, KDE) or related business

What's left?

- All major goals achieved
- What's left is saying thanks and paying back to:

Samuel Hartmann Jörg Sievers Görkem Çetin Elizabeth Matthis
Kevin B. Hendriks
Sigrid Kronenberger Manfred Reiter Erwin Tenhumberg Eric Bachard
Sophie Gautier Davide Dozza Axel Hörnke Joost Andrae
Cristian Driga Rainer Bendig Charles-H. Schulz Uwe Altmann
Timon Schröter Eric Hoch Jacqueline Rahemipour Guido Pinkernell
Marko Möller Malte Kaldewey Christian Lohmaier Louis Suarez-Potts
Stefan Taxhet Riccardo Losselli Martin Hollmichel Rail Aliev
Pavel Janik Florian Effenberger Stefan Koehler Andreas Mantke
Christian Junker Friedhelm Abels Daniel Naber Bernhard Dippold
Holger Bruenjes Daniel Rentz Alexander Reiterer Jacqueline McNally
Wolfgang Henderkes Angelika Gößler Sven Vermeulen Christian Markgraf
Christian Zwahlen Timo Kozlowski Sander Vesik Young Joo Song
Regina Henschel Daniel Carrera Michael Kirchner Rene Engelhard
Johannes Czerwinski Hirano Kazunari Thomas Krumbein
Berthold Gerdes Thomas Hackert Uwe Schöler
Nakata Maho Hermann Kienlein Martin Webermann

and all the people that build the community



Questions?