

The **Glow** Project - an *outlook* for
OpenOffice.org Groupware

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Presentation Agenda

- ◆ About the speaker
- ◆ Background
 - ◆ Real challenges for open-source projects
 - ◆ What is missing from OpenOffice.org?
 - ◆ Could OOo work with Mozilla or Chandler?
- ◆ Introducing the Glow project!
 - ◆ What is it?
 - ◆ Features
 - ◆ Goals
- ◆ Can I contribute?
- ◆ Conclusion/questions

- ◆ Colm Smyth
- ◆ Staff Engineer
 - ◆ 16 years experience, with Sun for 6 years
- ◆ Project Lead for Glow project, part of OpenOffice.org Groupware
- ◆ Architect in Sun's OO.org/StarOffice group
- ◆ Also worked on the GNOME project
- ◆ Based in Dublin, Ireland
- ◆ Committed to the quality that good open-source projects can create



Challenges of Open-source projects

- ◆ Size matters!
 - ◆ Contributors, users, companies want large well-known projects
- ◆ Quality counts!
- ◆ Community collaboration
- ◆ Who can work on your code?



The “ideal” open-source project (1)

Well-known attributes of an ideal project

- ♦ Solve an important user or business problem
- ♦ Start with a core group of talented committed developers
- ♦ Communicate well with the community
- ♦ Provide ways for users to report bugs (and then fix most of them between releases)

The “ideal” open-source project (2)

Less well-known attributes

- ♦ Good foundation
 - ♦ Choose a widely known well-supported technology foundation and language
- ♦ Work well with others
 - ♦ Synergy with other related open-source projects

What is missing from OpenOffice.org?

Extract from a recent mail on the [users-groupware] mailing list:

- ♦ “OpenOffice.org (henceforth known as OOo) has made strong inroads into Microsoft's territory. It has proved itself to be a strong, viable product. However there is one critical piece missing in it's offerings, that is a **email/scheduling/groupware product**.
- ♦ The OpenOffice.org's groupware project was founded with the initial intent of replacing the missing groupware components from the Staroffice product. We have however been floundering. After much discussion last year, we have not been able to get beyond the talking stage. We have had a discussion as of late, and it is apparent that we are still in the same discussion stage.
- ♦ I believe that we need a **seed project** to get us started.”

[Quoted from “open letter to OSA” by William L. Terry (bill@sweye.com) dated 9th March 2003]

Could OOo work with existing groupware?

- ♦ Choices: Mozilla, Chandler, Evolution
- ♦ Common issues
 - ♦ Few developers outside the core project team (complex technologies, inadequate documentation)
 - ♦ Code is complex and interdependent; relatively little componentization



Groupware for OpenOffice.org (2)

- ♦ Some OOo users will choose one of Mozilla, Evolution or Chandler
- ♦ We want to start a project that
 - ♦ Can attract a large number of developers
 - ♦ Can develop quickly
 - ♦ Integrates well with OpenOffice.org



Glow - Groupware for OpenOffice.org

- ♦ OpenOffice.org needs a groupware client that is well integrated and portable
- ♦ To work quickly, we need to choose a simple but powerful technology foundation
- ♦ To gain users, we need to help MS Outlook users to migrate; we also need to support the standards
- ♦ To be the best, we need to make it easy for developers to contribute good code
- ♦ **Glow** is our project to develop an innovative groupware client for OOo

- ♦ Glow is a **groupware client**:
- ♦ Core Groupware Features:
 - ♦ **Group Calendaring**
 - ♦ **Address-book**
 - ♦ Internet Mail
- ♦ Collaboration Features:
 - ♦ Shared Folders, Instant Messaging
- ♦ Enhanced Collaboration:
 - ♦ P2P Document Exchange
 - ♦ Whiteboard
- ♦ Internet Standards

- ◆ Deliver a full-featured groupware client that works well with OpenOffice.org
- ◆ extend OOo to be a (more) complete replacement for Microsoft Office
- ◆ internet standards for interoperability
- ◆ help existing MS Office+Outlook users move to OOo+Glow
- ◆ delight new and experienced groupware users
- ◆ enhance OpenOffice.org as a focus for innovation



Goal 1: Full-featured

- ♦ Deliver a full-featured groupware client that works well with OpenOffice.org
- ♦ Work with the right technologies - Java
 - ♦ simple powerful language, broad, deep portable API
 - ♦ Used in many large open-source projects
 - ♦ Supported by OpenOffice API (SDK), Mozilla WebClient
- ♦ Work with the right people:
 - ♦ OpenOffice.org
 - ♦ Other open-source projects:
 - Client and server groupware
 - Technology projects, such as Apache Jakarta



Goal 2: Complete OpenOffice.org

Extend OpenOffice.org to be a (more) complete replacement for Microsoft Office

- ♦ More than just features of Outlook
- ♦ Integrate well with OpenOffice.org:
 - ♦ Use the OpenOffice.org database API (SDBC) to access many addressbooks
 - ♦ View OOo documents (url's) inside Glow UI



Goal 3: Compatibility thru Standards

- Support internet standards for interoperability with open-source and commercial groupware
- ♦ Standards let users choose the right product for each situation
 - ♦ Proprietary software limits choice, locks-in users; allows dominant companies to raise prices and force upgrades
 - ♦ Glow will support internet groupware standards
 - ♦ Glow users will be able to collaborate with Mozilla, Chandler and Evolution users



Goal 4: Upgrade users to OOo+Glow

- ♦ Also help existing MS Office+Outlook users to change over to OpenOffice.Org+Glow easily
- ♦ UI should innovate, but not be *too* different
- ♦ Also support “closed” user data
 - ♦ Outlook addressbooks
 - ♦ Web mail (Yahoo, MSN, Hotmail)
 - ♦ Even MS Exchange
- ♦ Enable Glow user to work with Outlook users



Goal 5: Delight users

Delight new and experienced groupware users with a highly usable product

- ◆ Glow is being developed for users of OOo
- ◆ Meets or exceed user's requirements
- ◆ Makes users productive
- ◆ Makes it difficult to make mistakes, easy to recover
- ◆ Discover each feature exactly when/where they need it

Goal 6: Useful Innovation

Enhance OpenOffice.org as a focus for innovation

- ♦ OOo is focussed on useful innovation
- ♦ Glow will unify the ways that people communicate with groupware
- ♦ Communication and collaboration on tasks, projects

- ♦ Group calendaring
 - ♦ Internet standards
 - ♦ Events and Tasks
 - ♦ Use commercial calendar server while waiting for OpenCAP
- ♦ Addressbook
 - ♦ Use OpenOffice SDBC to support many existing addressbooks
- ♦ Mail/News later
 - ♦ Initially integrate with Outlook Express and Mozilla
 - ♦ Looking for contributors (IceMail?) to work on mail functionality
- ♦ Other features later
 - ♦ IM, whiteboard; MS Exchange support

- ♦ OpenOffice.org Groupware is developing an innovative integrated groupware client
- ♦ Expect rapid developments on the web-site!
- ♦ You might be able to be a part of Glow, if you...
 - ♦ Understand value of groupware for communication and collaboration
 - ♦ Want to create a rich unified groupware client
 - ♦ Have a useful skill – not just developers

- ♦ OpenOffice.org: <http://www.openoffice.org>
- ♦ Groupware: <http://groupware.openoffice.org/>
- ♦ Project link:
<http://groupware.openoffice.org/glow>
- ♦ OpenOffice Groupware Wiki:
<http://alpha.sweye.com/tiki/>

Questions?