What do you get when you cross a Fox with a Penguin?
Huh?
Well? What DO you get?

Whil Hentzen

Hentzenwerke InterGalactic

Fox Is Everywhere 2003

- or -

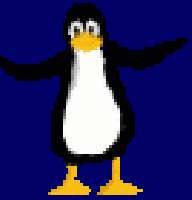# Visual FoxPro, Linux, and the Jack of Hearts....

Tonight

Why application development on Linux is the big growth opportunity over the next few years

Agenda

- About me, About Fox, About this 'tour'
- Fox on Windows opportunites are not growing
- Why not .NET
- Why Linux app dev opportunites are growing
- What if we combined Fox and Linux?
- The great EULA controversy
- Conclusion
- Q&A

Who Am I?

Microsoft Visual FoxPro 8x MVP, LTA
Wrote VFP 6 Cert. Exam for MSFT
Editor of FoxTalk since 1996
Billed 15,000 development hrs in '90's
Books, articles, speaking, kids

About Fox

- ✔ 1981's big 3: 1-2-3, WordStar, dBASE II
- ✔ Fox Software: Ashton Tate's competitor
- ✔ The "purchase" by Microsoft
- ✔ FoxPro, VB, Access, Visual FoxPro

Fox's Distinctive Competences

- ✓ Rich programming language
- ✓ Native data engine
- ✓ Connectivity to outside data sources
- ✓ OOP
- ✓ Extensibility (e.g. IntelliSense)

How this 'tour' started

- ✓ People asked me what to do
- ✓ Didn't have an answer
- ✓ Watched Linux evolve
- ✓ OpenOffice.org + RH 7 = Aha!

Fox on Windows Opps

- ✓ MSFT has never marketed Fox
- ✓ A strategy of appeasement
- ✓ People leave, but they don't get replaced
- ✓ MSFT doesn't market Fox outside
- ✓ The numbers continue to diminish
- ✓ Propose a new app - what's MSFT's answer?

Fox on Windows Opps

Conclusions:

1. Microsoft will not grow Fox

2. Microsoft does not want to grow Fox

3. Fox/Windows developers need a new market

Why not .NET

Why .NET is not a good opportunity

- There are no compelling reasons to adopt .NET (mostly adopted due to hype)
- Thus .NET adoption is very slow
- The few .NET opportunities that do exist are being chased by tens of millions of VB, C and Access developers
- What's the alternative?

Linux App Dev Opportunity

What is Linux?

- Kernal OS based on Unix

- Same kernal supports w/s, server, etc.

- Flavors distributed by various companies (called "distributions")

- How open source works

- Distributions packaged differently

- GUIs, office, browsers, email, programming tools

Linux App Dev Opportunity

Growth curves

- News coverage

- Schools, governments, US/Int'l

- CIO March 15: 60%

- RH/Mandrake/SuSE latest are usable on the desktop

- OpenOffice.org penetration

Linux App Dev Opportunity

Why are people moving?

- Inexpensive

- Licensing

- Security

- Open source code, ! Proprietary data

- Trust

- Dependability

- Maturity of desktop

Linux App Dev Opportunity

About Open Source

- Start of Open Source
  "Free as in Freedom" (Stallman)

- How OS works (GenscrnX)

- Why OS works (Community)
  "Cathedral and Bazaar" (Raymond)

- Quality - enough eyes - all bugs shallow

- Quality - pecking order and status

- Quality - security thru visibility, ! obscurity

Linux App Dev Opportunity

About Open Source - Common Questions

- "What if they all get married and have kids and stop programming?"

- "How can I make money if Linux is free?"

- "Why would people pay for custom apps to run on top of free software?"

- "There are too many choices - how do you decide?"

Linux App Dev Opportunity

Why NOT Linux?

- Fit and Finish

- Occassional expression of "Ultra-savvy
   elitism"

- Small group of Microsoft haters (closed
   minds)

Linux App Dev Opportunity

Your first look at Linux

- Install - bootable CDs

- Install - dual boot or sole OS

- Install - type of installation (desktop/workstation/server/notebook)

- This ain't your papa's Linux install

- Config files - where's the Registry?

Linux App Dev Opportunity

Updates and Upgrades

- Are updates available?

- Where are they available from?

- How to update?

Add/Remove Programs

- The RedHat package manager

- What about packages not part of a
  distribution?

Linux App Dev Opportunity

The top ten conceptual hurdles
1. Everything's a file
2. Directory contents
3. Case sensitivity
4. Root matters
5. You don't have to compile everything

Linux App Dev Opportunity

The top ten conceptual hurdles

6. There's no registry

7. You DON'T have to reboot

8. You DON'T have to reinstall

9. Security DOES have to be addressed

10. You have many choices

Linux App Dev Opportunity

The top ten conceptual hurdles

11. Freedom

"Free as in speech, not as in beer"

It can be free (as in beer), but it probably won't be.

Linux App Dev Opportunity

Ramifications

- Linux deployment is growing

- Custom app demand will grow

- Available tools:
  C++, Java, Perl, Python, PHP, Zope, Kylix -> but NO widespread use of 4GL

- Available developers:
  Most Linux professionals are OS weenies ("joiner fields" story)

Fox/Linux=Opportunity

- ✔ Fox won't run on Linux
- ✔ Fox apps (Win) talking to Linux backends
- ✔ Fox apps (Linux) talking to Linux or Windows backends

What if Fox ran on Linux?

- ✔ What is Wine?
- ✔ Where to get Wine? www.winehq.com
- ✔ How to install Wine
- -- binaries, source tarballs, CVS tree
- -- remove old versions of Wine
- -- wine-20030318.tar.gz
- -- tar xzvf wine-20030318.tar.gz
- -- ./tools/wineinstall

What if Fox Ran on Linux?

Installing VFP on Wine/Linux

- Need a separate licensed copy

- Copying the necessary files to your Linux computer

- Configuring Wine

- Testing

More About Wine

VFP is the #1 application being worked on by Wine developers - ahead of Dreamweaver, Quicken, Photoshop, everything! Add your vote!

The Great EULA Controversy

1. The Original Phone Call

The Great EULA Controversy

2. What the EULA says

3.1 (a) (ii) that the Redistributables only operate in conjunction with Microsoft Windows platforms

The Great EULA Controversy

3. The request for clarification

- Fox on Linux for development
- Fox EXE and DLLs on Linux end-users
- Tying Fox to OS

The Great EULA Controversy

4. The response from MSFT

gotdotnet.com/team/vfp/vfp_eula_runtime.txt

"If a developer wishes to distribute the VFP runtime with an application, then the runtime may only operate in conjunction with a Microsoft Windows platform."

Other App Dev Possibilities

- ✓ Traditional tools
- ✓ Other "xBase" 4GLs
- ✓ Other "non-xBase" 4GLs
- ✓ Open source version of Fox

Conclusion

- ✔ What I'm doing now - infrastructure
- ✔ What I'm doing now - products
- ✔ What you should be doing
- ✔ - Install Linux on test machine
- ✔ - Practice with Linux on desktop
- ✔ - Learn to talk to Linux backend

Resources

- Fox on Linux w/Wine:
  FoxTalk: March 2003, July 2003
- Fox + MySQL:
  FoxTalk: March 2002
- www.LinuxTransfer.com
  (articles and mailing list)
- www.openfox.org
- www.leafe.com
  (ProLinux list)

Three Things To Remember

- ✔ Linux architecture makes sense and is available for exploration

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- ✔ Wait an hour after eating to go swimming

Thank you!

Please remember to send
me chocolate.