

This document describes the project idea called OpenFest. This is an idea for a celebration of Free and Open Source Software and Free Knowledge Sharing. The idea itself, the event of celebration and the text of this document may be freely shared, performed and altered since they are licensed under Creative Commons Attribution License.

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OpenFest

Fourth Annual Celebration of Free Software and Free Knowledge Share

13-15th October, 2006

In 2003 the OpenFest Initiative was granted the support of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria and since then it is held under his aegis.

- **What is OpenFest**

OpenFest is an annual conference dedicated to free software, free culture and free knowledge sharing - it is a celebration for the admirers, supporters, developers and new fans of free and open source software in Bulgaria. The aim is to popularize free and open source software projects and to initiate forum for sharing ideas and knowledge. OpenFest is an idea of free/open source community in Bulgaria and it is supported by most of its partners and friends. This is a celebration which we share with the others - OpenFest is a gift for anyone who takes part in its accomplishment.

- **History**

The first OpenFest took place on 14th September 2003. During it for the first time Bulgaria have been a host of an international free/open source forum. Events of OpenFest 2003 were organized and held in several Bulgarian cities - Sofia, Varna, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, as well as in North American city of Ocean City and the city of Sherbrouk (Quebeck), Canada, where the conference Festival Linux took place.

In 2004 OpenFest took place in Sofia, Plovdiv and Pazardjik. In the capital Sofia the conference lasted two consecutive days in two overcrowded halls of the specialized congress centre of InterExpo Centre, which also lodged the annual BSDcon conference of the BSD operating systems fans. Two-day lectures and seminars were visited by over 2000 registered visitors and unknown number of unregistered guests. All presentations were broadcasted online with video and sound. Lectures had conception and technical purpose, including presentations of commercial products, based on open source software. The lectures level of difficulty covered the whole variety from totally beginners to highly advanced users.

In 2005 for the first time OpenFest events have been organized by many different local groups. They took place in Dobrich, Rousse, Pazardzhik, Veliko Turnovo, Plovdiv, Sliven. The annual two-day conference in Sofia took place in InterExpo Congress Center. It was the greatest of all OpenFest 2005 events. The program included BSD conference, Business conference and additional lectures and presentations about products, technologies and developers groups of free/open source software. Along with the conferences, the first release of OpenArt workshop happened as a part of the OpenFest events. The workshop included number of discussions, presentations and exhibitions of free art works, free music, free photographs. There were also stands where some of the sponsors exposed their products. For a second time all the lectures, presentations and discussions have been broadcasted online with both video and sound.

- **Guests and Lecturers**

Lectures and presentations included in the Openfest conference programs are prepared and read by well-known specialists of Bulgarian Open Source community and by international guests as well. The international guests who have read lectures on OpenFest are:

Zak Greant - incredibly popular figure in the PHP developers' community, author of several books. He visited Openfest as a member of MySQL AB team. Besides he is a famous intercessor of the open source community around PHP/MySQL, he is also one of the young defenders and ideologists of the software freedom movement and defines himself as an evangelist.

Harald Welte - one of the basic 5 developers of netfilter/iptables, and right now is the person, responsible for firewalling functionality of the Linux 2.4.x kernel. He began to use computers at the age of 9, studied Basic for Commodore64 and continued with Pascal and x86, and x86 assemblers. Afterwards he developed shareware programs for DOS and finally discovers Linux and the free software movement in 1995. It became his hobby in his spare time. He starts his professional career as a communication engineer, but soon starts his own consulting business.

Krzysztof Zaraska is one of the basic developers of Prelude IDS. He is responsible for the Prelude Database library and for FreeBSD port of the system. He is a student in the Telecommunications Department in the Krakow University of Mines and Geology.

Different products and projects based on free/open source software have been presented by representatives of the companies MySQL AB, Biotronica, IBM, Linux Business Solutions, UnixSolutions, OpenIntegra, Serdica Software, as well as the organizations Free Software Association - Bulgaria, Association for Information Security and the online media WebDev magazine.

During OpenFest 2004 Internet Society - Bulgaria introduced their project "Enhancement for e-Governance using free and open source software", which is financed by The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Moreover during OpenFest events several Bulgarian politicians have shared their point of view in support of free/open source software development. In 2004

lectures were read by Dr. Stojcho Katzarov, MP, Deputy to the Democrats for Powerful Bulgaria Party; Naiden Nikolov, expert in the Council of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria; and Georgi Nikolov, deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Socialist Youth organization. In 2005 the OpenFest conference was opened with a speech by Ivan Ivanov, MP, Deputy to the Democrats for Powerful Bulgaria Party who recently entered into the Bulgarian Parliament a draft of the act about using open file formats for data exchange in State administration.

Special guests of OpenFest 2004 were representatives of the Macedonian "Free Software - Macedonia" organization, similar to the Free Software Association - Bulgaria.

- **Organizators**

Annually OpenFest is organized by Initiative Committee of the Bulgarian Free/Open Source community. The committee includes volunteers and organizations such as Open Projects Foundation, Free Software Association - Bulgaria, Internet Society - Bulgaria, Creative Commons Bulgaria, etc. Open Projects Foundation is in charge with the management and financing of the project.

- **Financing and Budget**

To finance the project Open Projects Foundation counts on own resources and financial aid by sponsors. Among the annual sponsors are MySQL AB, SpectrumNet, OpenIntegra, UnixSolutions, IBM Bulgaria. Our media partners are PC Magazine, ComputerWorld, IntoWeek, some radio stations and lots of internet medias.

The budget of the Openfest event in Sofia (a two or three-day conference) is about US \$9000-12000. The budget includes all expenses for conference halls, presentation and sound equipment, hotel and travelling expenses for the international guests, press-conference charges, advertising materials such as posters and brochures, CDs with free software.

All the people who participate in the organizing and holding the events work voluntary and for no payment. The conference is open for everybody and there is no entrance fee. The advertisement is accomplished by media partners.

- **Contacts**

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