Tipping Point

Open source in the news, at events around the globe, and now delivered in convenient flyer form.

By Rikki Kite
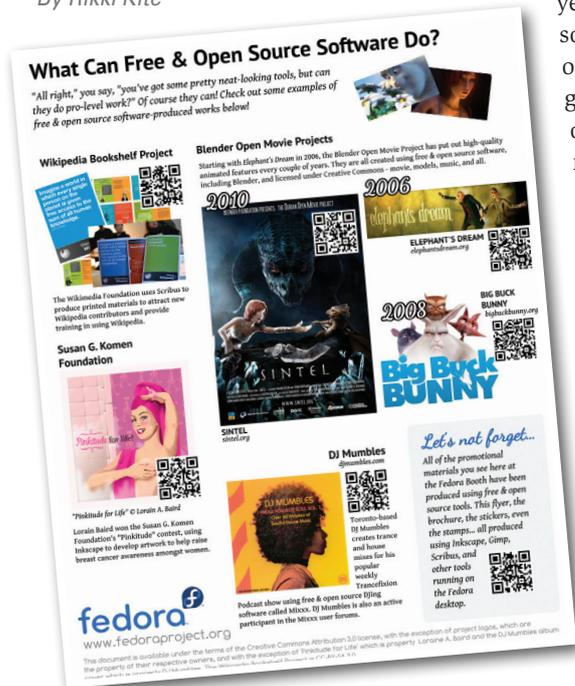
Today I read an article in the *Harvard Business Review* called "Open Source Software Hits a Strategic Tipping Point" [1]. Author Laurie Wurster writes, "Based on surveys my colleagues at Gartner and I have conducted over the past several years, mainstream adopters of IT solutions across a widening array of market segments are rapidly gaining confidence in the use of open source software, with many now stressing its valuable features more than its risks." Coincidentally, I also read an article in which the CEO of Hewlett-Packard says, "Starting next year, every one of the PCs shipped by HP will include the ability to run webOS in addition to Microsoft Corp.'s Windows" [2]. Perhaps calling it a *tipping point* is premature, but it sure feels like the mainstream is moving to open source, even if they don't know it yet. For example, my colleague Emily recently told me that her local library in Bonner Springs, Kansas, is using open source. In fact, libraries across Kansas have been adopting the NExpress [3] automation service, which is built on the Koha [4] [5] open source software platform. "I had never heard of the term 'open source' before we joined NExpress several years ago, and it is my first experience with it," says Kimberly Beets, Bonner Springs City Library Director. What other local examples do you have of open source "tipping" or going mainstream?

Getting the Word Out

Máirín Duffy designed some useful open source informational flyers to hand out at the SXSW 2011 Fedora booth. She generously shares her flyers – including "What Can Free & Open Source Software Do?", "Guess Who Uses Free & Open Source Software?", and "How to Get Involved with Open Source: A Creative's Guide" – on her blog [6] under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 license.

Let me know what other resources you'd recommend for getting the word out about free and open source software: *rkite@linuxpromagazine.com*.

PyCon and CeBIT

Amber Graner interviewed some of the folks behind PyCon 2011 and you can read her series online [7]. Also, check out our website to watch live streaming video archives from CeBIT 2011, including the presentation of the annual Linux New Media Awards [8]. ∎∎∎

LIKEABLE LINKS

[1] "Open Source Software Hits a Strategic Tipping Point": *http://blogs.hbr.org/cs/2011/03/open_source_software_hits_a_st.html*

[2] "Apotheker Seeks to Save HP's 'Lost Soul' With Software Growth": *http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-09/apotheker-seeks-to-save-hp-s-lost-soul-with-software-growth.html*

[3] NExpress Shared Catalog: *http://www.nexpresslibrary.org*

[4] Koha: *http://koha.org/*

[5] Interview with Sharon Moreland, NExpress: *http://www.linux-magazine.com/koha*

[6] Flyers About Free and Open Source Software: *http://mairin.wordpress.com/2011/03/11/flyers-about-free-open-source-software-for-sxsw-creatives/*

[7] Personalities of PyCon Interview Series: *http://www.linux-magazine.com/pyconinterviews2011*

[8] Linux New Media Award Winners Announced: *http://www.linux-magazine.com/lnmawards2010*

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