

The Challenges of Open Source Software Alternatives

Thursday, 20 May 2021 15:00 (13 minutes)

Developing an Open Source Software application is a challenge. Mainly because there are commercial alternatives that have an army of expert developers behind them, experienced supporters and well-established business processes in their development and promotion.

Nevertheless, web-based applications, that securely handle the users' personal data are an area of freedom and ease of use, features that make such applications very attractive. The "ease-of-use" part is very hard to achieve, for the developers and the end-users.

Dependencies change often in OSS packages, so the fear that something breaks is always around the corner. If the application looks attractive, additional user requirements fall like rain. This poses a problem of continuity, maintenance and operational quality of the packages.

In this paper and presentation we shall share our experience in building such a tool, using <https://cern.ch/slides>, as a showcase and a learning exercise. We shall describe what was available, what was missing, how it was put together, how much effort it took, and what was achieved.

Primary authors: DIMOU, Maria (CERN); CHIONIS, Aristofanis (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (GR))

Co-author: KOLODZIEJSKI, Michal (CERN)

Presenter: CHIONIS, Aristofanis (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (GR))

Session Classification: Education, Training, Outreach

Track Classification: Collaboration, Education, Training and Outreach