The PHP Foundation
How the Open-Source World Plans to Smack Down Microsoft, and Oracle, and...

By David Kirkpatrick

Steve Ballmer made a sudden and unscheduled trip to Munich last winter. The CEO of Microsoft had been vacationing with his family in Europe when he got word that the Bavarian capital was about to scrap the Windows operating system on its 14,000 PCs and switch to free “open source” Linux software to run its machines. Looming to lose a prominent government customer, Ballmer jumped into a business suit and rushed to Munich. But he was too late. The city decided to go open source.

What happened in Germany is a microcosm of a change that is sweeping the $200-billion-a-year software business: In servers that power the world’s websites and in giant corporate and government systems. Today the biggest challenge confronting Microsoft—and Oracle and IBM and virtually every other major software maker—is chillingly simple: How do you compete with programs that can be had free?

In just a few years, a grassroots approach to creating software has shaken the status quo. In 1991, Linus Torvalds, a college kid in Finland, posted his Linux operating system online and invited friends to use and improve it. The availability of this basic, powerful software, which works on Intel’s ubiquitous microprocessors, is a key reason for the rapid growth of the open-source movement. In recent months, companies like IBM and Novell have bought open-source companies, and others have jumped on board. They have leaped onto the open-source bandwagon, and they are there to stay.

Garage Band

They may look casual, but the four men in this San Jose driveway are serious about rocking the software world. Each masterminds a popular open-source product. From left: Marten Mickos is president of MySQL, a Swedish startup taking on Oracle and IBM in databases; Rasmus Lerdorf created PHP, which companies use to write custom applications; Greg Stein chairs the Apache Software Foundation, which gives away the server software that runs most websites; Linus Torvalds is the father of Linux (the house and car are his). Though the four rarely meet, their software is used in combination by thousands of corporations. The four-program bundle is so popular that it has picked up what in the geek world passes for a brand—an acronym. It’s LAMP, Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP.
The Linux Foundation - 1999
MariaDB Foundation - 2012
The Apache Software Foundation - 2000
The PHP Foundation - 2021
„The bus factor is a measurement of the risk resulting from information and capabilities not being shared among team members, derived from the phrase «in case they get hit by a bus».”

„Maybe as few as two people would have to wake up this morning and decide they want to do something different with their lives in order for the PHP project to lack the expertise and resources to move it forward in its current form, and at current pace.”

https://blog.krakjoe.ninja/2021/05/avoiding-busses.html
We support, advance, and develop the PHP language.

The PHP Foundation
“The PHP Foundation is a collective of people and organizations relying on the PHP language. Its mission is to ensure the long-term prosperity of the PHP language.”
„The PHP Foundation focuses on providing financial support and guidance to PHP language developers to support its goals of improving the language for its users, providing high-quality maintenance, and improving the PHP language project to retain current contributors and to integrate new contributors.‟
„The PHP Foundation aims to promote the public image of the PHP language in the interest of retaining existing and gaining new users and contributors.”
„The primary task of the PHP Foundation is to fund developers to [...] further advance the development and maintenance of the language.”

https://thephp.foundation/
“[T]he language decisions are the matter of the PHP Internals community.”

https://thephp.foundation/
„Open Collective is [...] a fundraising + legal status + money management platform for [communities].”

https://opencollective.com/
Total contributed: $1,144,298.54
Fees: $142,696.86
Total raised: $1,001,601.68
Total raised: $1,001,601.68
From organizations: 78.3%
From individuals: 21.6%
Total raised: $1,001,601.68
Recurring: 49.7%
One-Time: 50.3%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total raised</td>
<td>$1,001,601.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to developers</td>
<td>$314,349.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other costs</td>
<td>$32,32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current balance</td>
<td>$687,219.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
$ git shortlog --summary --numbered --all --no-merges --after=2022-04-01
348  Ilija Tovilo
278  George Peter Banyard
252  Niels Dossche
198  Máté Kocsis
187  Alex Dowad
185  Derick Rethans
158  Christoph M. Becker
138  Dmitry Stogov
129  Max Kellermann
114  Arnaud Le Blanc
113  Tim Düsterhus
107  Jakub Zelenka
- Disjunctive Normal Form Types
- true, false, and null types
- Path to saner
  increment/decrement
  operators
- Saner array_sum() /
  array_product()
- Refactoring and cleanup
- Bugfixes
- Documentation
- Migration guide
- Bugfixes, most notably in `ext/opcache`
- Reduced memory allocated by functions such as `var_export()`, `json_encode()`, or `serialize()`
- Improved parsing of INI values
- **X** Short Closures 2.0
- Readonly classes
- Typed class constants
- Improvements to API stub generator
- Improvements to API stubs

Máté Kocsis
Derick Rethans

- Bugfixes, most notably in ext/date
- Fetch properties of enums in const expressions
- Dynamic class constant fetch
- Arbitrary static variable initializers
- Improvements to the CI pipelines
- Bugfixes

Ilija Tovilo
- Bugfixes, most notably in sapi/fpm and ext/openssl

Jakub Zelenka
Further Reading & Listening

- https://thephp.foundation/blog/2022/05/06/interview-with-core-developers
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