

Open Source and Open Standards in the Canton of Geneva

Giorgio Pauletto

Observatoire Technologique
DCTI, CTI, Etat de Genève

<http://ot.ge.ch/>



Open Source and Open Standards in the Canton of Geneva

Giorgio Pauletto

Observatoire Technologique
DCTI, CTI, Etat de Genève

<http://ot.ge.ch/>

Five Ws... and an H



- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?
- Why?
- How?

Who?



- Giorgio Pauletto
- Technology Observatory team
- Public administration
- Technology ↔ Society
- Strategic foresight, technology watch
- Incubate change, drive innovation

Where?

Canton of Geneva, Switzerland



What?



- Help develop IT strategy
- Provide strategic foresight
- Foster a holistic view of IT
- Advise CIO, CxO in the administration
- Participate in projects especially at the inception

The IT center in figures

- 23'000 desktops and laptops
- 942 servers (a third virtual)
- 350 TB disk space
- 1'500 local area networks
- 24'000 phones, 9'000 VoIP, 2'200 cellphones
- 723 business applications
- 27'000 mailboxes
- 72 million emails per year
- ... and ...
- 500'000 citizens



Why?



Strategy

- Technology to serve society
- Information as a strategic resource
- Independent management of our information systems

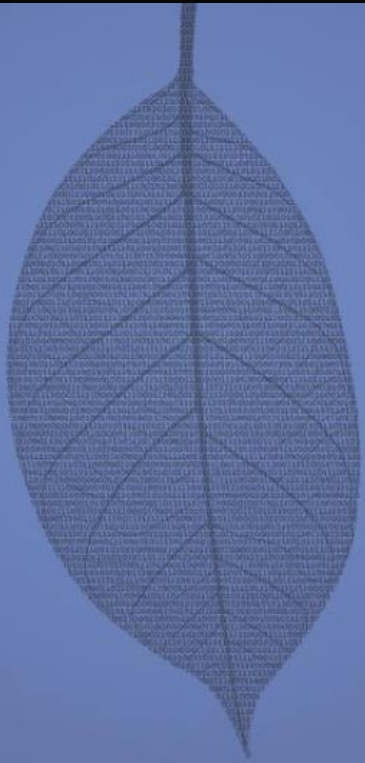


Guiding principles

An open ICT ecosystem should be:

- Interoperable
- User-centered
- Collaborative
- Sustainable
- Flexible





Roadmap *for*
Open ICT Ecosystems



Berkman

Berkman Center for Internet & Society
at Harvard Law School

Sponsored by:



An open ICT ecosystem allows the creation of a digital platform that fosters collaboration, knowledge sharing, innovation in services and relies on open and adaptive technologies to support evolving business needs.

Translated into tactical elements

- Interoperability
- Open standards
- Open source
- Services architecture
- From data to knowledge



... it saves money, but it's not all about money!

Definitions



- Open source
 - qualified by an open source license
 - GPL preferred: GPL adapted to Swiss law
- Open standards
 - adopted and maintained by a not-for-profit organization, developed on an open decision-making procedure
 - published and the specification is freely available; allow everybody to copy, distribute and use it for no fee
 - intellectual property (patents) in the standard made irrevocably available on a royalty-free basis
 - no constraints on the re-use of the standard

When?



How?





2009-2013: OSS desktops deployed wherever possible



Jun 2008: Education sector makes OSS its first choice



Nov 2006: Government executive decision to promote OSS



Sept 2003: Microsoft announces end of Windows NT4 support



Open source desktop



- Prototypes underway
- Three distributions tested:
 - Debian
 - Ubuntu
 - Novell SUSE Linux Enterprise Desktop
- Goals:
 - Prepare a viable alternative for 2009
 - Deploy where people are ready and refine
 - Have a rock solid alternative for 2013 (end of WinXP)

Anti-spam



- SpamAssassin installed since summer 2007
- Great partnership with CERN
- Completely removed previous solution
- Huge improvement in filtering spam
 - 96.63% of received messages are spam
 - less than 0.1% of spam delivered



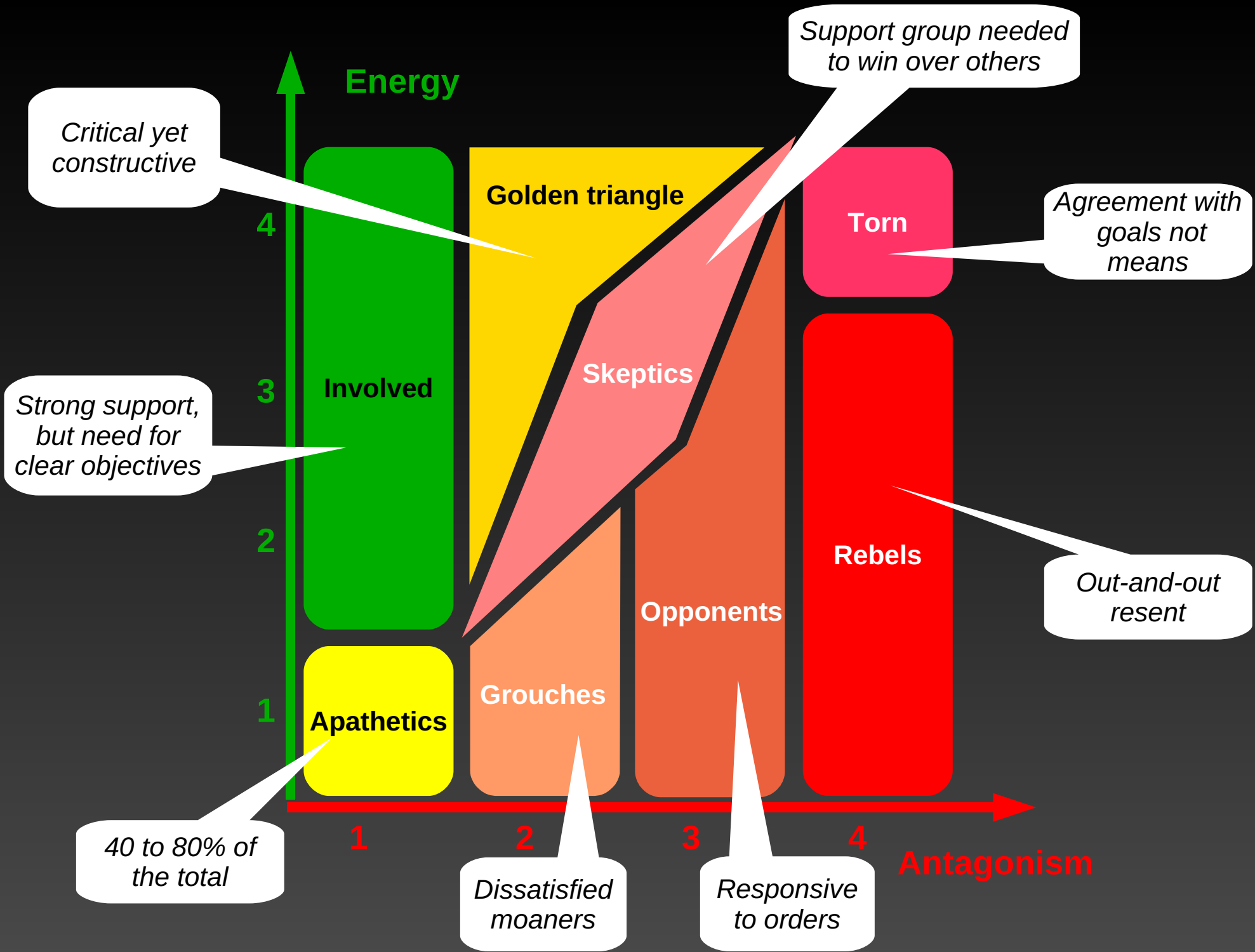
What happens behind the scenes

- Development tools: Java, Eclipse, Hibernate, Maven, Struts, ...
- Servers (GNU/Linux Debian) virtualized with Xen
- Tools on the current desktops: Gimp, Inkscape, PDFcreator, VLC, Dia, and soon OpenOffice.org...
- Lots of (failed) prototypes to evaluate
- Open culture fostered little by little

Lessons learned so far



- Software often mature, but culture less so
- Infrastructure and legacy
- Reluctance to change
- Clearly set direction
- Timeline short



Support group needed to win over others

Agreement with goals not means

Out-and-out resent

Critical yet constructive

Strong support, but need for clear objectives

40 to 80% of the total

1

2

3

4

Dissatisfied moaners

Responsive to orders

4

3

2

1

1

2

3

4

Antagonism

Energy

Golden triangle

Involved

Apathetics

Grouches

Opponents

Rebels

Torn

Skeptics



Conclusions

- Start with infrastructure and development: higher maturity, least impact on final user
- Communicate internally
- Begin with a mature area and willing people
- Be patient, very patient ... especially in a government setting



Next steps

- Beyond open standards and open source
- Service based economy
- Knowledge society
- If we want to promote a sustainable ecosystem we need **open data**

What about “open data”?



“Give us back our crown jewels. Taxes fund the collection of public data - yet we have to pay again to access it. Making it freely available to stimulate innovation.”

The Guardian

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/freeourdata>

→ Friday Nov 21, 2008 in Geneva

« Vers des données publiques ouvertes »

Journée de Rencontre de l'Observatoire Technologique

<http://ot.ge.ch/>

Open Source and Open Standards in the Canton of Geneva

Giorgio Pauletto

Observatoire Technologique
DCTI, CTI, Etat de Genève

<http://ot.ge.ch/>

Sources



- Observatoire technologique, *Projet SOLL: Standards Ouverts et Logiciel Libre*, http://ot.ge.ch/ot/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=25
- Observatoire technologique, *Mesure 28: Favoriser le logiciel libre dans l'administration genevoise*, http://ot.ge.ch/ot/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=40
- Berkman Center for Internet & Society, *Roadmap for Open ICT Ecosystems*, Harvard Law School, 2005, <http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/epolicy/>
- Olivier D'Herbement & Bruno César, *La stratégie du projet latéral*, 2004, Dunod, ISBN-13: 978-2100488995
- Wikipedia contributors, "Switzerland" and "Geneva"
- Icons, Everaldo Coelho, released under LGPL, <http://www.everaldo.com/crystal/>
- Liberation Sans Font, Red Hat, 2007, <https://www.redhat.com/promo/fonts/>