

Software Freedom

Pragmatic Idealism?

Jonathan Oxer

President, Linux Australia

AUUG Annual Conference, Oct 12th 2006



diverse

chaotic

confusing

economic pragmatism

*“it's the best way to
get things done”*

dreamy idealism

*“information wants
to be freeeee”*

supply and demand:
the economics
of scarcity

Australia:

The Clever Country

Australia:

The Clever Country

Really?

2000

Exports \$7.7B, Imports \$15B

ICT Deficit: \$7.3B

2000

Exports \$7.7B, Imports \$15B

ICT Deficit: \$7.3B

2005

Exports \$5.3B, Imports \$25B

ICT Deficit: \$19.7B

who will save us
from ourselves?



We want to create smart
innovators

But Australia creates smart
well-trained *consumers*

K-12 ICT education
teaches which
buttons to click

“We have to teach
kids the software
they will encounter
in the workforce”

Baloney

Baloney

True learning is not rote
memorisation

Baloney

True learning is not rote
memorisation of data
with a use-by date.



Open Source

empowers us to
understand the *how*
and the *why* as well
as the *what*.

Local innovation

Local business

Local productivity

Local innovation

Local business

Local productivity

Global opportunity

Junta de Extremadura



Junta de Extremadura

Better computer/student
ratio than Australia

Junta de Extremadura

Better computer/student
ratio than Australia

Converted trade deficit
into a trade surplus

Junta de Extremadura

Better computer/student
ratio than Australia

Converted trade deficit
into a trade surplus

Whole-of-government
conversion to FOSS

China

educating their population
while learning from others by
being a cheap outsourcer

It's Contagious!

- The German judicial system
- Bergen Education Dept
- Munich City Council
- Deutsche Bahn (DB)
- Chinese Federal Govt
- Google
- Yahoo!
- Amazon
- Europcar International
- Credit Suisse First Boston
- Air New Zealand
- Bolzano Education Dept
- Norwegian Education Dept
- City of Bergen
- Korea Post
- Singapore MINDEF
- Allied Irish Bank
- Dept Of Veterans Affairs
- etc, etc, ...

52% of companies are replacing Windows servers with Linux servers.

Source: Forrester Research, January 2005

Local innovation

Local business

Local productivity

Global opportunity

Local innovation

+

Local business

+

Local productivity

=

Global opportunity

pragmatism

VS

idealism

pragmatism

+

idealism

pragmatism

+

idealism

=

the FOSS community

AUUG

OSIA

Linux Australia

LUGs

Linux Australia

www.linux.org.au

Non-profit association
representing and
supporting the local
FOSS community

Linux Australia

Annual linux.conf.au

Grant Scheme

Mirror Project

Linux User Group Services

Software Freedom

Pragmatic Idealism!