Linux' Journey to the Mainstream Desktop

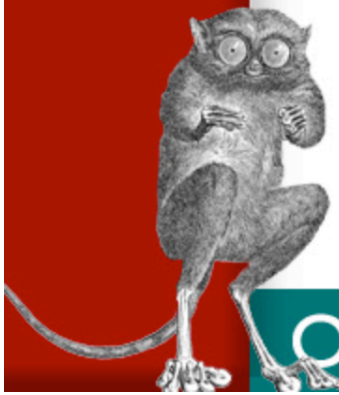
Mitch Kapor
Open Source Applications Foundation

O'Reilly Open Source Convention
July 10, 2003

O'REILLY
OPEN
SOURCE
CONVENTION

The Long Linux March to the Desktop

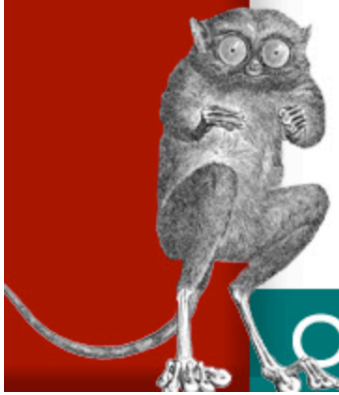
1991:	Linux introduced
	Unix X11 GUI framework ported to Linux
1998/99:	KDE 1.0 & GNOME 1.0 - Real GUI environments for Linux
2001:	Ximian Evolution 1.0 - Can be a Microsoft Exchange client
2002:	StarOffice 6.0 / OpenOffice 1.0 - Alternatives to MS Office
	Mozilla 1.0 - A competitive web browser
	KDE 3.0 & GNOME 2.0 - Linux GUIs become polished
2003:	Munich switches to Linux - Big desktop successes emerge



It's a long haul, but Linux will end up with a significant share of the desktop

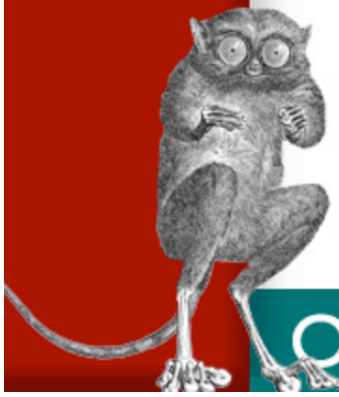
Trends

- Linux succeeds on the server!
- We're in an era of net-centric computing
- Linux desktop offerings gain credibility
- Pressure on Microsoft
  - Falling cost of PC hardware
  - Resistance to upgrades
  - Resentment of onerous licensing terms
- Desire for open standards and level playing field



There's an alignment of the stars that's benefiting Linux on the desktop

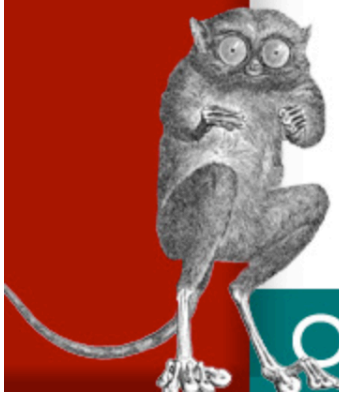
Massive Deployments



Massive deployments of Linux desktops are happening, mostly in the public sector

Desktop Linux Adoption Cycle

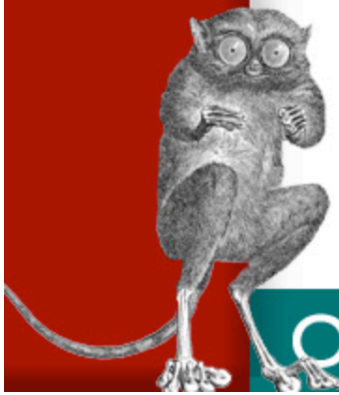
	Phase 1:	Phase 2:	Phase 3:
Who	**Technical users**	**Transactional workers, Web-centric Consumers**	**K workers, Small business, Consumers**
When	**Now**	**Starting in 2004**	**Not before 2007**
How much	**Broad-scale**	**Significant**	**Some**



The challenge today is for Linux to prove itself for transactional workers

Report Card: Hardware and Software

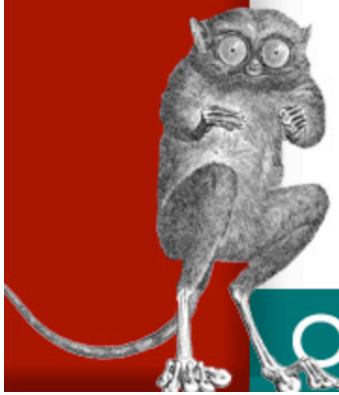
The desktop	B
Desktop developer platform	C-
Hardware support: - Computer - Peripheral devices (www.ometer.com/hardware.html)	 B- D
Applications	C+
Windows connectivity	A



"Good enough" for certain classes of users, but much work remains to be done

Report Card: The Eco-System

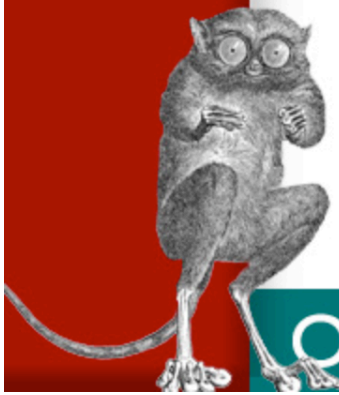
Linux distributions	A-
Desktop platforms	A-
Developers	B
ISVs	D
OEMs	C
Distribution channels	D
Consortia	A
News and support	C



A thriving community of open source developers, lack of commercial pickup

Technical Agenda

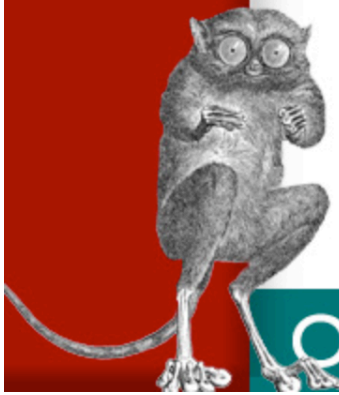
- 50%: Office file formats
  - Join'em: MS Office compatibility
  - Beat'em: An open alternative
- 30%: Strengthened foundations for the desktop
  - Importance of X
  - Missing pieces (hardware abstraction layer…)
  - Integration between various desktops
  - Standards
- 20%: Fit and Finish
  - Seemless integration between the desktops
  - Useability bug fixes



"Much of the remaining work either spans multiple projects, or has fallen through the cracks between them"

Predictions

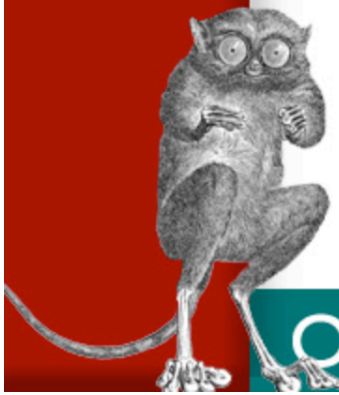
- MS price cuts
- From good to gooderer
- 10% share
- ROW leads US
- Public sector adoption as driver
- Selective adoption in enterprises
- No consumer momentum for a while



Steady progress, More choice & better value for consumers, Tens of millions of Linux desktop users

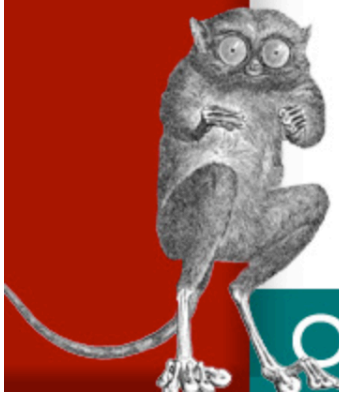
Points of Leverage

Leverage point	*OSAF initiative*
Desktop foundations layer	Exploring ways to facilitate
Open XML file formats, Office compatibility	Fund extensive compatibility testing of Excel functions
Improved infrastructure for open source projects	Fiscal agency services as appropriate
Resources for public sector decision-makers	Start-up assistance to Opensector.org
Commercial-quality applications	Chandler

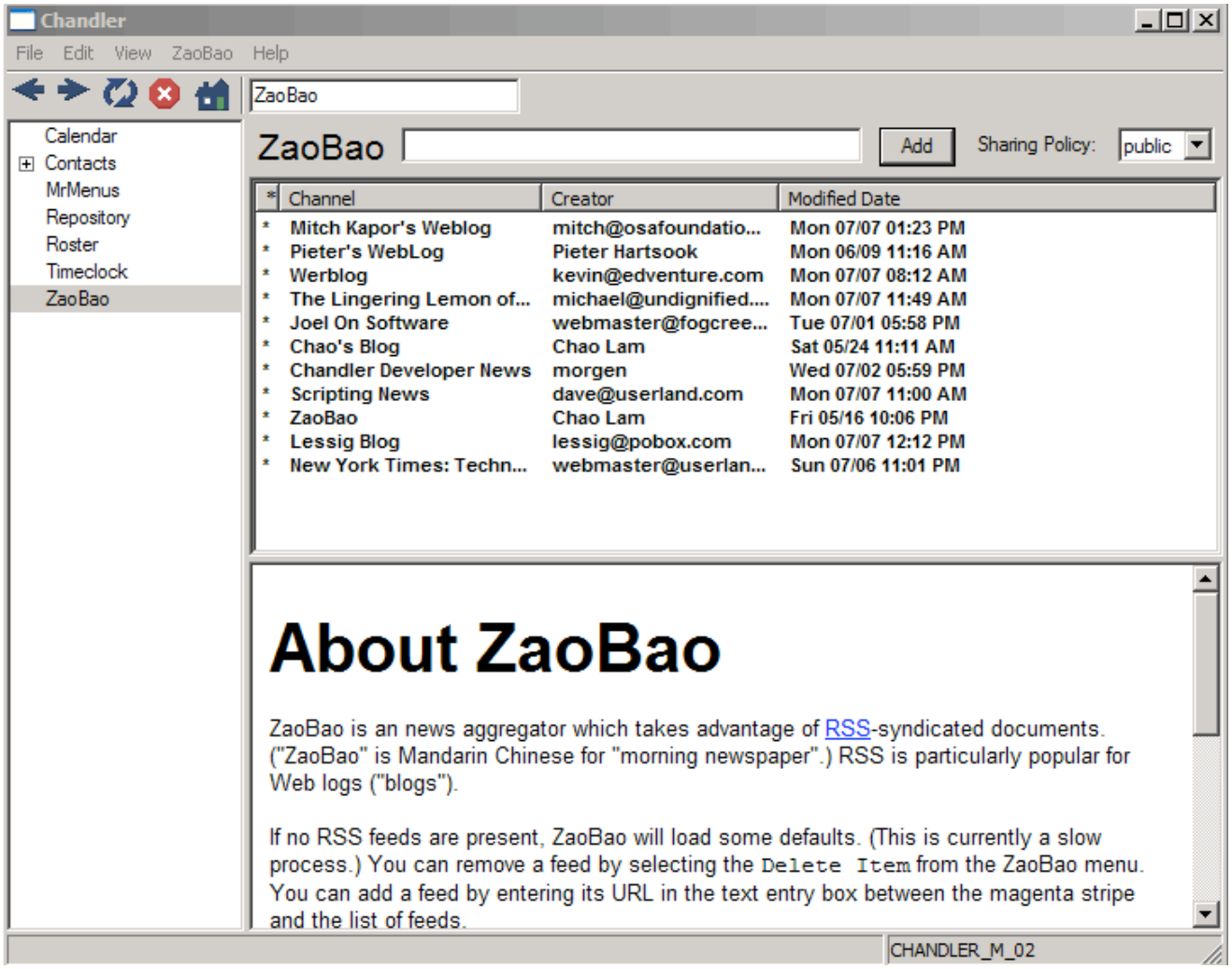


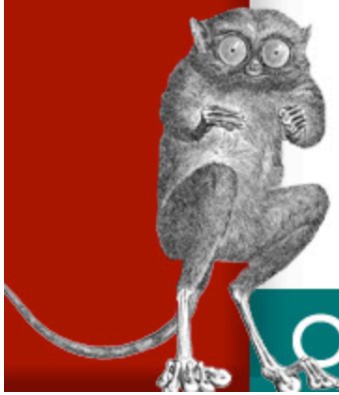
There are no huge missing pieces, but there are things we can do to help accelerate Linux on the desktop

Opensector.org



Chandler


Chandler
File Edit View ZaoBao Help
ZaoBao
Calendar
Contacts
MrMenus
Repository
Roster
Timeclock
ZaoBao
ZaoBao
Add
Sharing Policy:
public
* Channel Creator Modified Date
* Mitch Kapor's Weblog mitch@osafoundatio... Mon 07/07 01:23 PM
* Pieter's WebLog Pieter Hartsook Mon 06/09 11:16 AM
* Werblog kevin@edventure.com Mon 07/07 08:12 AM
* The Lingering Lemon of... michael@undignified.... Mon 07/07 11:49 AM
* Joel On Software webmaster@fogcree... Tue 07/01 05:58 PM
* Chao's Blog Chao Lam Sat 05/24 11:11 AM
* Chandler Developer News morgen Wed 07/02 05:59 PM
* Scripting News dave@userland.com Mon 07/07 11:00 AM
* ZaoBao Chao Lam Fri 05/16 10:06 PM
* Lessig Blog lessig@pobox.com Mon 07/07 12:12 PM
* New York Times: Techn... webmaster@userlan... Sun 07/06 11:01 PM
About ZaoBao
ZaoBao is an news aggregator which takes advantage of RSS-syndicated documents. ("ZaoBao" is Mandarin Chinese for "morning newspaper".) RSS is particularly popular for Web logs ("blogs").
If no RSS feeds are present, ZaoBao will load some defaults. (This is currently a slow process.) You can remove a feed by selecting the Delete Item from the ZaoBao menu. You can add a feed by entering its URL in the text entry box between the magenta stripe and the list of feeds.
CHANDLER_M_02



O'REILLY OPEN SOURCE CONVENTION™

July 7-11, 2003 • PORTLAND, OR