

OSS Push and Pull in Thailand

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1. OSS-related projects which have official support

1.1 LinuxTLE (1999)

Linux for Thai Language Extension is an effort to integrate the Thai language handling modules to the main distribution of Linux. The modules include fonts, I/O method, dictionaries, and many useful localized packages. Some are resulted from the research conducted in the institutes. Some are the collection of individual efforts. One of the objectives of this project is to support and propose the standards for Thailand. As a result, LinuxTLE is one of the platforms for local collaborative development, which includes many applications and solutions which are widely adopted in many communities. LinuxTLE development is led by NECTEC and groups of developers. Several activities are subsidized by the Ministry of Science and Technology via NECTEC.

1.2 OfficeTLE (2000)

OpenOffice for Thai Language Extension is developed under the same group of LinuxTLE. Many resources are shared among them. OfficeTLE is now available on Linux and Windows. Under the collaboration with Apple Thailand, OfficeTLE for MacOS is closed to the time of the first release.

1.3 LinuxSIS (1997)

Linux for School Internet Server is developed to support the project of SchoolNet under the supervision of NECTEC. Several contributions from school teachers and students had made LinuxSIS becomes the server to connect the schools and provide contents of the schools in the SchoolNet project.

1.4 ICT Personal Computer (2003)

To provide opportunity of contents access to Thai people, the effort of reducing the price of personal computer had been made. Several hardware vendors got together to resolve the pricing problem of the components. The Associate of Thailand Computer Manufacturer established after the early effort in providing a low-cost PC under the local hardware certified from NECTEC played a major role in providing a the hardware solution of about 10,900 baht. This project is led by the Ministry of ICT with the collaboration of NECTEC as the hardware certified body and the set of LinuxTLE, OfficeTLE and LEXiTRON provider. Consecutively, several affordable price of desktop PC, notebook PC and the peripheral equipments had been offered to the local market.

2. OSS-related organizations and groups

2.1 Opentle, NECTEC (www.opentle.org, 1999)

Opentle is group of the developers in NECTEC with open source based support from individual developers. The project supports OSS development which is going to be a place for disseminating OSS information and

- providing a collection of the software packages. LinuxTLE and OfficeTLE are majorly supported by this group.
- 2.2 SchoolNet, NECTEC (school.net.th, 1995)
The group that offers LinuxSIS (www.nectec.or.th/linux-sis, 1997) for the use as the server OS in SchoolNet project.
 - 2.3 Burapha Linux, Burapha University (www.buraphalinux.org,1996)
Burapha Linux is a slackware based Linux developed for research work and majorly implemented for the use in the university. The group is led by lecturers of Burapha University. The university students continuously join developing the distribution.
 - 2.4 Prince of Songkhla University Linux User Group (www.linux.psu.ac.th)
PSU-LUG is established to promote and support the use of Linux in the PSU campus and the surrounding. The group is formed in the computer center of the campus. About one-fourth of the center is now filled with the Linux installed machines. The website provides several useful experience in using Linux, OSS, and the migration to Linux. Some free trainings are occasionally offered at the center.
 - 2.5 Pirun Linux Cluster, Kasetsart University
A Linux cluster run by the group in Kasetsart University. It is currently available for research use. Load balancing is one of the research topics of the group.
 - 2.6 Liberta Computer Co., Ltd. (www.liberta.co.th)
A PC hardware vendor who offers Liberta PC with Liberta Linux (www.libertalinux.com, 2003) and Liberta Office preloaded. There is a development team and support within the company. Several events and training courses are provided for their customers and general users.
 - 2.7 Grand Linux Solution Co., Ltd. (grandlinux.com)
It was split from Kaiwal Linux Co., Ltd. to support their own Grand Linux distribution. It provides a solution and training under the Linux platform. Currently, Compiere (a smart Open Source ERP software with integrated CRM solutions) is localized in this company. It is being customized to fit the needs in Thai SMEs.
 - 2.8 Hospital OS (www.hospital-os.com)
A company that was first granted to develop a software solution for use in small size hospitals. A medical doctor is the leader of the project. It is now operated as a private company to provide the solution and training. Their provided website created a community of the users across several hospitals in rural area.
 - 2.9 ICE Solution, DHA Siamwalla Ltd. (www.icesolution.com)
A company that provides business solution started from an Open Source software, PHP Groupware. It is currently localized and customized for local use. The groupware is well equipped with utilities and installed in several sites. The company provides solution, implementation, maintenance and training of the solutions.
 - 2.10 linux.thai.net
A website for linux developers to communicate. It hosts several useful projects especially to localize and standardize the Thai language implement on Linux. It actively provides news and articles related to OSS.
 - 2.11 Thailand Open Source Federation (TOSF.org, 2002)
A gathering of OSS solution providers, developers, trainers, users, and supporters to promote the use of OSS. Several seminars, meetings, trainings and the OSS related activities have been organized to raise the awareness of OSS. The directory and roadmap for OSS in Thailand is

discussed around to publish in recent.

2.12 opensource.thai.net

A website for the discussion on the philosophy of OSS. Translated GPL is posted in this website. It aims to provide the information and translated versions of the Open Source license as many as possible.

2.13 thailinuxcafe.com

A website provides OSS news, webboard and links.

2.14 project-ile.net

A website provides OSS news, webboard and links.

2.15 nb4nb (linux.sra.cat.or.th)

A website provides introduction articles of Open Source software for Linux newbies.

3. Various OSS players in officials, industry leaders and communities

3.1 Ministry of Science and Technology

3.2 Ministry of ICT

3.3 Thailand Open Source Federation (TOSF.org)

3.4 Prince of Songkhla University Linux User Group (PSU-LUG)

3.5 The Federation of Thai Industries

3.6 Universities and schools

3.7 Computer educational schools

4. Linux distributions (distribution name, publisher, popularity, user and developer population)

According to the vote in opentle.org, there are 718 voters and followings are the result.

4.1	LinuxTLE	NECTEC	70.33% (505)
4.2	LinuxSIS	NECTEC	11.56% (83)
4.3	Grand Linux	Grand Linux Co., Ltd.	10.86% (78)
4.4	Burapha Linux	Burapha University	2.79% (20)
4.5	Ziif Linux	Zion Interface Co., Ltd.	2.65% (19)
4.6	Phayoune Linux	Wimon Business Management School	1.11% (8)
4.7	Kaiwal Linux	Kaiwal Softwar Co., Ltd.	0.70% (5)
4.8	Liberta Linux	Liberta Computer Co., Ltd.	N/A
4.9	iCafe Linux	ThaiLinuxCafe.com	N/A

5. Request to AOSS for the communities

5.1 Is it the time for thinking of Asia PC together with Asia Linux?

5.2 Is it the time for working closer to get stronger?

5.3 Are we too weak to support our community individually?

5.4 Shall we have a standard for Asia PC and Asia Linux (distribution for standard peripheral equipments)?

The questions are raised to seek the establishment of a common standard for our common market since the individuals are too small and the supporting resources are not sufficient.

6. Proposed project

OSS in school project (in cooperation with SchoolNet project)

- 18 schools introduce OSS curriculum on LinuxTLE, OfficeTLE and The Gimp.
- Short-term training in 5 regions for 100 schools.
- Provide software and installation.

Problems

- Lack of coursewares, lecture notes, assignments. Teachers had problems in preparing for classes.
- Lack of experience teachers for the classes.

Open Source Classroom

- Co-development of curriculum, courseware, lecture note, assignment
- Curriculum for
 - Software development
 - Content development
 - Experimental tools