

Dear Friends,



I'm glad and proud to actually get a chance to be at this conference this year and to represent France Open Source Software companies here in Germany through the „French Pavilion“. Linux Tag is the first European conference dedicated to Open Source Software and it is the place to be to meet with our European colleagues. Open Source has really taken the industry by storm, especially over the past years or so, and I think one of the reasons for this is that together we've really kind of stood upon the shoulders of software giants.

The Open Source Software market has reached up to 1,2 billion Euro in 2008. The 2010 forecast shows 3 billion Euro, that accounts for 7,5% of the total software and services market.

Open Source in large companies really started with infrastructure software and Linux. The Internet taught us really for the first time that we could really build large-scale distributed systems that were not based on proprietary software and they'd work. Now, every single piece of proprietary software as its Open Source counterparts and each and every company in Europe and in the world is challenging software vendors!

There is no need to tell you how much I've been waiting for those days in France, for big companies and large public organizations to shift to Open Source Software. France might be a small country but France is one of the European „leading“ country for Open Source Software. A recent study as shown France is number one in the world for Open Source in public sector..., followed-up closely by Germany!

Europe is leading the Open Source charge and we shall now be able to stand united. Most of you know about OBOOE (Open Source Business Organisations of Europe), that both FNILL (Fédération Nationale de l'Industrie du Logiciel Libre) and LIVE (Linux Verband) are significant members of. OBOOE a European initiative to bring companies and organizations related or using Free and Open Source products closer together, should be the flag ship of the charge! We want to make sure that Open Source users can maximize all that the software has to give it, all around Europe.

The French Pavilion, organized by UBIFRANCE and supported by FNILL, will feature the finest of what makes Open Source today in France. It is thus a pleasure to welcome, among others, LINAGORA, EBM Web-sourcing, SYMEOS, NEXEDI, IPSOD and ARGIA.

This unique pavilion will be enhanced for French Open Source companies to gather and discuss trends and solutions with their European counterparts.

FNILL is the French association of Open Source Software and services companies. One of its goals is to facilitate the development of our companies on the domestic market and abroad.

UBIFRANCE is the French Agency for International Business Development which in cooperation with the Economic Departments of French Embassies abroad, offers French companies a full range of products and services designed to support them in their efforts to penetrate foreign markets.

No surprise our organizations joined their forces to launch the French Open Source Pavilion here at Linux Tag.

As President of FNILL, I would like to warmly thank UBIFRANCE for their support and lay the emphasis on their dedication to our „noble cause“.

Dear friends, I hope that you would stop by our pavilion and get to know those great French companies.

Germany is welcoming French companies this year, it is my privilege to stretch my hand out to my German counterparts and invite them to France very soon!

Enjoy your conference,
Yours Faithfully

Alexandre Zapolsky
President, FNILL
CEO, LINAGORA

