

meraka

I N S T I T U T E

African Advanced Institute for Information
& Communications Technology

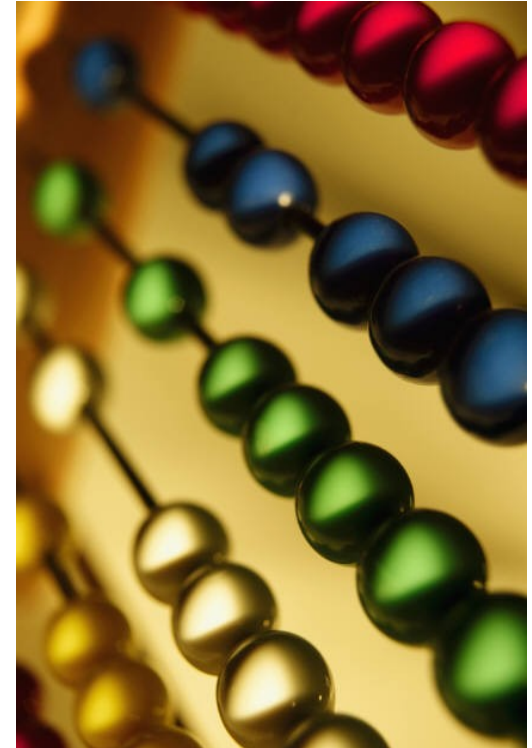
Refurbishment & Open Source Software Electronic Waste Management Conference 2006

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Presentation Outline

- About Meraka Institute Open Source Centre
- Background to OSS
- Extending life span using OSS
- Different choices for different situations
- Examples of OSS & Refurbished computers
- Getting Started with OSS
- OSS Help & Support



Meraka Institute

The African Advanced Institute for ICT:

- Strategic purpose:
 - Increase ICT R&D intensity and beneficial impact
 - SA and African scope
- Meraka = common grazing ground (Sesotho)
 - Shared space for creative productivity
 - Emphasise African nature of scope and needs



Meraka Open Source Centre

- Open Source Centre is part of the Meraka Institute.
- Currently, there are two offices:
 - CSIR headquarters
 - Soweto
- Set up to amplify the beneficial impact of free software in southern Africa while contributing to similar efforts in Africa and the rest of the developing world



OS Centre Objectives

- Stimulate awareness of OSS and benefits in Southern Africa
- Increase understanding of OSS in Southern Africa
- Create an enabling environment for the adoption of OSS in Southern Africa.
- Act as a catalyst for open source initiatives in Southern Africa.
- Build on and compliment similar initiatives internationally.



4 Rs in E-Waste Management: Reduce, Refurbish, ReUse, Recycle

Reduce: do you really need that new computer?

Refurbish: fix and refurbish old computers

ReUse: give your computer a new lease on life

Recycle: find a local recycling facility



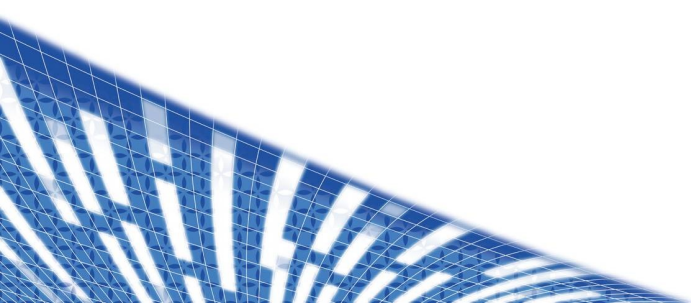
Background to OSS

- What is open source software (OSS)?
- How Open Source started
- What is Linux?
- Impact of Open Source on South Africa



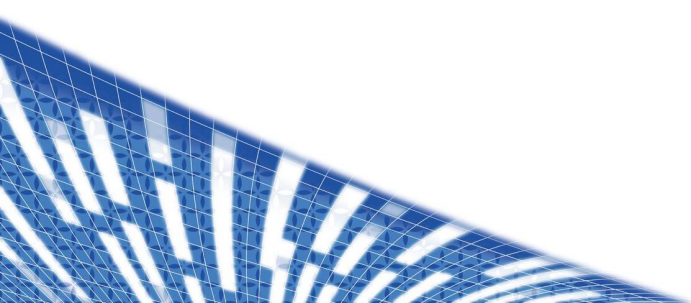
Extending life span using OSS

- OSS provides flexibility to allow programs to be stripped down so they use less memory and less processing power
- Pick and mix approach of Linux allows use of outdated hardware to use new formats
- GNU/Linux allows old computers to be used in thin client networks.



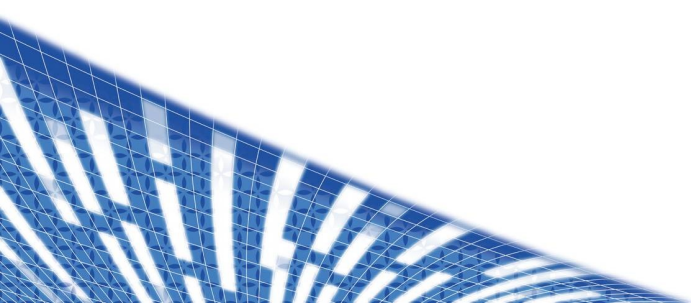
Different choices for different scenarios

- Different OSS solutions for different situations, individuals and organisations:
 - Installing OSS applications on existing older windows versions
 - Installing OSS applications and GNU/Linux (or others) versions
- Different versions of Linux for different versions of hardware



OSS Applications on existing Desktop Operating System

- Internet browsers – Mozilla Firefox
- Office applications – AbiWord
- Graphics – Gimp
- Email – Thunderbird, Evolution



Which Linux for which machine

- Linux Distributions for old computers
 - Xubuntu
 - Damn Small Linux
 - DeLi Linux
 - Puppy Linux
- Thin Client
 - LTSP (Linux Terminal Server Project)



Linux Applications for Old computers

- Linux LiveCD Router
- FreeS/WAN
- Print Server

Examples of OSS use on Refurbished computers

- Open Source Centre – Soweto
- TuxLabs Program
- SchoolNet Namibia - OpenLab



Getting started with OSS

How to get Open Source Software

- On the internet
- Through local distributions
- Shops
- Freedom Toaster
- Libraries and community centres
- From friends
- Computer Magazines



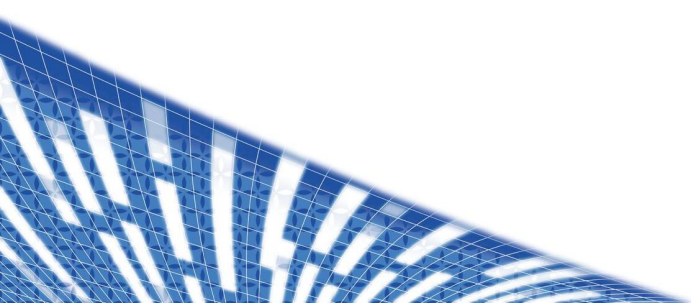
OSS Help & Support

- Informal support
 - Bulletin boards
 - Mailing Lists
 - Linux User Groups
- Commercial organisations
 - Impi Linux
 - Inkululeko Technologies
 - Ubuntu Linux



The Car Analogy

- Mechanics of old cars
 - can tinker with engine
 - not tied to manufacturer or authorised dealer
 - just keeps going



Thank you

