

Medfloss.org

Holger
Schmuhl

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Medfloss.org – A comprehensive platform for medical free/libre and open source software

Holger Schmuhl

www.medfloss.org

Med-e-Tel, Luxembourg, April 2010

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About myself

Holger Schmuhl

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- Professional level:
 - diploma in computer science and clinical information management of the University of Leipzig
 - currently working as application developer at GE Healthcare
 - 3 years work experience as system integrator and project manager at GE Healthcare
- Medfloss.org is my personal project (aka “hobby”) and not affiliated to or supported by my current employer
- Maintained since more than 2 years a static listing of medical FLOSS projects, presented here at Med-e-Tel in 2008 [1]
- *Contact:* `holger.schmuhl@medfloss.org`

About this presentation

within the special track on FLOSS-HC projects and initiatives

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- Overview of this Web site as example of a medical FLOSS repository as proposed by H. Demski et al. [2]
- Supposed to give only a brief insight

About medfloss.org

Mission statement

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Medfloss.org should provide a comprehensive and structured overview of Free/Libre and Open Source Software (FLOSS) projects for the health care domain. Moreover it should offer a platform to foster the exchange of ideas, knowledge and experiences about these projects. [3]

- Content is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike license [4]
- Currently listing about 159 projects, 50 professional service providers, 60 scientific publications, etc.
- Launched in February 2010, since then about 4000 unique visitors per month
- Site is based on Drupal and various extensions

Definition of Open Source Software

as defined by the Open Source Initiative (OSI)

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- Availability of source code
- Free (re-)distribution of software in source code as well as in compiled form
- Derived works/modifications allowed while preserving the rights of the original author
- No discrimination against persons or groups and fields of endeavor
- For details (definition, different licenses, etc.) see <http://www.opensource.org>
- Acronyms: Free/Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS aka FOSS aka OSS)

Purpose: What it is

What you will find at medfloss.org

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- *Open-content collaborative platform* in which everyone is invited to participate
- A mostly complete compilation of available projects
- A place to find also related resources like service providers, scientific publications, reference sites, events, etc.
- A place for general discussions and experience exchange
- ... all within the scope of FLOSS in health care/medicine.

Purpose: What it is not

For which you should look somewhere else

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- No source code repository or development platform
 - Others can do better, like e.g. `savannah.gnu.org` or `sourceforge.net`
 - But `medfloss.org` links to it
- No forum for specific support or development issues
 - The project specific forums and mailing lists are intended for that
 - But `medfloss.org` links to it
- No place for Free-/Shareware with symptomatically closed sources

Relational database

Content types

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Platform is based on a relational database (MySQL and Drupal's Content Construction Kit). Interrelated content types are

- Project
- Reference site (hospitals, practices, etc.)
- Professional service provider (companies, etc.)
- Publication (articles, proceedings, etc.)
- Event (conferences, trade shows, working group meetings, etc.)
- Request for new project

[Example: the Bazaar]

Structured information about each project

Project attributes

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- Tagged by application types, supported enterprise functions and supported standards
- References to other content types
- Availability of official Linux distribution packages
- Rating and commenting feature
- Further attributes: license, supported platforms, client types, supported languages, supported standards, recent news, homepage and other links

[Example: the MITK project]

Browsing projects

Search criteria in general

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Explore projects by

- *Application type* (like PACS, RIS, EMR, etc.)
- *Enterprise function* (see next slide)
- *Standard* (like DICOM, HL7, etc.)
- Combinations of these
- Special views (like sorted by popularity, etc.)
- Full-text search

[Example: Multi-category browser]

Browsing projects

Enterprise function: definition and its usage as search criterion (tag)

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- Definition according to Winter et al. [5]:

An enterprise function describes what acting human or machines have to do in a certain enterprise to contribute to its mission and goals. (...) Examples are “patient admission”, “clinical documentation” or “financial controlling”. (...) They describe what is to be done, not how it is done.

- You may know for what purpose you need the software but not which application type offers such function(s).
- There are projects that cannot be clearly classified by application type.

The future of medfloss.org

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- Adding more information
- Adding customized views (database queries to answer specific questions)
- Improving support for the packaging teams of custom medical linux distributions
- Open for new ideas and collaboration. Already in close contact with
 - EFMI WG LIFOSS
 - ISFTeH CHOS-WG
 - Helmholtz Zentrum München

The future of medfloss.org

Discussion

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- Is this of any use to you?
- What could be improved?
- What else would you need?

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