Open Source in China

J Aaron Farr

JadeTower
The Apache Software Foundation

farra@apache.org

中國

知者不言

言者不知

道德經

Those who know don't talk,
Those who talk don't know

知者不言
言者不知

道德經

大國者下流

天下之交

天下之牝

牝常以靜勝牡

以靜為下

以 牝 天 天 大
靜 常 下 下 國
為 以 之 之 者
下 靜 交 下
勝 牝 流
牝

When a country obtains great power,
it becomes like the sea:
all streams run downward into it.
The more powerful it grows,
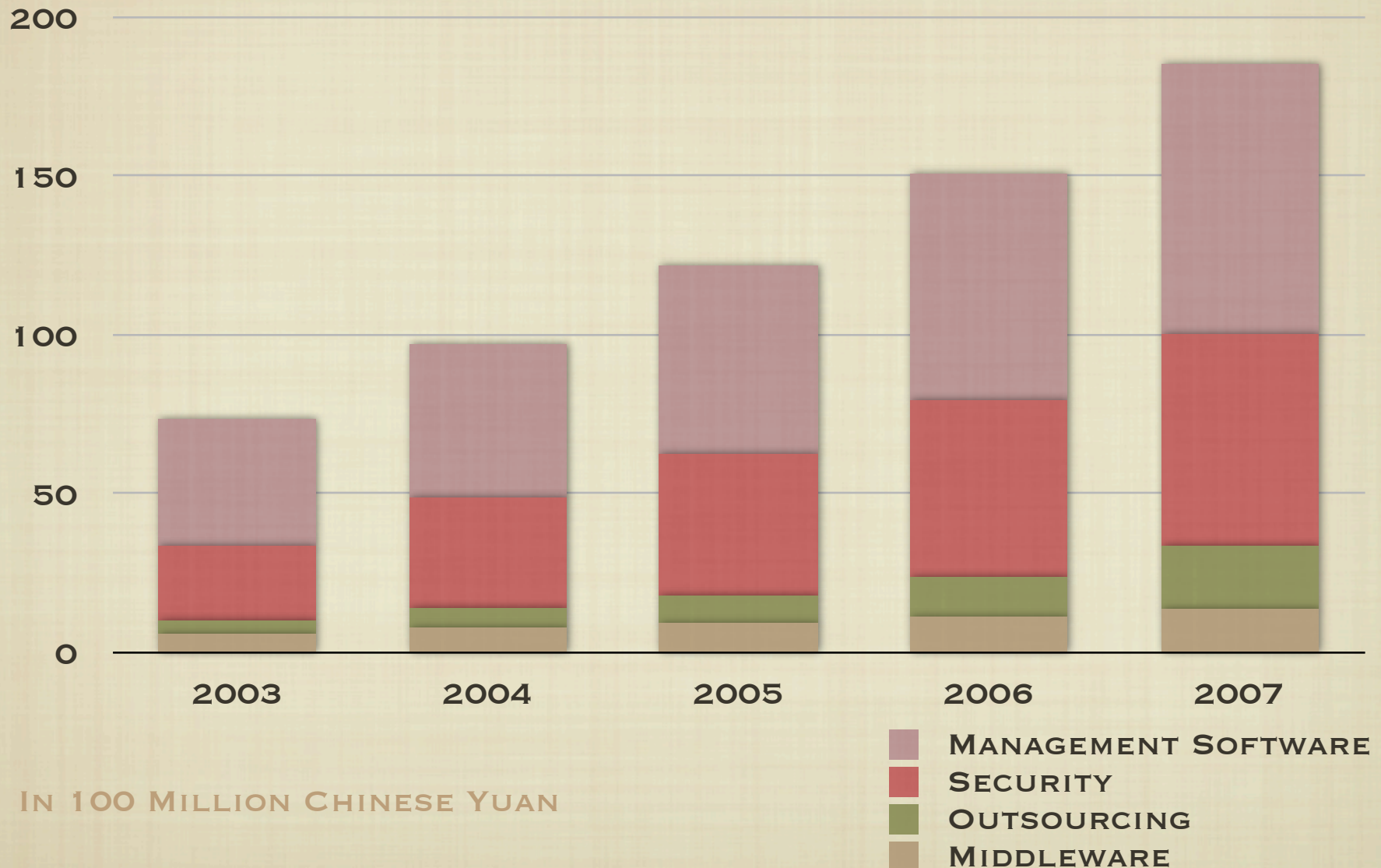the greater the need for humility.

中國

A Tour of China

China By The Numbers

- No. 1 in FDI at around $60 billion since 2002

- Avg 9.4% annual GDP growth rate for 25 years

- Currently 4th largest economy

- Will surpass UK, Germany, Italy, and France by the end of the decade

China IT Industry

- Graduate 100,000 programmers each year

- Software market reached $85.43 billion this year

- Fourth largest software market worldwide

- 162 million Internet users, 12.3% of the population

- Developer hourly rate: $10 USD

Industry Growth

In 100 Million Chinese Yuan

CCID <http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS136243+15-Jan-2008+PRN20080115>

Intellectual Property

- Yamaha: 5 out of every 6 motorcycles are fakes

- DVD: 95% piracy rate

- Software: 94% piracy rate

- Example: xiaonei.com

China's Facebook

Economics of Piracy

Economics of Piracy

- 2002: 852 raids for illegal CD/DVD

Economics of Piracy

- 2002: 852 raids for illegal CD/DVD

- 99.5% convicted

Economics of Piracy

- 2002: 852 raids for illegal CD/DVD

- 99.5% convicted

- 764 fined under $1,000

Economics of Piracy

- 2002: 852 raids for illegal CD/DVD

- 99.5% convicted

- 764 fined under $1,000

- Only 2 fined $5,000 - $10,000

Open Source vs Piracy

- When Windows is free too, open source cannot compete on price alone.

- More discs = more expensive, right?

- Open source licenses face same enforcement problems as commercial licenses.

Go ~~West~~, Young Man

"... there's a sense that a renaissance is going on here. I'm thinking of Horatio Alger's dictum: "Go west, young man." We reached the end of Alger's directions in California. China is now true west from there. Go west, young man, go west. What happens in China over the next decade is going to shape the history of the world."

-Tim O'Reilly
http://radar.oreilly.com/archives/2007/11/china_foo_camp.html

顏淵問仁子曰克己復禮爲仁

一日克己復禮天下歸仁焉

爲仁由己而由仁乎哉

顏淵曰請問其目

子曰非禮勿視非禮勿聽

非禮勿言非禮勿動

顏淵曰回雖不敏請事斯語矣

Yen Yüan asked about the meaning of humaneness. The Master said, "To completely overcome selfishness and keep to propriety is humaneness. If for a full day you can overcome selfishness and keep to propriety, everyone in the world will return to humaneness. Does humaneness come from oneself, or from others?" Yen Yüan asked: "May I ask in further detail how this is to be brought about?" Confucius said, "Do not watch what is improper; do not listen to what is improper; do not speak improperly and do not act improperly." Yen Yüan said, "Although I am not so perspicacious, I will apply myself to this teaching."

文化

Chinese Culture

關係

Chinese Culture

Guan-Xi

Chinese Culture

Relationships

Chinese Culture

American	Chinese
individualist	collectivist
egalitarian	hierarchical
information oriented	relationship oriented
reductionist	holistic
sequential	circular
seeks the truth	seeks the way
argument culture	haggling culture

為無為，事無事，味無味。大小多少，報怨以德。

為事味大報
無無無小怨
為事味多以
少　德

Act without doing;
work without effort.
Find taste in the tasteless
Think of the small as large
and the few as many.
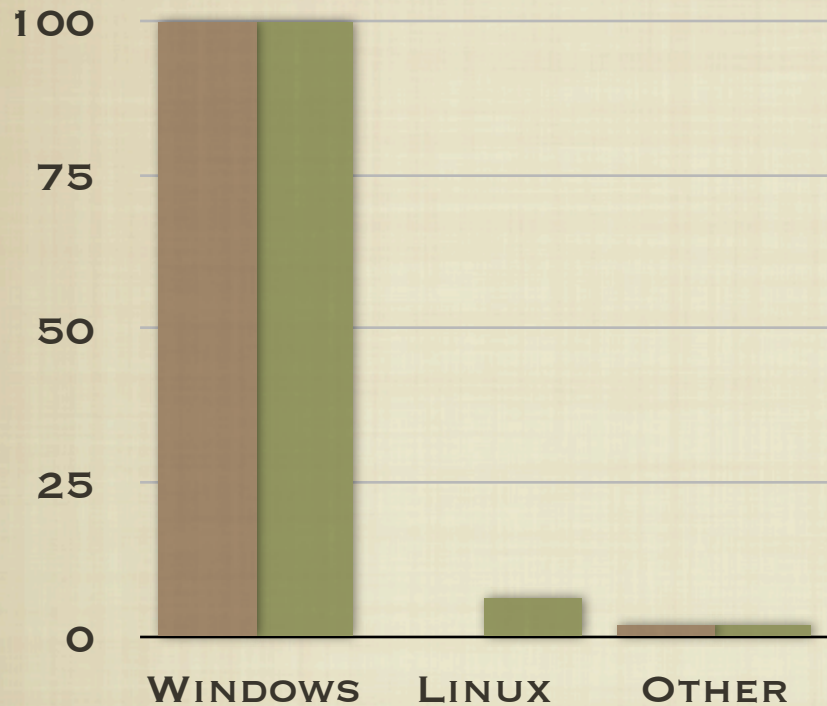Answer evil with inner power.

开源软件

Linux in China

- In China, open source = Linux

  - Red Hat, Red Flag, Novell SUSE, TurboLinux

- Mobile Linux

  - OpenMoko, E28

- Embedded Linux

  - 1,000 results on Alibaba.com
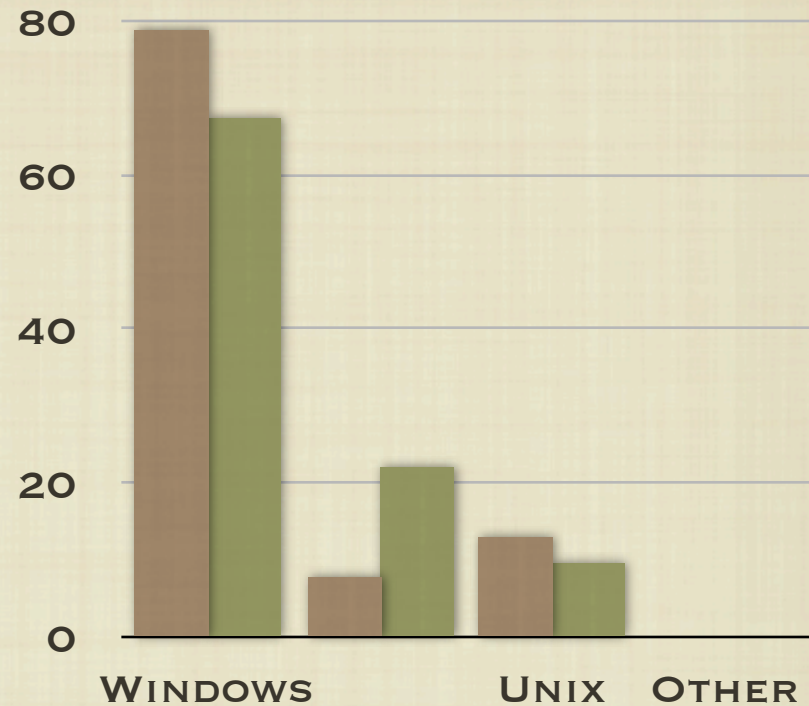
  - IP Cameras, DVRs, Storage, Card Readers, etc.

Linux Market

- Analyst forecast China's Linux market will grow ~30% yearly from 2006-2010

- Linux sales in 2005 were $21 million, 81% increase

  - or $11.8 million, up 27.1%

- Other open source software sales $19 million

- Linux market share increase 4.2% to 9.8% between 2003 and 2005

Linux Market

Open Source in China

China's open source communities are relatively small and don't have much influence. There is a lack of big projects, few participants, and little money.
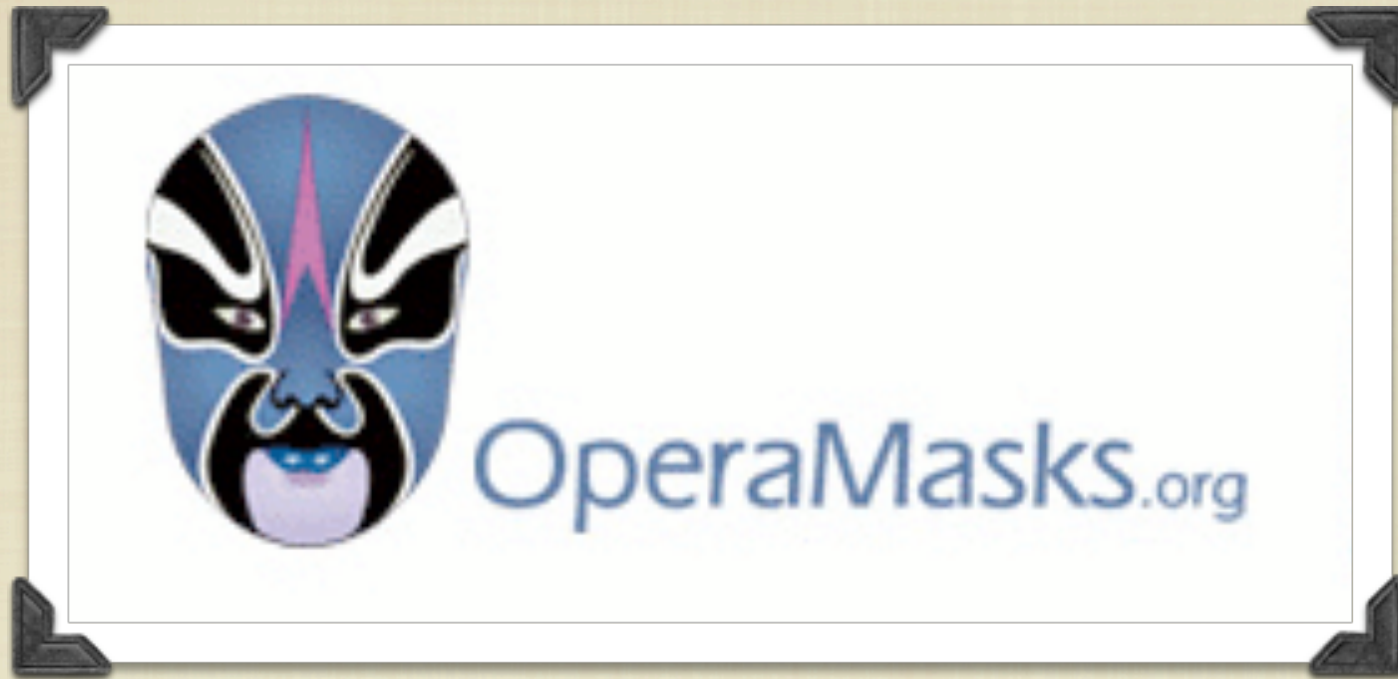
- Hu Ke, CCID Analyst

Asus Eee PC

Mozilla in China

- Mozilla China (non-profit) in 2005

- Mozilla Online in 2007

- 2-3% market share

- Web standards a problem

  - Example: Zeuux project

Projects

- RedFlag Linux

- Pugs (Perl 6 in Haskell)

- XOOPS

- Hong Kong Open Fonts Project

- Forks/branches of many major open source projects

- OpenFoundry: 848 projects, 5435 users

Opera Masks

- Open Source JSF toolkit

- http://www.operamasks.org/

Sites

- lupaworld.com

- linuxeden.com

- phpchina.com

- eclipseworld.org

- open-open.com

Organizations

- China Open Source Promotion Union

- Hong Kong Open Source Software Center

- GuangDong Linux Center

- Beijing Linux Users Group

- Taipei Open Source Software Users Group

- and many more...

Recent Events

- Linux World China 2004-2008

- Open China, Open World, Beijing, Guangzhou 06-08

- OSDC.tw, Taipei 2006-2008

- Wikimania, Taipei 2007

- Asia Open Source Conference, Guangzhou 2008

- China Foo, Beijing, 2008

Upcoming Events

- COSCUP, August 2008, Taipei

- Open Office.org Conference, 2008, Beijing

- Gnome.asia Summit, 2008, Beijing

- OS Summit, December 2008, Shanghai

- OSSPAC, Feb 2009, Singapore

以正治國

以奇用兵

以無事取天下

吾何以知其然哉

以此

If you want to be a great leader,
you must learn to follow the Tao.
Stop trying to control.
Let go of fixed plans and concepts,
and the world will govern itself.

挑战

Challenges

- Open Source Software Projects create Communities

- Communities Communicate

- Communities share Culture

- The challenge we face is cultural first, technical second

Challenges

- Top down approach

- Closed community, open source

- Complexity in copyright laws

- Communities tend to be very fragile

Three Communities

- Industry

- Government

- "Grassroots"

Creating a Dialog

"I got the sense that there really are two tech communities in China: the one we reached, and another one, that is more distinctly Chinese. Both are important. It's not really that there's this outer ring of westerners and Western-connected Chinese, with the "core" being the local industry. It's more that there is a Western-facing industry, and an indigenous one that is growing up in parallel."

- Tim O'Reilly

Creating a Dialog

"with the Chinese-language Internet soon to become the largest part of the global Internet, we badly need more bridges, more collaboration, more dialogue, and better understanding."

- Rebecca MacKinnon

Chicken and the Egg

Moving Forward

- Reaching out to students

- Bringing communities together

- Training and education of business and the press

- Showing results

Competition vs Collaboration

- Active effort to encourage global participation

- Documentation Translation

- Encouragement of localized groups

- Coordination between communities

Recommended Reading

- http://rconversation.blogs.com/rconversation/2007/11/my-web20-week-1.html

- http://radar.oreilly.com/archives/2007/11/china_foo_camp.html

- http://stephesblog.blogs.com/my_weblog/2007/11/my-china-foo-pr.html

太上下知有之
其次親而譽之
其次畏之
其次侮之
信不足焉
有不信焉
悠兮其貴言
功成事遂
百姓皆謂我自然

When the Master governs, the people
are hardly aware that he exists.
Next best is a leader who is loved.
Next, one who is feared.
The worst is one who is despised.

If you don't trust the people,
you make them untrustworthy.

The Master doesn't talk, he acts.
When his work is done,
the people say, "Amazing:
we did it, all by ourselves!"

謝謝

Thank You!

J Aaron Farr

farra@apache.org

cubiclemuses.com