

QUALIPSO

Scope

The use and development of Open Source in academic environments or by volunteer developers is more and more common. The advantages that OS represents for these groups have been very well-recognized: no license costs, sharing of knowledge, exchange of code problems/solutions, etc. But what is happening in industry? Why doesn't Open Source go further in enterprises?

The aim of Qualipso is to help industries and governments to fuel innovation and competitiveness in today's and tomorrow's global environment, by providing the way to use trusted, low-cost, flexible Open Source software to develop innovative and reliable information systems. To meet this goal, Qualipso is defining and implementing the technologies, processes and policies needed to facilitate the development and use of Open Source software components, with the same level of trust traditionally offered by proprietary software.

Advances

Qualipso is increasing the competitiveness of OSS-based ICT by developing a long-lasting network of professionals focussed on the quality of Open Source software for enterprise computing. In particular, Qualipso provides the means to support the adoption of Open Source solutions at industrial level by:

- Using *pushing* dissemination techniques to perform a effective promotion and increase the visibility of Open Source results. Influencing the policy makers to foster the use and development of Open Source in industry.
- Creating the required methods and technologies to provide Open Source to a quality that warranties industry trust in it. This may imply the extension of the CMMI model extensively used in traditional software.
- Defining guidelines, support tools and drivers to help find one's way to the best OSS licences, compliant with national laws and European regulations and easily applicable.
- Defining methods, development processes, and business models to facilitate the use of Open Source Software by industry.

All the above mentioned project results will be catalyzed and integrated under the Qualipso Factory and the Competence Centers, that are the main project results from a user point of view.

The Qualipso Factory is a set of collaborative environments for all those who may want to implement quality in their Open Source software developments and projects.

The Factory will:

- allow migration of projects from existing forges to the Qualipso Factory;
- provide access to external projects that have not been migrated;
- offer security and traceability mechanisms to warrant the good performance of the hosted projects.

The Competence Centers - deploying the Qualipso Factory - will be set up to support the development, deployment and adoption of OSS by private and public Information Systems Departments, large companies, SMEs, end users and ISVs. Of these Competence Centres, four will be based in Europe (in Berlin, Madrid, Paris and Rome), one in China and one in Brazil (São Paulo).

Positioning in global context

The main competitors of the Qualipso Factory are basically the three main open source forge solutions: GForge, LibreSource, Trac.

Generalization and adoption by industry fosters initiatives and new approaches for both cathedral (formal project management, document oriented) and bazaar (loosely organized, code oriented) projects such as LibreSource, which proposes to build a collaborative environment reflecting the project structure or Trac, which allows coupling and traceability between VCS and tracker through semantics.

The other key project result is the Qualipso Competence Center network. Existing Open Source competence centres are based on industrial as well as on national initiatives. In particular, various existing open source competence centres operated by companies are, for instance, from Atos, Bull, Cap Gemini, Mandriva, SQLI and Thales. Others are run as national initiatives, as in Finland, Malaysia and Vietnam. For each OSS centre, the main organisational traits and services provided are presented, in order to allow the benchmarking of the Qualipso Competence Center.

Contribution to standardization and interoperability issues

One of the main objectives of Qualipso is the development of a CMM-like model for OSS. The aim is the identification of a set of practices that have to be applied to enable trust in OS development.

Target users / sectors in business and society

The potential users of Qualipso results are very diverse.

- From freelance software developers to engineering departments of software companies: for these users the facilities provided by the Qualipso Factory can be extremely useful to improve the management of software development projects.
- For system integrators: ensuring FLOSS quality may help software integrators to offer their customers better warranted solutions. Quality benchmarking may also help in choosing between different OSS software or tools in the stack of IT (operating systems, middle-ware, application layer, etc)
- For policy makers, Qualipso may give the required arguments and tools to promote laws and measures to definitely encourage the industry in adopting OSS.

Overall benefits for business and society

- For the overall public, Qualipso will provide open source software tools and documents such as surveys and research results in open and standard formats.
- For enterprises and governments, Qualipso will provide a federation of R&D investment and methodologies and tools for quality.
- For the open source world, Qualipso will federate some communities and consortiums by the use of technical qualified components to promote open source within research institutes, integrators, SMEs and enterprises.
- For Europe, China and Brazil, Qualipso will increase the Open Source ROI for competitiveness and growth as well as the national competitive IT edge.

Examples of use

Today's world in the FLOSS domain has some of the following features:

- Different software repositories, not well structured.
- The usage is unclear: what license should I use? What functionality does the code provide?
- Industry only takes code but do not give back code to the communities.

If we become ambitious tomorrow's OSS world could have new characteristics:

- Massive usage by industry.
- Repositories organized by licences.
- Well-defined licences, compliant with national laws.
- Partnerships between OSS Communities and industry.
- Provision of warranty in the delivered software.
- Supporting tools in factories (legal engine, communication, metrics, market place).

Achievements

FLOSS scenarios and problems from an industrial point of view.

Contact: Franz Kudorfer, franz.kudorfer@siemens.com

<http://www.qualipso.org/media/A2/D2.1.4.pdf>

Interoperability state of the art.

Contact: Matthias Fluegge, Matthias.Fluegge@fokus.fraunhofer.de

http://www.qualipso.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=15&Itemid=31

Information management in OSS reports.

Contact: Miguel Carrillo,

http://www.qualipso.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=31

Questionnaire based study about OSS quality in products and processes.

Contact: Sandro Morasca (sandro.morasca@uninsubria.it), Alberto Sillitti

(Alberto.Sillitti@unibz.it)

http://www.qualipso.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=31

OSS Competence Center state of the art.

Contact: Jean-Pierre Laisné, Jean-Pierre.Laisne@bull.net

<http://www.qualipso.org/media/A8/D8.1.pdf>

First International Qualipso Conference results

Contact: Clara Pezuela, clara.pezuela@atosorigin.com

http://www.qualipso.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=75&Itemid=69

Qualipso web site.

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<http://www.qualipso.org>

Beta versions of many other deliverables are available on the project web site.



title

Quality platform for open source software

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contact point

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project website and partner list

<http://www.qualipso.org/>

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