openSUSE Board
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Plan

- **Purpose** of an openSUSE Foundation
- **Past** actions
- **Present** state of things
- **Phuture** actions
- **Pheedback** from you!
Purpose
Why a Foundation?

- Independence
- Collect donations
- Fund
- Trademark ownership (?)
Independence

- have our own budget
- under our control
- also of symbolic importance
Independence

- we’re not stupid:
- it would be relative
- as long as...
  - we don’t have other sponsors
  - we don’t have the trademarks (?)
Collect funds

- currently no way to donate
- no easy way to have other sponsors with financial contributions
- neither for individuals
- also symbolic, for people to show their support
Ability to fund

- we control our budget to ...
- fund infrastructure (servers),
- fund travels to conferences,
- fund Ambassadors,
- ... ?
- the sky donations are the limit
Trademark ownership

• to be an independent project
• Novell
  • considers licensing the trademarks
  • does not want to transfer
• would put the legal burden on us
Past
What we've done so far

- Research + considered options
- Request for assistance from Novell
  - initial funding
  - use of the openSUSE trademark
The options

- use an umbrella organization
  - SPI-INC (e.g. Debian)
  - SFLC (FSF)
- have our own Non For Profit
  - in the USA
  - in Europe
Funding from Novell

• Why?
  • would cover initial costs
  • would provide an initial donation
  • possibly a regular donation
  • mindshare/symbolic/fairness
Funding from Novell

- Our request
  - first one submitted this spring, meeting in June
  - second one submitted a few weeks ago
  - define a detailed proposal
  - already approved: funding for lawyer
Present
Decisions taken

- our own NFP
- in Europe (Germany)
- how the foundation works
Our own Non For Profit

- to have ownership of funds
- to have greater liberty
- also means we don’t profit from SPI-INC’s services
- “with greater liberty comes greater responsibility”
... in Europe

- **options**: USA, Europe,
- **we decided for Europe**, 
  - silly FOSS unfriendly laws in the USA (DMCA, software patents)
  - we believe we are safer in EU (still)
- **most contributors are in EU**
... in Germany

- actually in Germany
  - can use Novell (Nürnberg) resources
  - some experience with e.V. in Germany (Rupert, KDE, ...)
- e.V. = “eingetragener Verein” = German Non For Profit
How the foundation works

• Board
  • openSUSE board becomes the openSUSE e.V. board
  • no Novell appointed chair
  • no veto either
  • 5 members
  • 2 year terms
How the foundation works

- **Board decisions**
  - by simple majority (quorum)
  - super majority if spending more than $n$ (full board)
  - super majority to disband the e.V.
### How the foundation works

- **Membership**
  - migrate to foundation membership
  - keep the existing membership process (= board decides)
  - active + inactive members
  - not voted on two board elections in a row: active => inactive
  - inactive => active: board
How the foundation works

“To support and foster the openSUSE community.”

Act in the best interest of the openSUSE project by collecting and distributing funds, etc...
Next steps

- define how the foundation will work (members, elections, ...)
- express as bylaws
“Plan B”

• without Novell's blessing,
• may not use trademarked terms,
• such as “openSUSE”
*DUH*
DUH!
Drawbacks of “Plan B”

- without Novell’s blessing,
- may not use trademarked terms,
  - such as “openSUSE”
  - “openSUSE Foundation” is more trustworthy to donors
Feedback
Your feedback

- Questions ?
- Ideas ?
- Opinions ?
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Thank you