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Accenture Innovation Center for Open Source

Harnessing open source-based solution stacks and governance structures to support the achievement of high performance

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Open source opportunities

Open source software ("OSS") represents a significant shift in enterprise IT. It can deliver faster time to market and substantially lower licensing and maintenance costs than other approaches. Open source software also delivers comparable features and quality as well as greater deployment flexibility, enabling a more expansive use of OSS in enterprise applications.

While the advantages are real, organizations pursuing open source must ensure proper safeguards are in place to address three key challenges. First, it is easy to obtain OSS from disparate sources, including web sites that aggregate OSS applications and tools. This can raise integration challenges as well as threaten to run under the radar of IT operations. Second, OSS changes rapidly and provides no guarantees of built-in support. Third, the interdependencies between discrete OSS products often result in overlapping software licenses and integration issues.

As organizations implement OSS within the enterprise as part of a continuous effort to improve business and technology operations, they should aim to professionalize open-source adoption, dissemination and management by focusing on open source stacks and open source governance. Open source stacks are prepackaged architectures which contain open source products—and identify the right vendors and communities—to support the organizationally-relevant technical needs of architecture domains, speeding up design, implementation and maintenance of OSS-based solutions. Open source governance establishes the needed structures, defining the control and management of open source in an IT organization, including OSS license management and the setup of support capabilities robust enough for enterprise needs.

Comprehensive approach to open source technologies

Accenture supports businesses and governments on their journey to high performance by providing deep open source implementation experience to make the optimal use of OSS, harnessing both proven open source stacks and tested approaches to governance. The Accenture Innovation Center for Open Source, based in Bangalore, India, is an important element of the Accenture open source capability. It helps accelerate open source initiatives by taking into consideration the entire open source domain, and providing recommendations based on wide-ranging business and industry knowledge as well as deep technology experience.

The center emphasizes a vendor-agnostic approach that is controlled, supported and managed on the basis of pragmatism, informed decision making and holistic knowledge of technology products. This approach supports the design and implementation of projects that may, as part of complex IT initiatives, combine both OSS and proprietary software. The center provides valuable options and recommendations, all of which enable clients to design, build and manage scalable and robust solutions.

Accelerating innovative, enterprise-ready open source-based solutions

The Accenture Innovation Center for Open Source harnesses Accenture's innovation, skills, capabilities, network of vendors and communities, and assets to enable clients to take full advantage of the compelling opportunity to achieve IT and business goals, while reducing total cost of ownership with open source.

Recent Accenture High-Performance IT research shows 77 percent of high-performance IT organizations are piloting or committing to open source, compared with just 37 percent of overall global businesses.

The center:

- Showcases distinctive solution stacks in client workshops
- Hosts visioning and thought leadership sessions
- Assesses open source governance structures and suggests improvements where necessary
- Accelerates time-to-market for new open source-based solutions
- Provides support for building open-source alternatives to proprietary solutions that maintain or exceed the capabilities of existing IT applications and systems
- Demonstrates how to reduce the total cost of ownership of open source-based applications
- Harnesses the extensive knowledge, experience and capabilities of Accenture professionals as well as those of distinguished open source vendors and trusted communities

The solution stacks, prepackaged architectures that contain proven open source technologies, each serve a specific architecture domain and application style. They are based on industry-leading open source technologies, and on the offerings of vendors such as SpringSource, Red Hat, MuleSource and Novell at this initial stage. The stacks embed Accenture's knowledge capital

and best practices in implementing large-scale IT systems for organizations. To assist clients with realizing high performance, Accenture has defined solution stacks for the areas that the accelerated adoption of open source can most benefit:

- Service-oriented architecture
- Server virtualization
- Enterprise portals
- Content management
- Business intelligence
- Web applications
- Batch applications
- Development architecture
- Data management
- Open workplace

Why Accenture

Accenture applies decades of technology and industry experience and architecture assets to develop technology architectures that address the complexity of today's multi-platform, multi-application IT environment. Accenture has a history of applying innovative approaches to new and proven technologies to architect solutions that enable transformational change, and has been active in open source since the movement began more than a decade ago.

Accenture has a track record of helping organizations achieve high performance on significant, mission-critical engagements, harnessing open source to drive innovation and deliver business value. For example, it has rolled out an open source-based training-course management system for a major oil company, and is building and implementing a corporate document management system based on OSS, used by 30,000 employees of a global airline.

Accenture has also teamed with a professional sports association to build an external web site that manages 15 million unique visitors a month. Accenture built the site's functionality, which provides real-time game statistics. How? By spearheading the development of a comprehensive framework for

custom applications based on Spring from SpringSource and Hibernate from Red Hat; using reference architecture blueprints to support web-based applications; and by engaging in iterative and incremental development that supported the association in achieving both revenue, time-to-market and total cost of ownership targets.

Accenture continues to industrialize the delivery of architecture-based solutions to boost quality and speed time to delivery of open source solutions. Accenture implements open source solutions using proven Accenture Delivery Methods, architectures and tools to help ensure quality results. Accenture also leverages its Global Delivery Center Network, which consists of more than 50 locations and 83,000 people.

Accenture's highly skilled technology architects apply deep technology and industry-specific architecture experience to effectively design and deliver solutions that bridge the IT-business gap. For example, Accenture has collaborated

with SpringSource to develop a production version of an open source framework for batch processing, called Spring Batch. The new Spring Batch framework enables large organizations to use OSS to develop customized applications essential to their daily operations for batch processing, reducing development time and costs. The two companies collaborated with an online community of hundreds of developers, and received direct input from numerous clients as well as other members of the Spring community to develop Spring Batch.

The Accenture Innovation Center for Open Source is the next major step in Accenture's efforts to deliver a broad range of capabilities around open source. In coming years, this client resource will support business and government efforts to envision, design and build efficient, cost-effective and innovative solutions that enable, via open source technologies, the achievement of high performance.

Accenture supports the French Revenue Agency on its journey to high performance

Accenture has collaborated with the French Revenue Agency on one of the world's largest implementations of open source. The agency needed new web applications that allow taxpayers to securely (and easily) file taxes online, help its 80,000 agents to do their jobs more effectively and add complementary functions to capabilities for revenue declaration and consultation for simplified fiscal accounts. The solution used a series of open source products, leading to cost savings. In 2007, 7.3 million users declared income online, representing major success for the agency and Accenture, making the project a European reference for tax-declaration applications.

For more information

For more information on how the Accenture Innovation Center for Open Source can help your company achieve high performance, please contact:

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About Accenture

Accenture is a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company. Combining unparalleled experience, comprehensive capabilities across all industries and business functions, and extensive research on the world's most successful companies, Accenture collaborates with clients to help them become high-performance businesses and governments. With more than 186,000 people serving clients in over 120 countries, the company generated net revenues of US\$23.39 billion for the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, 2008. Its home page is www.accenture.com.

