

BE THE REVOLUTION

OpenESX.ORG

A Proposal for VMWare's "Next Big Idea"

Jason Perlow

Senior Technology Editor, Linux Magazine

perlow@linux-mag.com

Quick Info About Me

- **Consulting for the industry since early 1990's.**
- **Strong ties to Open Source community**
- **I Write two monthly columns for Linux Magazine**
- **Been working with VMWare products since 1.0 and wrote first product review of VMWare for Linux Magazine back in 1999.**
- **I'm from Jersey. (Exit 71)**

OpenESX.org

- My idea was to release the core technologies in VMWare ESX server as an Open Source project, with aims of developing a free, public hypervisor “distribution” along the lines of Sun’s OpenSolaris project.
- Supported primarily through the community, to showcase “bleeding edge” and pre-release technologies from VMWare and the Community that could possibly make its way into VMWare ESX Server
- OpenESX.org portal web site with browseable source code, developer forums, knowledgebase/wikis, bugtracker
- Project maintainers and advisory board to be comprised of members from the Open Source and business community (VMware Partners)

Considerations

Why Open Source ESX? Won't it cannibalize ESX Server sales?

- Red Hat, SuSE and Sun Microsystems have created “community” versions of their OSes and so far, **nobody** seems to have made any traction with “stealing” their technology with derivative works. Case in point, Oracle with Unbreakable Linux. Enterprise customers still want stable, commercial solutions and the original product with superior technical support and brain capital to back it up.
- Enterprise customers are interested in the whole VMWare enchilada (VI3) and not just one-off ESX boxes. VirtualCenter, VMotion, HA and other VMWare technologies will not (and should not) be part of OpenESX.
- Hypervisors to become highly commoditized with gradual adoption of Xen and KVM, OpenVZ and Veridian. OpenESX will further solidify VMWare’s hypervisor as “the” standard and keep the community in our court.

Considerations/Talking Points (Cont.)

- Which Open Source license to use? GPL2? GPL3? LGPL? BSD? Apache/Mozilla derivative?
- GPL2 seems to be the one with most industry traction (Linux, Java)
- GPL3 has some interesting possibilities and may be in more alignment with VMWare's business model and IP concerns (a la Sun and Solaris).
- Who is going to administrate this thing?
- How open do we want the development process to be? More like Debian (CVS/revision control is very open, with stable/unstable/testing versions) or more like OpenSUSE or OpenSolaris (queue/submissions tightly moderated) or somewhere in between (Fedora).