

Mousebits: Bart Muijzer's Blog

Anything I come across in my role as a Systems Specialist at Oracle. Your mileage may vary...



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NLOSUG is dead, but new group created - Long Live Solaris !!

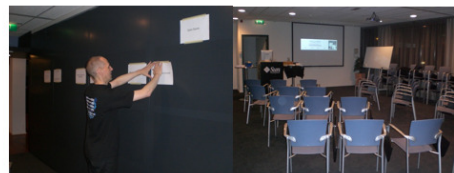
By user9135656 on Dec 07, 2010

November 4th 2010 was a memorable day in the history of my beloved NLOSUG. It was the day on which we planned our final meeting of NLOSUG in the form we operated it. It also was the day on which we gave our "members" the opportunity to decide on if we could start a (more or less official) get-together of Dutch Solaris lovers.

This time, we didn't really prepare for the meeting (other than arranging for snacks and drinks which were graciously donated by Oracle). The reason to not prepare was two-fold: first, we knew our members always liked the "networking" part. Allowing time to talk about Solaris and OpenSolaris, sharing experiences, ideas and trouble has always been one of NLOSUG's strengths. The other reason was that we wanted to use the evening to poll(2) the people on the One True Question that remained after [Oracle discontinued OpenSolaris](#): *Can we somehow continue bringing together Dutch Solaris lovers?*

In good Open and informal tradition, Henk Langeveld proposed to bring these two together by doing an [OpenSpace](#).

So, after a short presentation that I called "Back to the Future" ([slides](#)), in which I looked back on 3+ years NLOSUG activities, thanked the CORE and laid out the choices we have to continue in some form or other, we kicked off the OpenSpace.



Left: Henk Langeveld preparing the OpenSpace. Right: the OpenSpace ☺

Running the OpenSpace turned out to be a huge success. The first thing we did was asking the people to write down any questions they had on a piece of paper and put that on the wall. This resulted in a list of questions that we were to address. Next thing was to ask the people to put a vote on each question that they felt they wanted to discuss. To give an idea, here's a list of the questions and subjects the group came up with, with the number of votes shown between parenthesis:

- Support (1)
- NLUUG (17)
- For developers specific or for "generic" users? (10)
- Java (1)
- OBUG (11)
- What do we expect from NLOSUG? (1)
- OpenOffice (1)
- MySQL (5)
- Do we want to cover OpenSolaris specifically, or Solaris as a whole? (13)
- opensolaris.org (1)

[We had 29 people attending]



Left: Henk explaining OpenSpace. Right: everyone participated!!

And the verdict is:

We will continue to run informal, technically oriented meetings, bringing together Solaris lovers, to Share and Learn about Solaris.

Covering:

- Oracle Solaris and Solaris Express releases
- illumOs, OpenIndiana
- Other Open Solaris-based distributions

The new group - that still needs a name BTW, [suggestions welcome!](#) - will reside under the umbrella of [NLUUG](#): the Nederlandse Unix Users Group. This way, also Oracle employees can actively contribute. The alternative, becoming part of an [official Oracle User Group](#), prohibits Oracle employees from active participation. In Oracle's view, User groups should be completely independent from Oracle, and as such Oracle employees are not allowed to actively participate.

There was however one challenge with the proposed construction. We need to have a way to interact with the creators of Solaris - hence with [Oracle!](#) Because of this, the idea was born to ask NLUUG if they would consider becoming a member of the [Oracle Benelux Users Group](#) (OBUG). This would open up the possibility to have a communications path with Oracle. A great example of out-of-the-box thinking! Discussing this a bit further, the OBUG board representative mentioned that OBUG could facilitate communications with Oracle anyways, even without having some formal membership in place.

And with that, we called it a night (and finished the remaining drinks).

NLOSUG has been a great adventure for me personally. I want to thank ALL of you Solaris lovers, (ex) CORE members, speakers, and attendees for your faith, devotion and enthusiasm for "our" Solaris. With this spirit in the people, I'm sure the successor of NLOSUG will potentially become equally successful.

To be continued! Please keep an eye on this blog for updates.

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Comments:

How about using NLOSUG again ... just a plain case of s/Open/Oracle/.

Posted by [Mads](#) on December 07, 2010 at 08:34 AM CET <#>

Thanks everyone for correcting several typos, Bad English, dangling links etc... I stand corrected. And it's good to know people actually read my blog! :-)

Posted by [Bart Muijzer](#) on December 07, 2010 at 01:31 PM CET <#>

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