

Delivering Free Software To Free Platforms

R L @ Aetey 2012-11-11

Global addressability as the key

The goal

- ➔ We want free software to be used by “the majority”.
- ➔ Most people choose convenience.
- ➔ Free software must be convenient to use.
- ➔ Already tried hard?
There still are unused possibilities!

Basic observations

- ➔ The tcp/ip-net became so ubiquitous. Why? Among others due to its *global addresses*.
- ➔ The web changed the world. Why? The most important reason may be its *global addressing* nature (the urls).

The Unix tradition

- ➔ Each computer has its own “/” and its own varying mounts.
- ➔ Host-specific paths perceived as the natural way of thinking.

Surprise:

➔ DCE/DFS, AFS, Coda:

`/afs/transarc.com/certain/path/same/object`

on every computer in the world!

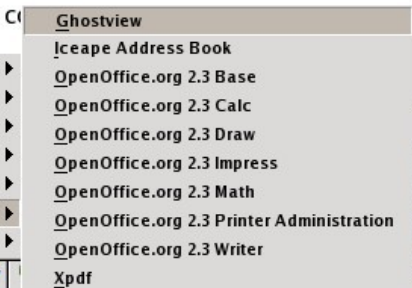
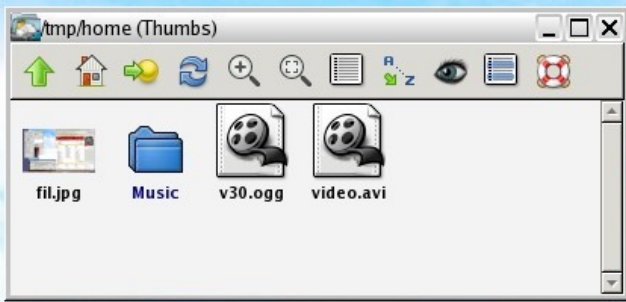
Put software globally

- ➔ `/global/path/gimp <Enter>`
- ➔ This worked before “web-applications” did.
- ➔ At Chalmers University during late 1990s.
- ➔ As an independent project since 2002.

All prerequisites exist

- ➔ Coda (or AFS) file system with strong authentication and consistent caching.
- ➔ Linux/NetBSD kernels support Coda.
- ➔ we are ready to share the implementation with FOSS projects.

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