

Principle-Driven Software

Is Software Customer Always Right?

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Introduction

- An overview
- A Commercial Perspective
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Notepad2

PunBB

Principle

- The original Notepad shipped with Windows is probably the handiest program of all times, small, fast, without frills!
- Notepad2 tries to follow this **principle**, it's a small, fast and free...

“I wanted a package that

- was fast.
- had a simple layout...”

Scope

“I probably **won't be working on them**:

- Tabbed multiple document interface
- Split document view
- ...”

Some features that I have so far chosen **not to implement** are:

- private messaging
- file attachments
- Polls
- linking to off-site avatars
- ...

The Commercial Perspective

- Can we claim that Microsoft's applications are principle-driven, rather than user-satisfaction driven?
- Commercial software, just like any commercial products, are customer-satisfaction-driven. And that's what happening in all commercial Windows-based applications, but not in Windows itself.
- Why?

The Commercial Perspective cont.

- Because Windows is meant to be an infrastructure for these applications, and any functional improvements in this infrastructure can hurt hosted-software's functional role, and thus, their competitive existence in market! So? there's no serious chance for functional integration in Windows.
- And that's why Notepad is still like this!

Windows

Principle-driven software

Works as a **Limited Infrastructure** for software hosted on it.

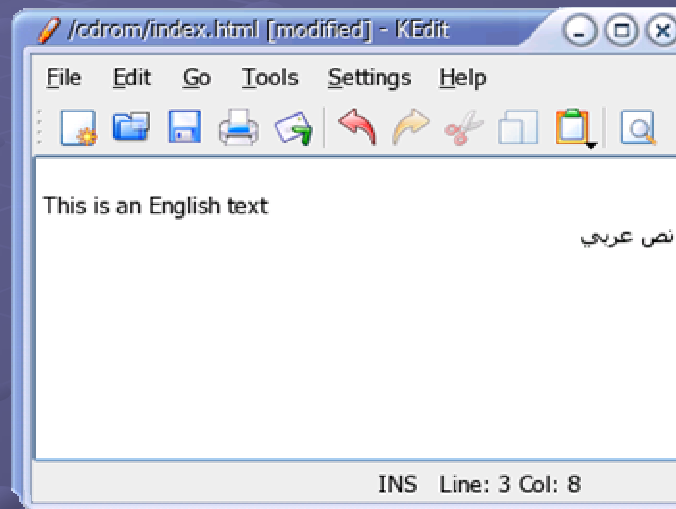
- Microsoft can't add everything in Windows:
 - Windows Media Player & EU
 - Antivirus

The Open Perspective

- A sophisticated software designer can provide far more than what user could imagine. He or she can offer him or her capabilities and functions user wouldn't imagine before.
- It comes from:

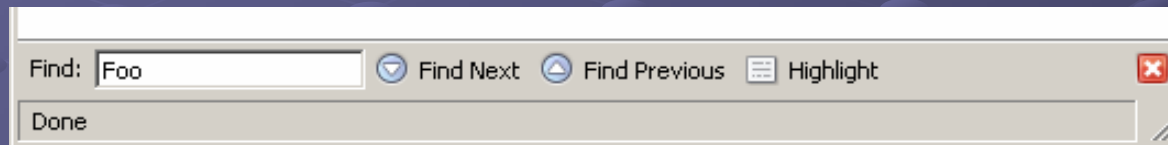
Tacit Requirements

Example-1: BiDi



- As an example, I wouldn't imagine that it could be possible to show a bidirectional text in one plaintext file, so I didn't even ask myself if there's a solution for it or not! But when I saw it for the first time in a real software, which was [GEdit](#), I was very grateful to open source community for their unexpected help and solution!

Example-2: Find toolbar



- Another example was the approach of showing (Find) function in Adobe Acrobat 7.0 and FireFox.

The Open Perspective cont.

- So, unlike commercial software, that are necessarily user's-satisfaction-driven,
- Open source software are principle-driven.

Open Systems

Principle-driven software

- Whatever the principles listed by the software developer, It's, at the end of the day, about:

Realizing The **Functional Scope** of the software as a component has to integrate with other components in an open community

Conclusion

FOSM - Freedom/Objective Software Matrix

| | User-satisfaction-driven | Principle-driven |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Microsoft Windows | - | An infrastructure |
| Windows-based Applications | Function race | - |
| Free/Open Source Software | - | Well identified components |

References

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 - <http://distrowatch.com/table.php?distribution=arabian>

Thanks for Listening!