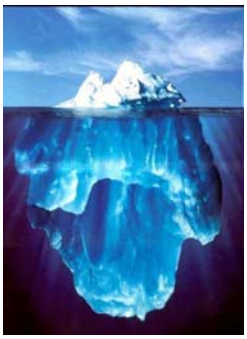
Free is Just the Tip of the Iceberg: Open Source Library System Software



Lori Bowen Ayre
lori.ayre@galecia.com
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Introducing the OSLS

(Open Source Library System)

Two OSLS Products Currently Available

EVERGREEN

- Developed by Georgia Public Library Service for PINES
- Went live in 2007
- Designed for consortia

koha

- Developed by Katipo Communications (New Zealand)
- Went live in 2000
- Designed for a single library

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Koha

Installed Base

- Over 1000 libraries internationally
- first US library came online in 2005 (Nelsonville Public)

Primary market

- Smaller, international, school, special, and public libraries
- Kent County first big public library in U.S.

Two user groups

- KUDOS (U.S.)
- Kohala (France)

Developers

- distributed
- 80 contributors
- elected development team for each release

Evergreen

Installed base:

- 102 libraries (94 publics)
- 8 of those libraries are not part of consortia

Primary market

- U.S. public libraries

User groups

- none

Development

- primarily Equinox Software, Inc.

Size Matters?

- Small libraries may choose Evergreen
  - William Jessup University
  - Bear River Band Tribal Library
  - Moorpark City Library
- Large libraries and consortia may choose Koha
  - Howard County (MD)
  - South Central Library System (Wisconsin)

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Both are FOSS

Open Source Software Licenses

GNU GPL

- grants recipients rights to modify and redistribute the software
- derived works must be available under the same license

BSD

- grants recipients rights to modify and redistribute the software
- derived works must acknowledge the original authors

Released under GNU GPL License

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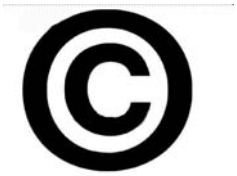
Evergreen and Koha are free to download

…and always will be

Copyleft ensures freedoms are preserved



ILS vs OSLS

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Software Maintenance

OSLS: **No** software maintenance costs, software updates are free to download when you choose

OSLS	
2009	n/a
2010	n/a
2011	n/a
2012	n/a
2013	n/a

Proprietary ILS: Vendors charge annually to keep the software up-to-date

ILS	
2009	$45,000
2010	$47,500
2011	$50,000
2012	$53,000
2013	$55,000

There are no Support *"Options"* with a proprietary ILS

…well, maybe you get to choose between a Gold, Silver and Platinum Support Plan but no choice about who will be your support provider

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Support Options for OSLS

- Equinox Software http://esilibrary.com
- Liblime http://liblime.com
- ByWaters Solutions http://bywatersolutions.com
- PTFS http://ptfs.com

Commercial service providers can provide

- ✓OSLS support
- ✓hosting
- ✓migration assistance
- training
- service level guarantees
- security audits

Support Costs

OSLS support contracts can be negotiated with suitable provider

OSLS Support		
Year	Cost	Provider
2009	9,000	Liblime
2010	11,500	Liblime
2011	9,000	ByWater
2012	9,500	ByWater
2013	5,000	PLS

Proprietary ILS vendors set annual cost of support and it usually goes UP not down

ILS Support		
Year	Cost	Provider
2009	15,000	Vendor
2010	17,500	Vendor
2011	20,000	Vendor
2012	23,000	Vendor
2013	25,000	Vendor

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Consortia Providing Support

- PINES (Georgia)
  http://www.georgialibraries.org/public/pines.php
- SITKA (BC)
  http://sitka.bclibraries.ca/
- Michigan Library Consortium
  http://mlcnet.org/evergreen/
- Northeast Kansas Library System (NEKLS)
  http://nexpresslibrary.org

EVERGREEN INDIANA

Open Source Integrated Library System

- 28 public libraries
- funded by State Library using LSTA grant
- services include:
  - purchasing and maintaining the central servers
  - personnel costs in operating the system
  - training
  - software development
  - data conversion

DIY: Do it Yourself!

- Evergreen
  - William Jessup University (CA)
- "Independent" Koha
  Public Libraries
  - Viborg Public (SD)
  - Hopewell Public (NJ)
  - Castleton Free Library (and others in VT)
- Possibly more….

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Customize is not "development"

Development means….

- Never having to say you're sorry?

- You define requirements
- You select developer
- You define process
- You negotiate a price
- You pay when you have your "deliverable"

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Sweet! My book is ready!

Many development options with an OSLS

Hire one.

Currently…

- Evergreen
  - Develop requirements for everything we could ever imagine
  - Contract with provider to 'start making it so…."
  - Examples: KCLS (Equinox), Middletown Township (PTFS)
- Koha
  - Get Scope Analysis (what we need vs. what is currently available in OSLS)
  - Get quote to fill the gap
  - Example: South Central Library System (Liblime)

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Next Generation Development Scenarios

Share-a-Developer
- Consortia hires a programmer
- Consortia prioritizes and manages development projects

Co-sponsor development
- "We want this"
- "You, too?"
- "Let's share the cost"

zipcar
wheels when you want them

Development vs. Cost Savings

Use money saved in licensing fees to fund big development effort

Build in-house expertise for development initiatives

Coordinate development efforts with other libraries while reducing annual costs

Reduce annual costs dramatically by taking OSLS as it is

Notes from the field….

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Georgia PINES

1. Shared ILS wasn't performing as needed
2. PINES staff believed they could do better
3. Demo'd proof of concept (POC)
4. State Library provided additional funds to take the POC further
5. It worked.
6. Evergreen

Example

William Jessup University

1. Something had to change
2. Looked over options
3. Looked for OS options first….
4. Library Director, IT Staff and other stakeholders agree to take the plunge
5. Went solo (no support) and have been up since 2008.

Example

Salinas Public Library

- Library short on money and staff
- Koha + Liblime provided the alternative they needed
- Some limitations: No acquisitions – no telecirc – no floating collections
- Biggest challenge: staff acceptance
- Customers love it

Example

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Evergreen Indiana

- State Library coordinates effort and pursues LSTA funding
- Equinox helps with migration strategy
- Hussey-Mayfield Public Library agrees to go first
- Soon have a group of 20 pilot libraries that form Executive Committee to develop policies and procedures
- Currently 26 libraries live on Evergreen Indiana (3.5 million circs) – more want in

Example

Santa Cruz Public

- Strong commitment to OS in other areas
- Evaluate options and choose Koha
- Contract with Liblime even though some key ingredients missing
- No funding available for development of "missing ingredients"
- Standing by……

Example

Summary of Benefits

Cheaper

- No license and software maintenance
- No SIP licenses to buy
- Cost savings can be rolled into development and/ or staff development

Other Benefits

- Can "try" before you "buy"
- Can choose your own provider for support, hosting, migration, development
- Can customize your installation
- Can develop new features and modules
- Easier to integrate with 3P products

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I'm interested in an OSLS!

What do I do next?

When you use traditional procurement methods, you get traditional products

Take the Plunge!

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Next OSLS Webinar

July 21, 2009

"Libraries Are Doing it For Themselves"

- Hear about California's "Open Source, Open Libraries Consortium"
- Learn how to get involved in an OSLS project near you….

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