Advanced .NET-based
Content Management System to be open source

Composite, the Danish developing house, bases all its development on the latest Microsoft technologies, and decided that making its product accessible on an open source basis would be an excellent starting point.

With a regular customer base and a well-established business model it was by no means predictable that Composite would open up its source code and start to distribute its Microsoft .NET-based Content Management System C1 as open source from mid 2010 onwards.

Indeed, over the last three years the company has devoted considerable resources to developing the latest C1 generation on the basis of .NET 4.0 and Visual Studio 2010, which Composite was incidentally among the first developers in Denmark to be allowed to work on. The Danish developers proved so adept at applying the latest instruction sets (Task Parallel Library and Parallel LINQ) that even the top Microsoft developers at Redmond were impressed.

"So, no, C1 as open source may not have been the obvious choice. But there are a number of sound reasons for our decision. One of the most important is that we want our product to become more widespread than it is today", says Oskar Lauritzen, a partner in Composite.

MANY MORE USERS AND DEVELOPERS CAN GET INVOLVED
"We concluded that the right thing to do was to make C1 into freely accessible and open source code. Simply because together these two approaches give more users the opportunity to use the product and at the same time they lay the foundations for more comprehensive, user-driven innovation", he adds.

Oskar Lauritzen emphasises that this drive towards open source will not prevent Composite or its partners from running a healthy business.

"I am certain that there will be plenty of work to be done developing, selling or distributing add-ons and modules that will make it even easier to adapt the system to meet specific customer requirements. Our partners are also very enthusiastic about the two approaches, fundamentally because they give them the possibility of expanding their customer bases", he says.

.NET IS A SUPERB PLATFORM FOR OPEN SOURCE SOLUTIONS
Although .NET-based solutions are seldom associated with open source, Composite's co-founder and partner Marcus Wendt thinks that the user-friendliness of the development platform will be a huge plus in the effort to get a wider group of developers and users interested in C1.

".NET has enabled us to develop solutions that are not only technically advanced, and which improve data security and exploit multi-core processors much better than hitherto. The platform has also made it easier to make the solution comprehensible and user-friendly, something that professional developers also insist on today", Marcus Wendt says.

"Developers who take C1 forwards will also reap these benefits. In the final analysis it will help C1 to reach a wider market and promote the overall development effort", he assesses.

MICROSOFT GIVES ITS FULL BACKING TO
THE OPEN SOURCE INITIATIVE

On the other hand Oskar Lauritzen understands anyone surprised at the prospect of an open-source-based initiative like this one from a company that has enjoyed years of close development cooperation with Microsoft.

"Microsoft is perhaps not renowned for its championship of the idea of open source code. However, it has been involved in developing some highly comprehensive open-source initiatives over the years, and it fully supports our change of direction", Oskar Lauritzen says. This is confirmed by Ole Kjeldsen, who is responsible for development and platforms at Microsoft Danmark and who regards Composite as "one of the really interesting development companies to follow right now".

"What Composite is doing is an extremely exciting, quite unique project. First and foremost it makes good sense to open up the source code of a .NET-based product, because there are already plenty of developer resources out there who will be able to carry the solution still further. That alone makes .NET an obvious choice as a developing platform in the open source context", Ole Kjeldsen adds.

"I my view the move can also create the conditions for growth for a really healthy business for Composite and their partner channels. So there is no doubt that Microsoft Danmark thoroughly supports the project and is really looking forward to following it over the next few years". Ole Kjeldsen says.

Similar satisfaction is evident from IT attorney Martin von Haller Grønbæk, who is involved in drawing up Composite's new licenses.

"The open source license model provides Composite with a flexible new licensing tool with which the company can combine a set of user terms and conditions for its customers and its growing developer community. This helps to support the revenue sources where customers see value and where Composite and its partners can make money", Martin von Haller Grønbæk says.

"So it is wrong to regard open source as giving everyone a free lunch. On the contrary: this is a model which can generate business and revenues by openness, flexibility and concentrating on providing value for customers and users", he adds.

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Oskar Lauritzen, partner, Composite

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Director, Platform Evangelism, Microsoft Denmark