

INTRODUCTION TO FOMS, by Silvia Pfeiffer

A sunny welcome to everyone at our first Foundations of Open Media Software Workshop! I'm Silvia Pfeiffer and I will be the FOMS facilitator for the next two days.

Foundations of Open Media Software



We have all gathered here in Sydney for two days of thorough ground work towards the larger goal of moving into the 21st century of media technology where people are not prosecuted for enabling a platform-independent access to content and where people are allowed and enabled to share free content freely.

As part of this, we'll be working towards making Multimedia on Linux competitive - Eric Raymond and Rob Landley in their recent pamphlet called "World Domination 201" described "The Multimedia Perplex" as one of the key issues that hold Linux back from adoption. It's worth a read.



Before digging in, let me give our generous hosts the opportunity to open the workshop and share a few words about their purpose. Let us welcome Dr Glenn Geers from NICTA.

< SPEECH OF DR GEERS >

Thank you very much, Glenn, for sharing NICTA's mission and vision with us.

Let me also take this opportunity to introduce the other sponsors to you, without which we would not have been able to assemble such an expert group of people from around the world.



CSIRO is the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation of Australia, Australia's premier research organization. They are one of the few remaining government research organizations on earth that gather science across disciplines under one hood: everything from Forestry, to Mining, Manufacturing, Transportation, Food Sciences, Astronomy, to Information & Communication Technology. In ICT, NICTA and CSIRO are the main two government-supported research bodies in Australia.

I should also mention that the government-sponsored CSIRO project called CeNTIE (Centre for Networking Technologies for the Information Economy) is sponsoring the Web presence of FOMS through the Annodex Association.



Vquence is a start-up company that a business partner and I have recently created. We are expecting Venture Capital fairly soon, which will enable us to develop online video search and playlist technology – ultimately to be run using open media codecs, though all potential clients are currently after a Flash-based solution.



Linux Australia is the Australian organization that brings together individuals that are interested in Linux and also represents the LUGs of Australia. Each year Linux.Conf.Au is organized through Linux Australia. We have therefore double support for FOMS from Linux Australia: through direct LA sponsorship and in addition through the advantage of the closeness of LCA, through which another set of FOMS participants are being sponsored.



Last but not least let me thank the Annodex Association, where the idea was born and through which important things such as the Website and Accounting have been provided.

Many thanks to our sponsors.

Another big thank you goes to the organizing committee, without which none of this would be happening.

Organising Committee

Shane Stephens
Ralph Giles
Jean-Marc Valin
Jeff Waugh
Thomas Vander Stichele
Conrad Parker
Silvia Pfeiffer

If you have any needs, talk to one of us.

Housekeeping

8:30-9:00 Coffee
10:30-10:45 Morning Tea
12:30-2:00 Lunch
3:00-3:20 Afternoon Tea

5:30 End

Thursday Dinner: Shane Stephens'
Friday Dinner: James Squire Brewhouse

Before explaining the program and through it the process, let me explain the catering situation, since no work can constructively be done if we are plagued by empty stomachs.

Each morning will start with coffee and tea. At 10:30am we will get catering with mini muffins, danishes & friands. Over lunch, we leave the building to relax, get some fresh air and a different perspective. FOMS will not be able to pay for everybody's lunch, but since Kensington is a student town, lunch should be affordable. At 3pm we will again have coffee, tea and biscuits to keep us going.

Tonight we are all invited for dinner at Shane Stephens' place, where we will get to with car pooling and taxis. If anyone has a rental car in which they can take people along, Shane or I will be very happy to provide you with driving directions. We'll be leaving to the Stephens' place at 6pm after the end of the day, so please gather outside then.

Tomorrow night, some of us will be heading over to Darling Harbour to the best brewery in town: the James Squire Brewhouse. We're having the first Annual General Meeting of the Annodex Association since its incorporation. You're very welcome to join – or at least come to the pub with us and kill the time with beer and pool until the meeting is over. BTW: it will be an irc meeting!



***Building a viable future of open
media technology***

I know you're all curious about why we are here and what is going to happen over the next two days, since this is no ordinary workshop.

Digital media technology is at a critical moment in time, where a broader adoption of open media software will enable a better future for all of us. However, open media technology has not seen the same sort of uptake as proprietary technology. So we've come together here to address this and help "unfuck the world"!

We're going to work together at locating gaps in our technologies that stop them from working together as smoothly as expected, and at identifying new software that is required. The aim is to have a list of concrete actions at the end of the workshop which we as a community commit to over the next year and which will make a difference.

The process we're going to follow will be open and everybody will be allowed to say whatever they regard as constructive. We are all specialists in our areas but may not know much outside our own area, so it is vital that we are tolerant and may need to explain the obvious patiently. Please keep an open mind. And also please try to be on time after the breaks so we won't lose valuable time.

Thursday Program

9:00-9:30 Welcome
9:30-12:30 Position Statements
2:00-3:00 Gap Analysis
3:20-5:00 Breakout Groups
5:00-5:30 Breakout Summaries

So, let's look at the technical part of the program.

Today, we will start with a position statement from all projects that are present. Everyone has been asked to prepare a position statement. If you haven't prepared one yet, could you please step forward at the end of these presentations and say a few words about yourself and your involvement with open media technologies.

During the presentations I would like to ask you to take notes of any issues or gaps that you come across and which would be good to discuss during FOMS. These issues can be small or large – anything from “ah, I remember, this bug in ffmpeg2theora – why doesn't it work on files larger than 1GB?” to “how can we get the entertainment industry to support theora playback on DVD players?”. Make up your own – I want at least 2 issues from everybody to be added to our gap analysis this afternoon.

Feel free to use your booklet to take notes – it also contains a copy of the program and the list of attendees.

Also, please consider while you are listening to the position statements what presentations, that could be relevant to the team, you could give. We will have time for presentations tomorrow. They can be of a duration between 10min to 30min, so you should have enough time to prepare them beforehand. We will be voting for them after the end of the Gap Analysis this afternoon.

The Gap Analysis will be a discussion round between all of us, where we contribute perceived gaps to the front list, group them, and build breakout groups.

Then we will split into these smaller breakout group in order to address the issues found during the gap analysis. I'd like to ask you to always turn one person in the breakout group into a scribe, so we can get a brief report on the conversations at the end of the day. The notes may be taken straight into the online workshop wiki.

Friday Program

9:00-10:30 Breakout Groups
10:45-12:30 Selected Presentations
2:00-4:30 Coding Time
4:30-5:30 Breakout Summaries
+ Wrap-up

Tomorrow, we will continue on the breakout groups.
We shall have our elected presentations just before lunch time.
And we have planned in some spare time for coding after lunch.
We'll wrap up FOMS with the creation of the list of action items and
a discussion about whether we should have FOMS again next year
and where it should take place.

Position Statements

And now to the key of today's effort: the position statements.

Can I please ask you to come forward when you recognize your slides.

Enjoy a wonderful Workshop!

I declare FOMS now officially open!