OpenLDAP

*Five years in the making...*

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Pre-history

- University of Michigan LDAP
  - DOB ~1991 w/ DIXIE & DAS
    - LDAP (1992)
    - U-Mich LDAP 3.3 (April 1996)
  - DOD 1996

- Critical Angle LDAPworld patches
Early History

  – Business plan: host e-mail services for businesses
    • POP/IMAP boxes
    • Auto-responders
    • Mailing lists
    • Corporate address books
  – Commercial solutions too expensive
  – Use open source software
    • Apache, FreeBSD, Sendmail, majordomo, and U-Mich LDAP
• *Boolean LDAP* (July 1998)
  – U-Mich 3.3 + critical angle patches + misc. patches + bug fixes
Early Questions

• Are we (net boolean) a software company, a service company, or a email services provider?
• Do we want to become a directory vendor?
• Can we meet our directory needs by ourselves?
• How do build a community to meet our directory needs?
OpenLDAP Founded

• Net Boolean Incorporated sponsors the OpenLDAP Foundation and Project in August 1998
  – “to provide open source LDAP software and information”

• OpenLDAP 1.0 released August 1998
  – *Artistic License*
Initial Project Goal

• Provide “a commercial-grade, fully featured LDAP suite”

• Provide a reasonably capable LDAP suite to meet OUR needs

OUR == the developers

• “open community hence open source”
Initial non-goals

- Compete with directory vendors
- LDAPv3
- Altruism
Events

• DirConnect3 (Nov 1998)
• Net Boolean “messaging” business plan fails, shifts to consultancy (Dec 1998)
• OpenLDAP 1.1 (Dec 1998)
• OpenLDAP 1.2 (Feb 1999)
• OpenLDAP 2.0 alpha (July 1999)
• ISC Sponsors OpenLDAP (1999)
• Kurt attends first IETF (Nov 1999)
• SuSE hires Kurt (Jan 2000)
• Howard Chu joins the “core”
Events (con’t)

- OpenLDAP 2.0 released (Aug)
- LDAPBIS chartered / LDAPEXT shuts down
- SuSE lays Kurt off (Mar 2001)
- OpenLDAP 2.1 alpha (Feb 2001)
- IBM/LTC hires Kurt (May 2001)
- OpenLDAP 2.1 (July 2001)
Powered by OpenLDAP

- OpenLDAP used in Linux Directory Services
- Novell C SDK based on OpenLDAP, contributes Java LDAP
- Apple ships OpenDirectory
- Symas ships CDS
- Numerous ISVs ship OpenLDAP
Did we meet our initial goals?

• Yes
  – Provide a reasonably capable LDAP suite to meet OUR needs

• Maybe
  – Provide “a commercial-grade, fully featured LDAP suite”
Current?

Goals

• Open Community
• Provide a reasonably capable LDAP suite to meet OUR needs
  – *bilities: Flexibility, Reliability, Scalability
  – Standards Conformance
• Directory R&D

Non-Goals

• Compete with directory vendors
• Altruism