Medfloss.org - An Update

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Motivation
What Medical Free/Libre and Open Source Software (FLOSS) is out there?

- No comprehensive repository (database) of FLOSS was available that is also taking the specific aspects of health informatics into account.
  - Comparability is not given as no sufficiently structured information about the projects is available and no unified terminology is used.
  - Relevant projects for a specific purpose cannot be identified or narrowed down in an appropriate amount of time.
- If at all a project homepage offers information about the actual technical and functional features, it most probably lacks further information like number of deployments, reference sites/success stories, professional service providers and scientific publications.
Medfloss.org provides a comprehensive and structured overview of FLOSS projects in the domains of medical informatics and health care. It is an open information portal that aims to foster the exchange of ideas, knowledge and experiences about existing projects and the related ecosystem.

- Projects: 241 (started with originally 120)
- Professional service providers: 82
- Scientific publications: 127
- Further sources: 37

Provided in cooperation with the IMIA OS WG, EFMI LIFSOSS WG, Helmholtz Zentrum München and the University Hospital Heidelberg
Structured Information about the Projects
project tagging within categories

Categories:

- Application Type [26]
  CDMS, EMR, PACS, RIS, ...
- Enterprise Function [92]
  3D Visualization, Billing, Image Archiving, Master Patient Index, Medication Management, ...
- License [20]
- Language [51]
- Platform [8]
- Client type [4]
- Standard [75]
  HL7, DICOM, IHE, HPRIM, ...
- Programming language/toolkit [68]
- Database [13]
Further Information related to the Projects
service providers, publications, events, etc.

Content types that can be interlinked:

- Projects
- Service providers (companies)
- Publications
- Organizations and other resources (web sites, NGOs, . . .)
- Events (conferences, trade shows)
- Reference sites
- Requests (questions, tenders, . . .)
- Linux distributions (Debian Med)
Projects by license (as in February 2011)

- GPL (61%)
- LGPL (15%)
- BSD (11%)
- Apache (6%)
- AGPL (3%)
- Public Domain (3%)
- MPL (3%)
- License not specified (2%)
- EPL (1%)
- MIT (1%)
- Other licenses (4%)

More numbers: http://www.medfloss.org/node/474
Projects in Numbers
Some popular projects

Veterans Affairs VistA (EMR, EHR), www.vistapedia.net

- deployed at 2500 sites, about 30 million patient records within the US [1]
  (including derivatives like ClearHealth, WorldVistA, RPMS EHR, OpenVistA, etc.)

OsiriX (PACS Workstation), www.osirix-viewer.com

- 50 thousands users, 200 official reference sites worldwide [2]

Mirth Connect (Integration), www.mirthcorp.com

- 8 thousands registered users worldwide [3]

OSCAR McMaster (EMR, PMS), www.oscarmcmaster.org

- 353 practitioners in Ontario, CA [4]

Mediboard (KIS, EMR), www.mediboard.org

- 1.1 million patient records within France [5]
It appears that Europe is far beyond North America when it comes to the utilization of FLOSS in a clinical setting (hypothesis). Yet it is unclear if FLOSS is really not that widely accepted and used.

Attitude towards FLOSS of different actors has not been researched yet (beside Hohenwarter 2010).

Health care has quite unique and demanding requirements to software systems in general. Thus typical disadvantages and shortcomings of FLOSS are seen even more critical.

- What about legislation and certification, e.g. the German Medical Devices Act ("Medizinproduktegesetz")? Goal: Clarification and integration of an indicator.
- What about quality and reliability, assuming that the community of many medical projects is not that big?
Thank you!

IMIA OS WG members and people interest in joining the efforts are welcome to send a mail including their real name and favored user name to join@imiaoswg.medfloss.org.

New IMIA OS WG mailing list

- You will be added to the new IMIA OS WG mailing list at http://lists.helmholtz-muenchen.de/mailman/listinfo/imia-os-wg using provided user name and mail address.
- You can post messages via imia-os-wg@lists.helmholtz-muenchen.de.

User account at Medfloss.org

- A user account will be created using provided user name and mail address.
- After log-in it is possible to directly add and edit content and comment.
- Mailing list settings can be changed via your user account.
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