

What it Takes To Be An OpenSource Developer

By Dimitris Andreadis

**Software Engineering Manager
JBoss Application Server
JBoss, by Red Hat**

**JUDCon : 2010
Boston**



About Me

- JBoss AS “*Dinosaur*”
 - JBoss AS User since 2001 (v2.0)
 - JBoss AS Committer, 2003 (v3.2.2)
 - Full time AS Core Developer, 2004 (v4.0)
 - JBoss AS Lead, 2006 (v3.2.8, v4.0.5, 4.2.x, 5.0.x)
 - JBoss AS Team Mgr, 2009 – to date



- ...and before JBoss?
 - 7y experience in distributed systems (telcos)
 - BSc/MSc Computer Science (Athens/Dublin)

Disclaimer



This is NOT a technical presentation!

Disclaimer

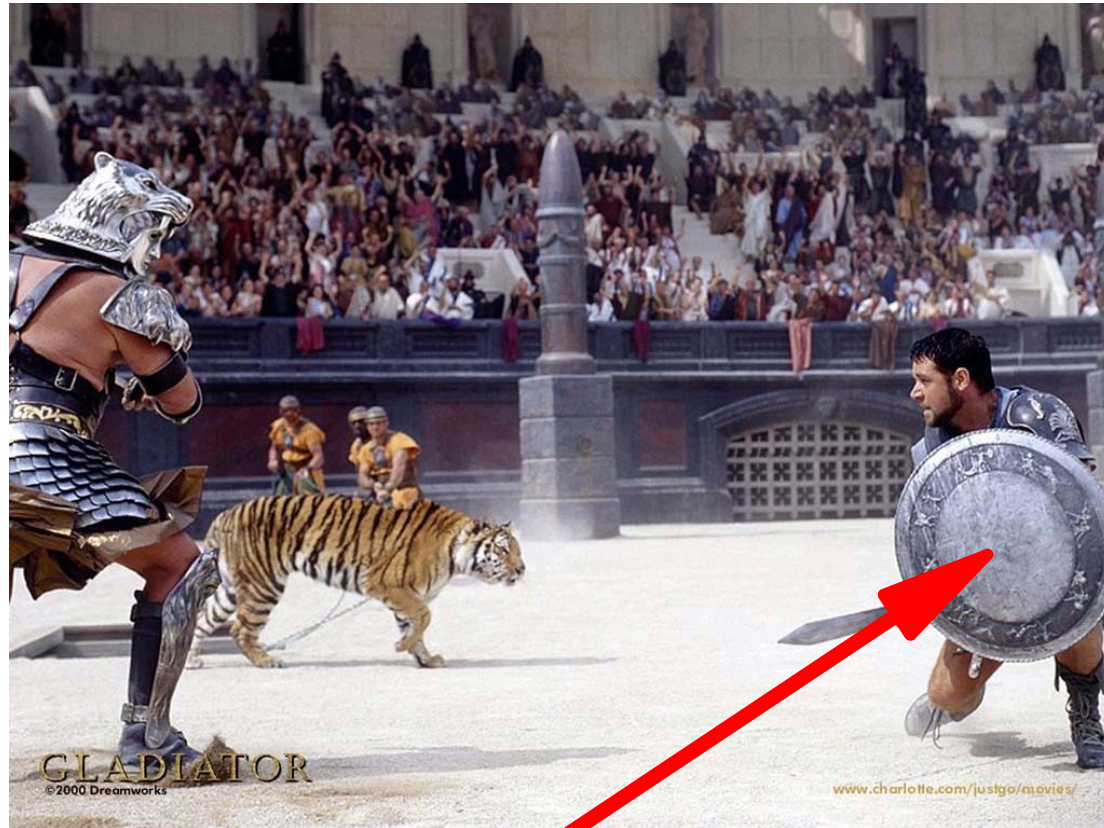


**But it's not Marketing
fluff either!**

Open Source Rock Stars



Question:



**How A Developer Succeeds In
The Open Source Arena?**

How they do it?



How they do it?



Open Source Developer's Secret School



ΕΥΧΕΙΟΣ ΠΡΑΚΤΟΡ
ΕΙΝΑΙ ΣΙΩΠΗΛΟΣ+

Η ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ
ΥΠΕΡΑΝΘ
ΟΛΩΝ

The Basics

OpenSource Developer's Curriculum


- Programming Skills
 - Algorithms
 - Programming Languages
 - Libraries/Frameworks
 - Build tools
 - IDEs
 - Version control
 - Continuous Testing
 - Issue/Bug tracking
 - Profilers/Debuggers
- Communication Skills
 - Etiquette
 - Project web site
 - Mailing lists
 - Forums
 - IRC
 - Wikis
 - Blogs
 - Podcasts
 - Marketing

OpenSource Developer's Plan

- Find an interesting project*
- Become an active member
- Establish yourself in the community
- Climb up the ladder (User, Contributor, Committer, Lead)
- Present the Project at conferences

*or start your own

Where to start?



JBoss Community | Home | Members | Projects | Products | Login | Register | Cool Stuff | Search the Community

Overview | Index | Web Interface | Programming Model | Services | Servers | Management | Cloud | Tools & Testing

REDEFINING ENTERPRISE JAVA ...

[VIEW ALL PROJECTS >>](#)

- WEB INTERFACE**
CONNECT WITH USERS
http://
- PROGRAMMING MODEL**
CHOOSE A TECHNIQUE
- SERVICES**
EXTEND YOUR FUNCTIONALITY
- SERVERS**
SELECT AN ENVIRONMENT
- MANAGEMENT**
STAY IN CONTROL
- TOOLS**
ENHANCE YOUR PRODUCTIVITY
- OTHER**
TRY SOMETHING ELSE

Community Projects

JBoss redefined the application server back in 2002 when it broke apart the monolithic designs of the past with its modular architecture.

Since then we've continued to find new ways to challenge convention and redefine Enterprise Java through community-driven projects. Choose from one of the categories above to see how our technologies can help you develop cutting-edge applications.

Licenses

Our main license, the LGPL, ensures you can safely use community projects to develop and deploy applications whilst keeping your source code private. You may even keep changes made to project source code private as long as you do not distribute the resulting binaries.

Other licenses, such as the Apache License, offer different usage terms. Check with the projects you're using to see which licenses apply.

<http://www.jboss.org/projects>



Is that it?



Open Source ~~Developers~~ Wannabes





Open Source ~~Rock Stars~~ Wannabes



The Secrets

Grand Master of Open Source



OpenSource Developer's Mantra

#1 Passion

Passion – you gotta *love* this stuff

- You are going to spend a lot of time doing it
 - Most probably without pay
- You need to take pride and believe in it
 - How else will others believe in you?
- Success is anything but guaranteed
 - So you may just as well enjoy the journey



#2 Focus

Focus – on the *right* things

- To become an expert
 - Gurus know few things really well
 - Avoid distractions
- To be one step ahead
 - What is the next big thing?
 - What is the state of the art?
 - What are the latest standards?
- Solve real-world problems
 - Where is the added value?
 - What can be extended?
 - What's missing?



#3 Hard Work

Hard Work – want to be a Champion?

- There is no magic bullet
 - You need to work really hard
 - In you spare time, too
- But there are only 24h in a day
 - Make it part of your work
 - Make it part of your studies
- Persistence is the key
 - It's a Marathon, with short sprints
 - Don't give up!



#4 Experience

Experience – develop your skills

- A developer needs 5-8 years of coding experience
 - i.e. Senior level and higher
 - How many 10k LOC projects have you coded?
- Source code is the absolute truth
 - Study other people's code
 - The best training you can get
- Code as much as you can
 - In different languages and environments
 - Using a variety of tools and frameworks



*may the source
be with you*

#5 Initiative

Initiative – take charge!

- Probably the biggest differentiator between closed-source & open-source developers
- Freedom has it's price
 - Nobody will tell you what to do
 - You will need to find out
- Open Source is a culture of doers
 - Just get it done
 - Show me the code



#6 People

People – make all the difference

- Find mentors/bosses/leaders/teams that inspire you
 - Seek to work with the best
 - Prepare to feel intimidated
 - There will always be a bigger Geek than You!
- Communicate effectively
 - English is the Lingua Franca of OpenSource
 - Be tolerant to incoming traffic
 - Be conservative with outgoing traffic



#7 Luck

Luck – *when preparation meets opportunity**

- Expect the unexpected
 - Positive and negative surprises
- But think positive
 - No venture, no gain
- Prepare the field
 - And good things will come
- When things don't work out at all
 - Move on!



**Seneca*

Recap

Recap – OpenSource Developer's Mantra

#1 Passion

#2 Focus

#3 Hard Work

#4 Experience

#5 Initiative

#6 People

#7 Luck

Grand Master of Open Source





Believe in Yourself

The End



dimitris@redhat.com

<http://dandreadis.blogspot.com>