www.arabeyes.org
(support@arabeyes.org)

The First Open Source Project
Container for/by the Arab Community

What is Open Source ?

- Its the ability to dissect source code line-by-line
- Its the ability to inspect/modify building blocks of programs
- Its knowing that millions of people scrutinize the code daily
- Its knowing that bugs/vulnerabilities are addressed immediately
- Its security without "Blind Trust" and/or "Promises"
- Its knowing that your Intellectual Property will be maintained

What is Arabeyes ?

- Evolved to its current final form on July 29, 2001
- Its a beacon for Open Source in the Arab Community
- Brought forth by Arabs to address the lack of Arabic language support in Linux/Unix platforms
- Its a development organization offering the required know-how regarding all aspects of Arabization
- Its a platform for help/support/education regarding Open Source and Linux/Unix
- Its a rallying-point for all those interested in advancing the cause of Arabs and computers
- Its an eternal project setup to continue unlike anything before it

What is Arabeyes' Mandate ?

- Fully furnish and supply Arabic support on Linux/Unix platforms
- Contribute/affect standardization - "determine our own fate"
- Raise awareness about Arabic needs and feature Arabic talent
- Introduce Open Source/Linux to Arab Educational Institutions
- Instill the idea of communal work and a sense of cooperation
- House knowledge-base and experience all Arabs can tap into
- Increase the number of competent Arab programmers
- Enhance and propel technical industry in Arab world

Linux - a brief look...

- The Open Source movement gets created in 1984 - GNU.org
  - To better organize people/efforts and share their work
- Linus Torvalds a student from Finland releases linux in 1991
  - The "kernel" is the heart of the Operating System (OS)
- 1000's of contributors continually refine/add/scrutinize the code
  - New Applications get created/improved complementing the "kernel"
- Linux tauted as,
  - The most reliable Operating System
  - The most secure Operating System
  - The fastest security exploit discoveries, fixes and patches
  - The most cost-effective enterprise/desktop solution
- Linux holds 27% of the server market (Windows - 41%)

Benefits to Arabs...

- Linux assures transparency by having visibility into its code
- Linux guarantees security (millions inspect the code daily)
- Linux enables the development/refinement of source (customization/enhacement)
- Linux will enhance the Arab world's technical abilities
- Linux nurtures a sense of self-reliance (do it yourself attitude)
- Linux is a programmer's ideal experimentation medium
- Linux is a business opportunity (consulting, services, etc)
- Linux is extremely cost effective (Free and legal to copy)

Arabeyes' accomplishments...

- Website/mirrors, mailing-lists, repository - online and functional
- Deployed bug-tracker system; registered own IRC channel
- In excess of 30 'commiter' volunteers/contributors worldwide
- In excess of 50,000 visitors/impressions/hits monthly
- Established communication with ALL Arabic linux/unix entities
- Seven completed and released projects (code and translation)
- Five on-going projects
- Established initial contact with various Arab University programs
- Seeking limited cooperation with select companies
- Roadmap set forth and project charter refined/revisited

What can **you** do to help ?

- Raise awareness
    - Tell your family/friends/colleagues
    - Solicit corporate and governmental involvement/engagement
    - Seek and support local efforts
    - If a local Linux User Group (LUG) doesn't exist, start one
    - Impress upon schools/universities the use of Linux
    - Preach the need for self-reliance and the refusal of "blind-trust"
- Get involved yourself
    - All skill-sets are needed (programmers, artists, tech-writers, etc)
- Consider making a donation to advocate and show your support

Further help/links...

- www.arablug.org

- www.linux4arab.com

- www.arabiclinux.com

- www.linux-egypt.org

- www.linux.org

- www.linuxtoday.com

- We want to hear from YOU on www.arabeyes.org