



Please join us for this special NICTA event in the area of
Open Source Software

Professor Brian Fitzgerald

Lero and University of Limerick, Ireland



Presents

Open Source Software Adoption: Anatomy of Success and Failure

Brian Fitzgerald holds an endowed professorship, the Frederick A Krehbiel II Chair in Innovation in Global Business & Technology, at the University of Limerick, Ireland, where he is also Research Fellow, Science Foundation Ireland Principal Investigator, and Research Leader for Global Software Development at Lero – the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre. His research interests lie primarily in the area of software development, a broad area which encompasses the use of development methods, globally-distributed software development, agile methods and open source software. His publications include 10 books, and more than 100 papers in leading international journals and conferences in both the Information Systems and Software Engineering fields. Having worked in industry prior to taking up an academic position, he has more than 20 years experience in the software field. This experience was gained in a variety of industry sectors (telecoms, manufacturing, financial services, education and software houses) in a number of countries (Ireland, UK, Belgium, Germany). He has also been successful in a number of research funding proposals from the European Commission, Science Foundation Ireland and Enterprise Ireland. Overall, these projects have received funding in excess of €17 million.

Abstract: Current estimates suggest widespread adoption of open source software (OSS) in organizations worldwide. However, the problematic nature of OSS adoption is readily evidenced in the fairly frequent reports of problems, unforeseen hold-ups, and outright abandonment of OSS implementation over time. This seminar reports the case of an Irish public sector organization, who embarked on the adoption of a range of OSS applications over several years, some of which have been successfully deployed and remain in live use within the organisation, whereas others, despite achieving high levels of assimilation over a number of years, have not been ultimately retained in live use in the organization. Using a longitudinal case study, we discuss in depth the deployment process for two OSS applications – the desktop application suite whose deployment was unsuccessful ultimately, and the email application which was successfully deployed. To our knowledge, this is the first such in-depth study into successful and unsuccessful OSS implementation. Given that our study was a longitudinal one in a single organization, we can control a number of potentially important influencing elements which would not be possible if multiple organizations were involved. In particular, the complex interaction of issues to do with voluntariness of adoption, image, trialability and absorptive capacity were critical influences in the process.

DETAILS

Date: Wednesday December 19th 2007
Time: 6:00pm–7:30pm (with refreshments)
Venue: Seminar Room, NICTA
Australian Technology Park (ATP), Bay 15, Eveleigh
Directions: Come to ATP using directions at: <http://www.atp.com.au/findus.cfm>. NICTA is located in Bay 15 of the ATP Locomotive Workshop. Please arrive in front of Bay 15 between 5:50pm and 6:00pm and a volunteer will wait at the entrance and direct you to the Seminar Room.
RSVP: Friday December 14th 2007 to liam.obrien@nicta.com.au or (02) 6267 6276

AGENDA

6:00pm–6:10pm	Welcome and introduction
6:10pm–7:10pm	Open Source Software Adoption: Anatomy of Success and Failure—Professor Brian Fitzgerald
7:10pm–7:30pm	Refreshments and networking