

Open Source Alternative Rapid Application Development

Introduction

As many developers nowadays are used to the proprietary development tools such as Visual Studio and .NET Framework, in this stage we want to present some tools which are very powerful, free and open source and they are in use in a wide range of serious projects such as KDE, Mozilla, Nokia and even Apple for its proprietary iPhone. They are Qt Framework, which KDE is written using Qt framework, Nokia now is using it internally and ported Qt as open source for its S60 platform after acquiring Trolltech and SQLite which Mozilla is using it extensively as their primary database management system for their products Firefox and Thunderbird, Apple is using it also for the same purpose for its proprietary iPhone.

SQLite

Here are some brief information about SQLite and its licensing model.

(taken from www.sqlite.org)

SQLite is a software library that implements a self-contained, serverless, zero-configuration, transactional SQL database engine. SQLite is the most widely deployed SQL database engine in the world.

SQLite is released under the public domain which includes the following statements from its copyright release:

“Because the SQLite software found at <http://www.sqlite.org/> is in the public domain, anyone is free to download the SQLite software from that website, make changes to the software, use, distribute, or sell the modified software, under either the original name or under some new name, without any need to obtain permission, pay royalties, acknowledge the original source of the software, or in any other way compensate, identify, or notify the original authors.”

Qt Framework

Here is a brief information of Qt Framework and its licensing options.

Qt is a cross-platform application and UI framework. Using Qt, you can write applications once and deploy them across desktop, mobile and embedded operating systems without rewriting the source code.

Qt is available in three licensing options which are:

For the presentation on the SFK09 will be a mixture of SQLite with Qt Framework presented under Linux and its port to other operating systems (in our best case Windows) in order to give developers a glimpse on a framework which is licensed under the LGPL license and they can write also proprietary applications using such licensing option.

In the other hand, local developers very often use SQL Server Express edition which is distributed as free software but it contain Microsoft patents, using SQLite as stated in its copyright release, developers can freely use and distribute such software and do almost everything with it and it is very powerful.

Time required for the presentation will take from 30 to 45 minutes depending on the audience, below is a list of the topics which will be covered during the speech (but it may change):

