Software Development Projects
... & more (Handout)

Slide 1
- Current most important IT/SW projects?

Slide 2
- IMO, Wikidata & Parsoid/VE
- Disruptive
- Has been a long time without such kind of innovation
- Who cans afford this?
- Nobody (except WMDE & WMF)

Slide 3
- Few chapters have SW dev projects
- Movement relies too much on WMF
- Take example on WMDE
- Purpose of this pres = push the chapters
- Share my experience over the last decade
- Concrete examples: Kiwix & GWT

Slide 4
- Who I'am?
- Emmanuel Engelhart
- French, Zurich, Switzerland
- WP+Commons contributor
- WMCH & WMFR member
- WMUK IT responsible
- GLAMs & Offline (Kiwix/openZIM)
- Pro. Life (SW dev, service manager, process manager) in small companies & corporates

Slide 5
- Disclaimer
- Own opinions
- Not WMFR, WMCH, WMUK representative

Slide 6
- IT is in the middle of our Movement
- SW innovation is mandatory to implement our vision
- Code is law
- Don't let other do it
- Chapters should be part of this
- Happy to see a few chapters sharing this ambition

Slide 7
- IT projects are risky
  - Big expectations
  - Expensive
  - Abstract

Slide 8
- Two types of IT projects
  - Integration (CiviCRM, ERP, …)
  - Software development (the most risky)

Slide 9
- IT must be an emancipation factor
- Don't make you dependent from
  - A software
  - A company
  - A person
- In that field, short term advantages are often long term nightmares
- Use FOSS to
  - keep control over data
  - protect privacy
  - control software (improvements)

- ○ NOT A GOLD RULE! IN THE WORTH CASE, KEEP USING OPEN FORMAT/PROTOCOLS
- AVOID TO HAVE ONLY ONE SYSADMIN
- RECRUIT SYSADMINS WHO HAVE YOUR SATISFACTION IN FOCUS AND NOT THE IT INFRASTRUCTURE
- DON'T BELIEVE VENDORS SELLING "OUT-OF-THE-BOX" SOLUTIONS, BE PREPARED TO PAY X3 THE PRODUCT PRICE FOR INTEGRATION WORK
- NEVER CHOOSE AN EXTERNAL SOLUTION WITHOUT TESTING THE CANDIDATES

SLIDE 10
- SOFTWARE PROJECTS
- OK, BUT WE DON'T HAVE MONEY
- YES, BUT:
  - ○ VOLUNTEERS (KIWIX)
  - ○ PARTNERS (GWT)
- CHAPTERS HAVE REAL OPPORTUNITIES
- CHALLENGING

SLIDES 11 TO 20
- PRESENTATION OF KIWIX PORTFOLIO
- CURRENT STATUS
  - ○ BASE FOR THE WMFR AFRIPEDIA PROJECT
  - ○ WMCH OFFLINE DISSEMINATION PROGRAM
  - ○ MANY DIFFERENT PARTNERS, INTERN/EXTERN WIKIMEDIA
  - ○ NEXT STEPS
    - ▪ FIND BIGGER PARTNERS TO SPREAD
    - ▪ FIND EXTERNAL FINANCING

SLIDE 21
- KIWIX LEARNINGS
- POSSIBLE TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEER DRIVEN SW PROJECT
- PRETTY HARD WITHOUT SUPPORT
- BE PREPARED TO HAVE A LOT OF FAILING PROJECTS
  - ○ NORMAL: PRETTY DIFFICULT TO KNOW AT THE BEGINNING WHICH ONE WILL SUCCEED
- DON'T ASK TOO MUCH ADM WORK ART THE BEGINNING, A MINIMAL PROJECT

description page is enough
- Volunteers work for fun, nothing will happen with too much ADM
- Believe in Darwinism
- Don't brake, nothing too loose. Most of the time, volunteers only need little support
- Don't forget that people grow with their project
- You can provide
  - Symbolic support
  - Hosting/Housing
  - Put people in touch (on international level)
  - Project management (after the start)
  - Pay for travel (to hackathon) or small expenses
- Be flexible with the agenda

Slide 22
- What do chapters at least need?
  - Project pipeline
  - Intern IT competences

Slides 23-24
- GLAM Wiki Toolset (GWT)
- 4 financing chapters
- Steering group
- Project mgmt & dev @Europeana
- Make it easy for GLAMs to deal with Commons
  - Mass upload
  - Audience measurement
  - Medata loopback
- Started ~2 years ago
- First release ready @Commons

Slide 25
- Project was late
- Only mass upload feature coded
- Massive integration issues (with WMF)

Slide 26
- Learning of such kind of project
- Third partners ignore a lot about how we work
- Steering group is not enough to compensate
- Integration should be considered from the beginning
- Further financing/Maintenance???
- Still believe in this type of partnership
- Still positive project

Slide 27
- Don't be too ambitious in your IT projects
- Money matters, but success depends on people
- WMF does a lot
- Provider/customer dependency relationship
- WMF has its own agenda
- Make your own project if you want to do things
- Start to gather your IT knowledge in a tech committee (like WMUK or WMCH)
- Few chapters are IMO mature enough to start to make "big" things
- Movement should encourage this move and allow the resources to enable it