



Leading Open Source Middleware

[HTTP://WWW.OW2.ORG/](http://www.ow2.org/)

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW – APRIL 2008

Since its inception in January 2002, ObjectWeb a joint project between INRIA, Bull and France Telecom, has grown into a mature open source community spanning three continents. OrientWare, was launched two years later by Peking University, Beijing University of Aeronautics & Astronautics, National University of Defense Technology (NUDT), CVIC Software Engineering Co., Ltd. (CVIC SE) and Institute of Software, Chinese Academy of Sciences (ISCAS).

In September 2005, ObjectWeb and OrientWare signed an agreement by which they committed to share their code base and jointly develop open source middleware software.

In the same way as biological ecosystems, the ObjectWeb and OrientWare communities have developed over time. They are now ready to support a full fledged independent open source organization: the OW2 Consortium.

The initial thrust of the co-founders who dedicated time, expertise and financial resources to the project quickly gained the support of open source activists from around the world. A continuous cycle of contribution and expanding benefits has resulted in a rich business ecosystem of over 100 projects backed by more than 5,000 enthusiastic supporters. The OW2 business ecosystem did not happen overnight; much still remains to be done to take it to the next level.

At OW2, we are committed to make available to everyone the best and most reliable middleware technology. To support this goal, we are building a brand new organization. Read this document for an executive overview of the new consortium.

April 2008.

Market trends call for open source infrastructure software

As corporations and public administrations open up applications to remote employees, partners, suppliers, customers and citizens, and as distributed platforms interconnect a growing number of organizations, middleware becomes a critical execution environment. Modern computing systems are increasingly complex and middleware has become a strategic infrastructure component of modern societies.

Because the value of infrastructure software increases with usage (also known as “network effects”), product differentiation in this market tends to be less relevant, thus making a large single source more desirable than many smaller sources. The rise of open source software is consistent with these trends, as is the emergence of a concentrated supply of open source middleware software. The new organization OW2 leverages these trends.

Building the open source middleware business ecosystem

In this context, **OW2 mission is to develop open source code middleware and to foster a vibrant community and business ecosystem.**

OW2 is committed to growing a community of open source code developers. The organization is dedicated to the creation of new technology: original code development is one of its fundamental characteristics. As the organization becomes part of the open source marketplace, it also stresses the quality and market usability of its software. It fosters a common technical architecture to be shared by its members and to facilitate the implementation of its technology by systems integrators and end-users.

The OW2 projects aim at facilitating the development, deployment and management of distributed applications with a focus on open source middleware and related development and management tools. In the open source software value chain, OW2 is positioned as **an industry platform facilitating interaction between open source code Producers and open source code Consumers.**

Why join OW2?

OW2 is the only non-profit open source organization gathering renown industry leaders, innovative SMEs, academics and individuals, focused entirely on promoting open source middleware software environments.

As a market-aware organization, OW2 coordinates technology projects and facilitates their implementation by systems integrators and end-users through usage-oriented integration frameworks and platforms provided by market-driven initiatives.

A typical global open source organization, OW2 aims at fostering grassroots communities across all continents through geographically-rooted organizations.

OW2 brings a number of unique benefits to software developers, systems integrators and end-users.

OW2 for software developers and systems integrators

For companies in the IT sector, whether their strategy is full open source or not, OW2 is a catalyst for growth:

- *Time-to-Market:* OW2 helps reduce development time by fostering R&D sharing between members, free bug fixing by the community and by providing a pool of free components to build new solutions or enhance existing software.
- *Business Opportunities:* The OW2 ecosystem allows members to develop their market by providing them access to a network of potential customers and to a pool of expertise in all geographies and verticals.
- *Technical Guidance:* The common architectural vision developed by OW2 helps developers make the right decisions and provides them with a common integration framework for the interoperability of members' technologies and their partners' offerings.

OW2 for end-users

OW2 provides end-users with both a comprehensive pool of reliable open source software and a business ecosystem which helps them implement their open source strategies by significantly reducing their risks:

- *Reduced Technology Risk:* OW2 offers end-users the technology quality of open-source development and debugging process.
- *Reduced Legal Risk:* OW2 offers end-users legal guidance and an environment for code which can be freely re-used, adapted and distributed.
- *Reduced Market Risk:* OW2 guarantees end-users investment protection as projects are endorsed by a strong market follow-up.

How to get in on the action?

OW2 is open to all kinds of organizations and corporations, large and small, for-profit and not-for-profit, and individual members. The research community (whether academia or industry) is particularly welcome to OW2.

The OW2 membership and fee structure makes the consortium open to companies of all sizes, whether large diversified companies or start-ups representative of the grassroots open source communities.

Technology-driven Projects and Market-driven Initiatives

At OW2, everything starts with a **Project**. However, we are conscious of the market requirement for easier component integration, this is why we have introduced **Initiatives**. In a nutshell, Projects are technology driven whereas Initiatives are market driven.

Building on the legacy of ObjectWeb and OrientWare, OW2 is fully committed to managing **open source projects**. OW2 provides a "home" as well as a showcase to open source software projects. Each project evolves through a well documented project life cycle. OW2

already hosts more than 100 projects such as Lombos, Sync4j, SpagoBI, eXo Platform, JOnAS, Orbeon Forms, XWiki, Enhydra and PETALS.

Market-focused OW2 Initiatives combine several projects to facilitate their implementations into business solutions by systems integrators, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and end users. Three initiatives are currently under way: Enterprise Service Bus/SOA, Business Intelligence and e-Government. Several other initiatives are in the works including an Initiative for the Telecommunication sector.

Besides Projects and Initiatives, OW2 is working towards launching **Local Chapters** in China and Brazil to help reach communities and develop relationship with academia in territories characterized by language or a geography.

Fostering marketable open source middleware

OW2 day-to-day operations are carried out by the **Management Office**, a permanent team of professional executives appointed to implement/execute the strategy decided by the **Board of Directors**. The team handles matters regarding general affairs, technology management and ecosystem development.

The Management Office and the Board of Directors are assisted by three Councils: the Ecosystem Development Council, the Technology Council and the Operations Council. The **Ecosystem Council** is responsible for making sure the consortium activities are aligned with market trends. The **Technology Council** is responsible for building the overall technical architecture, for providing technology validation, and for monitoring production and overall project consistency. The **Operations Council** is responsible for supervising finance and book-keeping, and for providing legal guidance and expertise. Councils staff and leadership are provided by Members.

OW2's **Quarterly Meetings** are important events in the life of the organization. These meetings are open to the community at large: they serve as a regular open forum to share the organization's research and development activities with users and potential new members. Quarterly meetings also include the meeting of the Board of Directors and the Councils' meetings, Quarterly meetings are key in the organization's communication strategy: marketing and communication efforts are timed to leverage events and enhance their visibility.

Members will be able to participate in, and contribute to ecosystem growth programs such as **OW2Juris** to help lawyers understand open-source, **OW2atWork** to grow the use and re-use of OW2 code, **OW2Original** to build awareness around OW2 Projects, and **OW2Academy** to grow the population of OW2 code experts.

Members guarantee OW2 Consortium's independence

Overall, the OW2 community already involves some 100 corporations and 6,000 IT professionals worldwide, and participates in projects in the framework of international and national research programs such as FP6 and FP7 in Europe and Program 863 in China. The community contributes direct resources (annual membership fees) and indirect resources such as full-time personnel to support the organization's objectives. Through their dues, members pay to set-up and maintain an independent organization and to provide it with the resources to allow it to implement its own strategy:

- *Strategic Members:* Strategic Members are legal entities who stand out to provide significant resources to support the Consortium's objectives and wish to play an active role both in setting the direction of the Consortium's code development activities and facilitating the use and acceptance of the Consortium's technology. Strategic Members commit to remain members for a minimum of three (3) consecutive years.
- *Corporate Members:* Corporate Members are legal entities that wish to contribute to the code development activities of the Consortium and to participate in the planning and management of the Consortium's technology development.
- *Individual Members:* Individual Members include individuals such as free-lancers, students and technology enthusiasts who want to contribute to the code development activities of the Consortium.

OW2 has also defined an *Associate Organization* status: Associate Organizations are entities, such as standards organizations, open source organizations, publishing organizations and other organization types that wish to support the aims and objectives of the Consortium.

In return for their commitment, members are given rights in the governance of the organization and the definition of its strategy. The OW2 governance model is designed to comply with the key original founding principles inherited from ObjectWeb: Openness, Fairness, Trust, Transparency, and Independence.

Growth in collected fees through an increase in membership allows the organization to implement its strategy, to sponsor technology research projects and to launch ecosystem growth initiatives.

The budget model of the organization is meant to be aligned with available membership fees. Some members, including Bull, CVIC-SE, Engineering, France Telecom, INRIA, and Thales and are already providing in-kind resources to help run the organization.

Time for Action!

The year 2007 has been critical in setting up the OW2 operations; 2008 is the year the Consortium is undertaking its growth efforts. This is a year-long endeavor. We have it pretty much under control with a good visibility on what has to be accomplished. However, there are a number of areas where we could do with some help.

For a detailed presentation of OW2 and a discussion on how you can benefit and be involved, please contact:

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