

A proposal for OSS metrics evaluation through KPI

Mauro Madravio - SESAR lab.
Department of Information Technology
University of Milan



SESAR Lab

- *SESAR* is a research lab of the IT Department of the University of Milan.
- It mainly focus on Software Engineering and Knowledge Management; It is leaded by prof. Ernesto Damiani and about 15 people work in it; most of them are university researchers.
- The *SESAR* lab will obtain the University of Milan permission to be member of the OW2 today.

SESAR Partners

- Industrial partners
 - Nokia Siemens Network
 - Cisco US
 - British Telecom
 - Engineering
 - Borland
- Academic partners
 - Many Italian universities



Introduction

- The goal is to evaluate software developed by third parties and we need to know if the software deserve to be adopted, i.e., if it satisfies our needs (different organizations have different needs).
- There are some works (such as Business Readiness Rating - BRR) that identify a number of metrics in order to evaluate OS projects.



SWOSS

- The SWOSS project has been developed in collaboration with Nokia Siemens Network and it's composed by a core that calculates metrics and a number of plug-in (web crawlers) that search in specific sites (such as Sourceforge) for projects KPI to calculate BRR metrics.
- It works as a search engine and return a rated list of application that satisfy the user keywords.

BRR

- BRR considers many aspects:
 - Usability
 - Security
 - Software and Design Quality
 - Scalability
 - Architecture
 - Support
 - Documentation
 - More...
- The limit of BRR is that is expressed in a human language and it's not easy to translate in an automatic algorithm.



SWOSS

- Only few BRR metrics can be computed because most of them are “qualitative”.
 - For instance, how much a software is secure?
Or simply if its installation is easy.
- Actually SWOSS only computes metrics on *Quality, Support and Community*.



SWOSS

- Next step (already under development) is to ask to users for additional data (feedbacks) using guided GUI in order to reduce the *fuzzyness* of the answers.



Proposal

- Put more data (public or private) on OW2 projects.
- Provide a standard feedback page to users.
- Gather data, for instance, with Spago4Q and process them with a SWOSS-like application can produce an analytic evaluation helpful to evaluate the overall project (transition from incubator to mature?) and adding value to it.

- Don't shoot me now !
- Just think about it and send your comments and suggestions to madravio@dti.unimi.it
- Thank you!

