FreeBSD

OpenGroupware.org

The ideal solution for professional team communication on the Internet, with FreeBSD and PostgreSQL

FreeBSD As Basis For OpenGroupware.org

FreeBSD can currently look back on a history of over 30 years. It originated at the University of Berkeley and evolved over a few intermediate steps into the project founded in 1993 called FreeBSD. The supported architectures are the following: i386, amd64, Alpha, Itanium, SPARC, PPC (Mac) and others.

FreeBSD has very good support for multiprocessor systems (SMP) and is distributed under the BSD license which grants the user nearly every freedom and is free of cost. Apart from having to name the origins of the code, the user may use it in any which way he or she pleases. FreeBSD is a gift to humanity, we are pleased when you use it!

FreeBSD has not only got many features, it also has a huge amount of free and open software in its so-called Ports Collection. It has over 15'000 software packages at the moment, among them PostgreSQL and OpenGroupware. These applications may be easily installed and updated. FreeBSD is considered by professionals to be rock-solid, a system remaining usable even under very high load. FreeBSD has stable kernel interfaces within major releases and can be configured to remain compatible to previous versions. PostgreSQL built for FreeBSD 4.6 will also run on FreeBDS 6.1. That is a major benefit for companies.

Your data is important, all business processes are ultimately affected by your data. FreeBSD gives you many means to protect your data, from firewalls up to completely encrypted file systems. The well thought-out system of Securelevels and file system security flags will make your data safer, not just give you a feeling of safety. In combination with Jails (equivalent to the concept Sun borrowed for Solaris 10's Zones) FreeBSD system administrators can really be on the safe side, please also see the flyer FreeBSD-Security.

As a demonstration we prepared an amd64-server with Apache, OpenGroupware and PostgreSQL, each application in its own Jail and the whole setup on a software-RAID10 setup. With such a solution SMBs have the means to realize cost-effective and secure groupware solutions for hundreds of employees that also work in heterogenous environments.

FreeBSD: The Power To Serve

PostgreSQL As Database

PostgreSQL, like BSD, originated at the University of California and is also distributed under the BSD license. It's one of the oldest and most advanced object-relational database management systems (ORDBMS) in the realm of free software and looks back on a development of over 15 years. PostgreSQL is largely conforming to the SQL92/SQL99 standards, that means that all functions in the standards are available and behave as defined; that is not always the case with some commercial and non-commercial SQL database systems.

PostgreSQL is held in high esteem for its stability and it runs on a large number of platforms, among them all the BSDs, Linux, AIX, HP-UX, IRIX, Mac OS X, Solaris and Windows. APIs are available for C/C++, Java, Perl, Python, Ruby, Tcl, ODBC etc. and it's very well documented too.

In this demonstration we will use PostgreSQL to store all the data. With very large datasets you may of course use a separate machine. Here we installed the PostgreSQL in a Jail for enhanced security.

Further Information

OpenGroupware.org:

http://www.SKYRIX.de/

http://www.OpenGroupware.org/

FreeBSD:

http://www.FreeBSD.org/

http://www.FreeBSD.org/doc/en_EN.ISO8859-1/books/handbook/index.html

http://www.BSDForums.org/

PostgreSQL:

http://www.PostgreSQL.org/

http://www.pg-forum.de/forums.html

What is a groupware solution?

Groupware (also collaborative software) is the name for all software which supports collaboration in a group over distance in time an space. An example of a groupware-application is a Personal Information Manager (PIM). The size of such programs varies. Most of them contain some kind of project management, email, calendar and notice functions. Other solutions contain vastly more than just these basics.

Known products in the groupware-class of software are exchange4linux, Lotus Notes, Groupwise, Citadel, **OpenGroupware.org**, Open-XChange, Kolab, Adarvo, Themeware, Microsoft Exchange, Blue.Dot, BSCW, TUTOS, PHPProjekt, more.groupware, eGroupware, phpGroupWare and SimpleGroupware.

In 2003 on the LinuxTag the company SKYRIX, following OpenOffice.org's example, released the product of the same name called **OpenGroupware.org**

OpenGroupware.org

OpenGroupware is the high-performance and free management software for team-oriented work processes on the Intranet and Internet. Especially suited to for businesses, public institutions, distributed teams and all who require access to important information independent of place and time.

Management of appointments and resources like company cars, conference rooms and presentation means becomes easy and clear for all team members. The ingenious contact management supports all involved when planning their daily tasks.

Project managers maintain oversight at all times and processes are and remain transparent. External project partners, customers and suppliers can access all relevant project data at any time from anywhere due to the consequently implemented browser technology.

OpenGroupware-Moduls

Addressbook:

Storing and organizing thousands of personnel and company data, contacts, phone and fax numbers and email addresses. Fast access to with extensive search capabilities by categories or freely usable attributes. The possibility to export contacts in serial mail and csv.
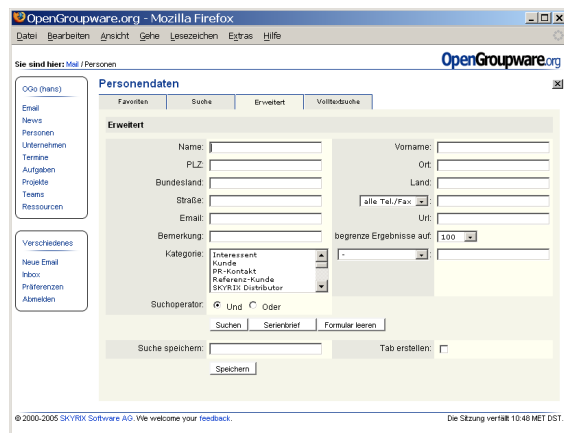

Calender:

Simple organization of meetings and appointments, creation of notices, reminders with alarm functionality to stay current at all times. Multiple clearly laid-out views – also to print and take with you. With the built-in appointment-checker looking for free time slots becomes easy. With multiple appointment types you can also plan your holidays. Synchronization with Palm PDAs is possible.
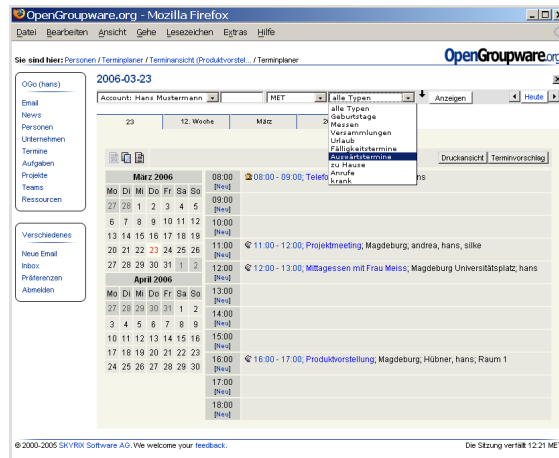

Task Management:

Tasks are organized by project or group. Clearly laid-out lists can be sorted with a mouse-click by priority, due time, progress etc. - so the clearness even in large projects remains intact – also on the Extranet.
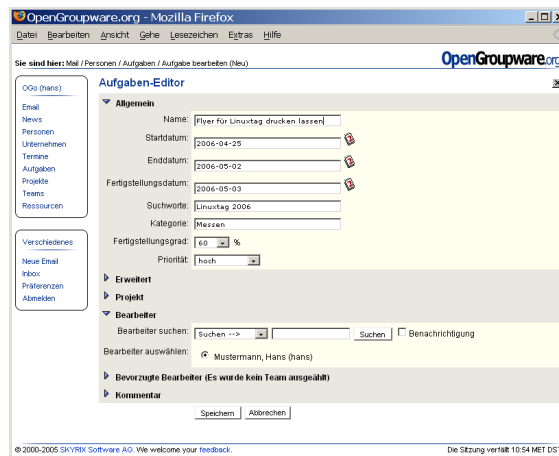
Webmail Client:

The integrated mail-client offers a comfortable environment to read, write and send mail. Filtering, searching and sorting mail in folders is integrated. The address book is available system-wide thus no more lengthy searching for mail addresses is necessary anymore – just enter the name and you're done.
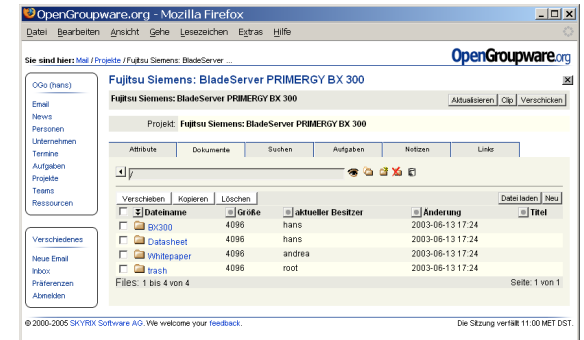
Optional: Using Outlook As Mailclient:

With the SKYRIX ZideStore™ server users can also use Microsoft Outlook as Groupware client beside OGO HTML interface. There is no error-prone synchronization of data between the groupware server and Outlook, instead Outlook directly accesses the 'live' data of the groupware database. The solution consists of a 'MAPI Storage Provider' plugin for Outlook and an additional server module for OpenGroupware.org.