OPENMRS - THREE THEMES AT THE KNIFE`S EDGE

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GOALS

- Share some thoughts on the past year as they relate to three areas of growth in the community

- Inject some forward thinking on these same topics

- To never again use a prerelease piece of presentation software... curse you Prezi! :(

1. EVOLUTIONS IN SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE

EARLY DAYS

- Initial motivation behind what`s now OpenMRS: to develop a medical record system ultimately meant to be used by a few

- What emerged: groundswell of community support / interest

- Ultimately, a desire by many to reuse what we had done

CHALLENGES TO REUSE

- Most all healthcare environments have fundamentally different:
    - physical environments
    - cultural norms
    - motivations
- Therefore, it`s fundamentally impossible to meet those myriad needs with a `one-size-fits-all` consolidated application approach

EVOLUTION IN OPENMRS

- Over the years, we have evolved away from the `single integrated application` model... and split the work into two functional groups:

  - Core embeddable component(s) (the core)
  - Reference medical record system application (the application)

- How has that vision manifest this past year?

WHAT`S HAPPENED

- Deliberate roles for each `team`

  - Ben Wolfe (Director of Core Platform Development)

  - Darius Jazayeri (Director of Application Development)

- Refactoring of core API

- Will be hearing more about the user interface design from Darius this week

- Deeper out of the box web services support in 1.9 release

I suspect deeper evolutionary steps to come...

Greater team autonomy over next year likely very healthy for OpenMRS...

EVOLVING CORE

- Team needs to focus on making component(s) more valuable on their own merit

  - Easier to consume API

  - More deeply documented

  - Completely wrapped in services out-of-the-box

  - Demonstrated use as an embeddable within different programming paradigms (ie, PHP or ROR)

  - Standalone distribution available perhaps in Linux packaging systems?

  - All OpenMRS communication needs to help people understand this new nuance

EVOLVING APPLICATION

- Going to be increased amounts of pressure on OpenMRS to make it easier for people to innovate / develop on the application layer, given the high variability of what people are looking for

- The software development big boys have really embraced the polyglot (multi-lingual) programming paradigm

- Groovy/Grails, Rails on JRuby, Jaskell, and Scala are likely just the beginning of separating language from the JVM

BIRTH OF DISTRIBUTIONS?

- I believe that what we`ve been referring to as OpenMRS 2.0 (the long awaited UI refresh) will ultimately be the first example of a growing number of <u>OpenMRS Distributions</u>...

- <u>Distribution</u> = core embeddable + some application stack du jour

- Number of things pushing us this direction:
  - Country-level functional specification process
  - Deep amount of innovation on top of JVM
  - Ability to share ownership in the growth of community

2. THE OPENMRS `ORGANIZATION`

I thought OpenMRS was all about the community?

Is OpenMRS going corporate?

HISTORICAL REMINDER

- Most all of OpenMRS` early years were driven by volunteerism and good will
  - We started off with a single developer -> now we`re getting ~50 contributors / release
  - Seebregts willed an implementer`s community into existence
  - The online presence was completely a spare time effort...

LOST OPPORTUNITIES?

- Routinely lost available volunteer cycles -> we hadn`t been able to describe the work in enough detail for people to work independently

- Groups have approached us to co-mingle our senior team members with theirs to help form centers of excellence, no formalism behind this...

- Website had decayed, to put it mildly... didn`t reflect the growing community

- These sorts of tasks are not `free` and should be sustainable

Creating an organization allows us to build formalisms to fix these problems in a financially sustainable way...

The goal of the OpenMRS non-profit is to <u>support and grow the community</u>, not replace it!

REALITIES

- Growing number of organizations need OpenMRS to have more sophisticated capacities to:

  - endorse and validate

  - train and mentor

  - give consultation

  - build online presence in support of the above

- Number of philanthropies nudged us in this direction, process was kicked off about 18 months ago by the Boston Consulting Group

WHERE ARE WE AT?

- Brought on Dawn Smith to manage the non-profit

- Completed a formal mission, vision, and values development process

- Establishing the organization by-laws

- Selecting an oversight board (NPO requirement)

  - Will represent interests in global health, medical informatics, the implementer`s community, large scale open source projects, and philanthropy

  - We would welcome any and all suggestions

- About to file the 501(c)3 paperwork

Happy side effect of the process: it locks our ethos in a formal way, helped us make plain what we`re all about

MISSION STATEMENT

- ``The mission of OpenMRS is to improve health care delivery in resource-constrained environments by coordinating a global community that creates a robust, scalable, user-driven open-source medical record system platform.``

Full mission statement at:
http://www.openmrs.org/about/mission

MY PROGNOSTICATIONS

- Will likely be more like Apache vs. a Mozilla or an Eclipse...

- Most developers and team members will be seconded from other organizations

- Cash flow will likely be relatively small through OpenMRS org (100-500k USD / year)

- The organization will provide training and consultative activities... 100% of the proceeds will go back into the organization for meetings, strategic staff positions, and online presence
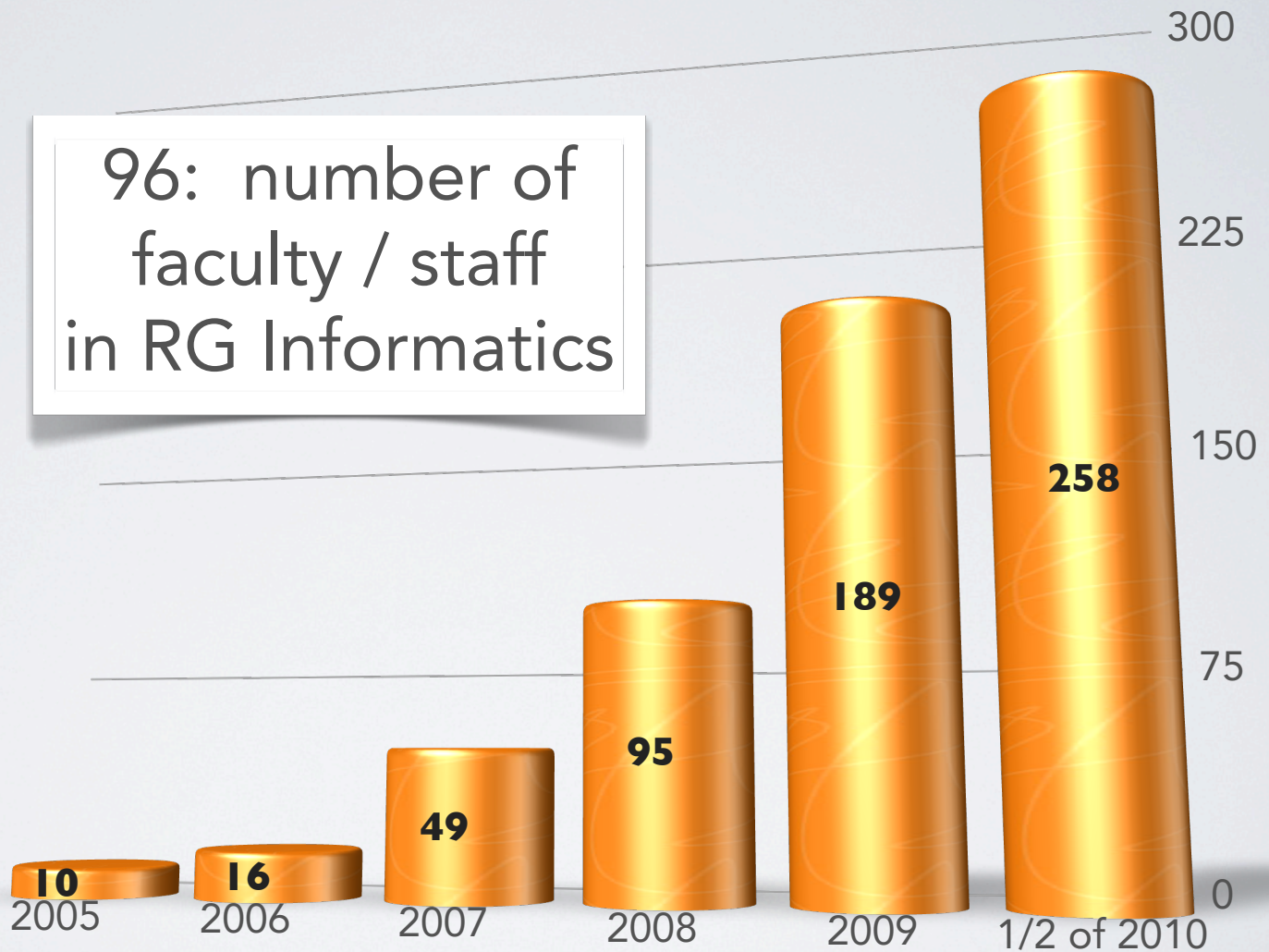
3. MORE EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2009 OpenMRS Implementer`s Meeting
Cape Town, South Africa

Total Implementer`s List Active Subscribers (by Year)

Other Community Statistics

- OpenMRS Mailing List Posts: 10,346

- OpenMRS Wiki (as of 5/18/2010):
  - Total # of accounts: 2,021
  - Total # of Wiki Pages: 3,576
  - Total # of Page Edits: 17,260
  - Total # of Page Views: 3,215,466

- OpenMRS Web Forum: 549 users
  - Total Forum Posts: 1,947

THINGS WE`VE DONE

- Established Michael Downey as steward of our online presence
  - Massive overhaul of all of our online presence
  - Revamp of our community content
  - Moving us into social media tools
- Established more well defined roles and responsibilities amongst senior team
- Brought on two new full time developers

WHERE TO IMPROVE

- How many of you feel like OpenMRS is yours?

- What can we do to grow leadership in the organization?

- Can we seriously take volunteer contributions in the hundreds?

- How much new stuff did you learn just now?

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THANKS!