

Open Source: A case for developing countries

The Net World Order: Bridging the Global Digital Divide
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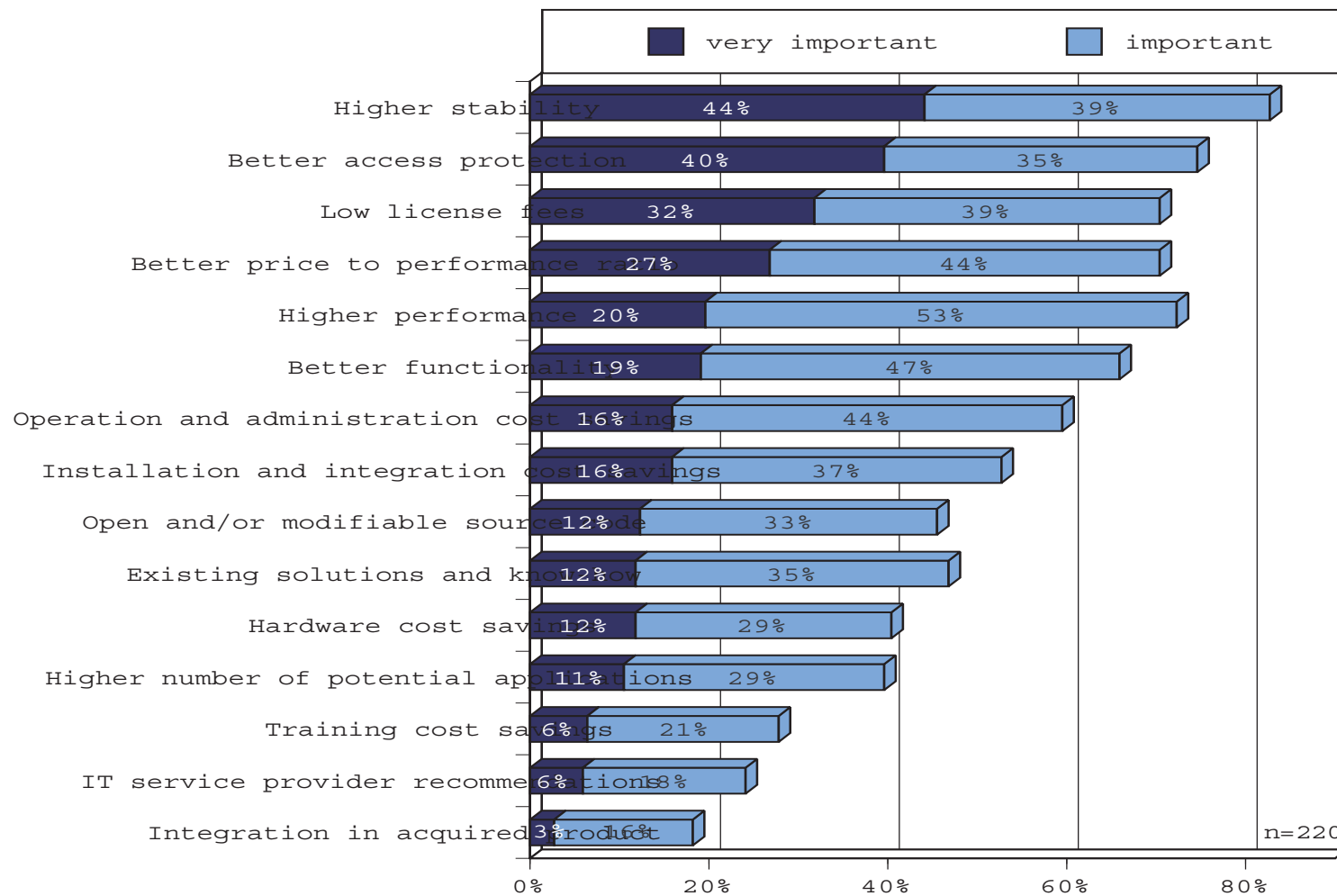
S/w licensing costs seem low...

Licensing Cost of Windows XP + Office (USA):

- Standard Version \$560*
- Professional Version \$800*

**Prices from Amazon.com*

...and not the #1 reason for F/OSS



BeTecon Research 2002

But in developing countries...

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VIETNAM: GDP per capita \$411 p.a.

Effective cost of Windows XP + Office (per capita)

- Standard Version 15 months' GDP
- Professional Version 22 months' GDP

...Cost really DOES matter

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PPP\$ - comparing with US GDP per capita: \$35,277 p.a.

Effective cost in PPP\$ for Windows XP + Office in Vietnam

- Standard Version **\$48,011**
- Professional Version **\$68,587**

...Cost really DOES matter

Country	GDP/cap	PCs ('000s)	Piracy	WinXP Cost* \$
Argentina	7166	3415	58%	2757
Brazil	2915	10834	58%	6777
China	911	24216	94%	21678
India	462	6029	63%	42725
South Africa	2620	2962	45%	7541
USA	35277	178327	24%	560
Vietnam	411	934	97%	48011

*Windows XP effective PPP cost calculation = \$560 * (GDP per capita / US GDP per capita)*

Source: World Bank World Development Indicators Database, 2001; Business Software Alliance

Open source develops local skills

- **70%** of developers participate in the FLOSS community **“to learn and develop new skills”**
- **67%** of developers participate in the FLOSS community **“to share ... knowledge and skills”**
- **30%** of developers participate in the FLOSS community **“to improve ... job opportunities”**
- **Over 50%** of developers **derive income**, directly or indirectly, through their participation in the FLOSS community

Source: Free/Libre/Open Source Software (FLOSS) Study of Developers

Open source is the only way for developing countries to:

- *Rapidly* deploy information technology
- *Affordably* deploy information technology
- Develop an ICT infrastructure while respecting IPR, limiting “software piracy”
- Develop a *local* ICT software and services skills base and foster a *local* ICT software and services economy

More information...

The FLOSS project pages & final report

<http://floss.infonomics.nl>

eGovOS conference, Paris,
November 24-26 2003

<http://www.egovos.org>

FLOSS as Official Development Aid,

http://www.i-today.com.vn/itoday/open_source/baocao/jordi_europeancommunity.ppt