The Hitchhiker's Guide to OFBiz

How we found OFBiz and joined the community

Si Chen
Open Source Strategies, Inc.
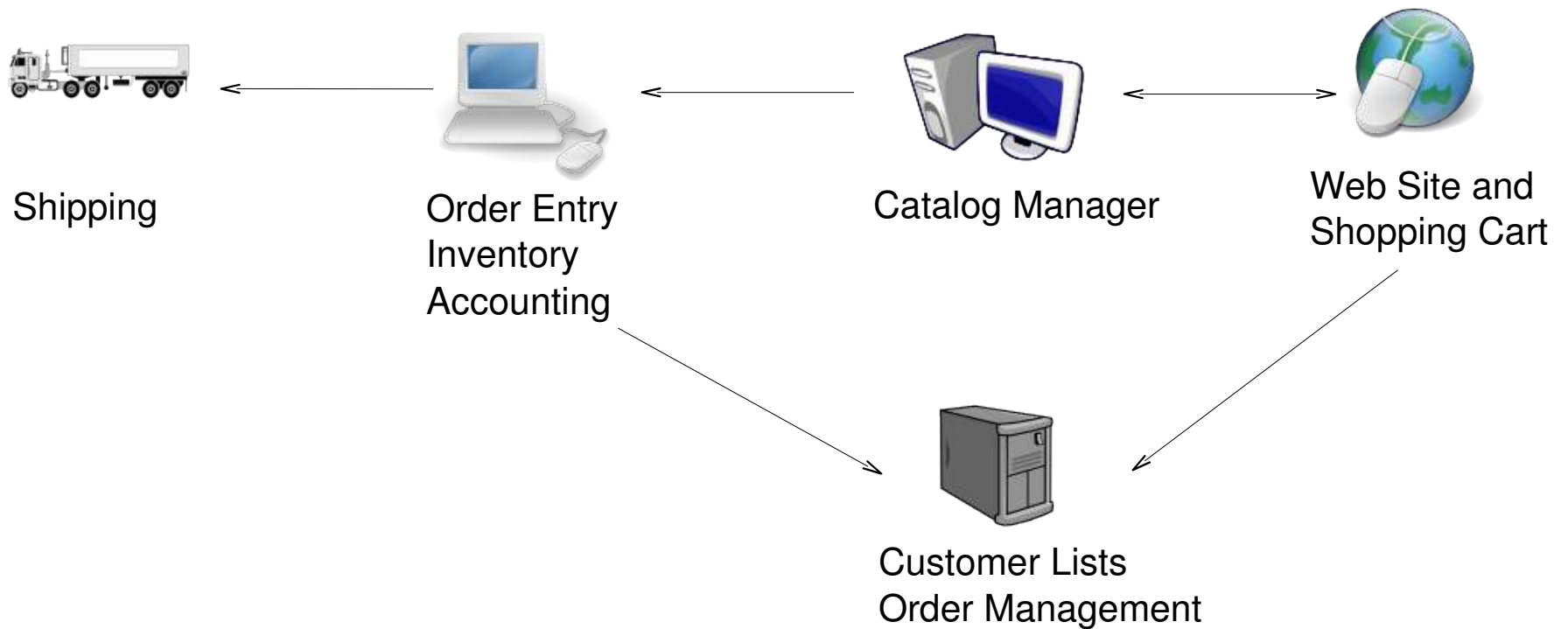
How We Got Here

About Gracious Style FINE LINENS

- Online retailer of luxury linens and home décor

- Serves interior designers, architects, direct consumers

- Sources from vendors in US, Europe, Asia

- Custom makes items for clients

- Growth in new products and market segments

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Before OFBiz...

- Multiple point applications with limited connectivity

Shipping

Order Entry
Inventory
Accounting

Catalog Manager

Web Site and
Shopping Cart

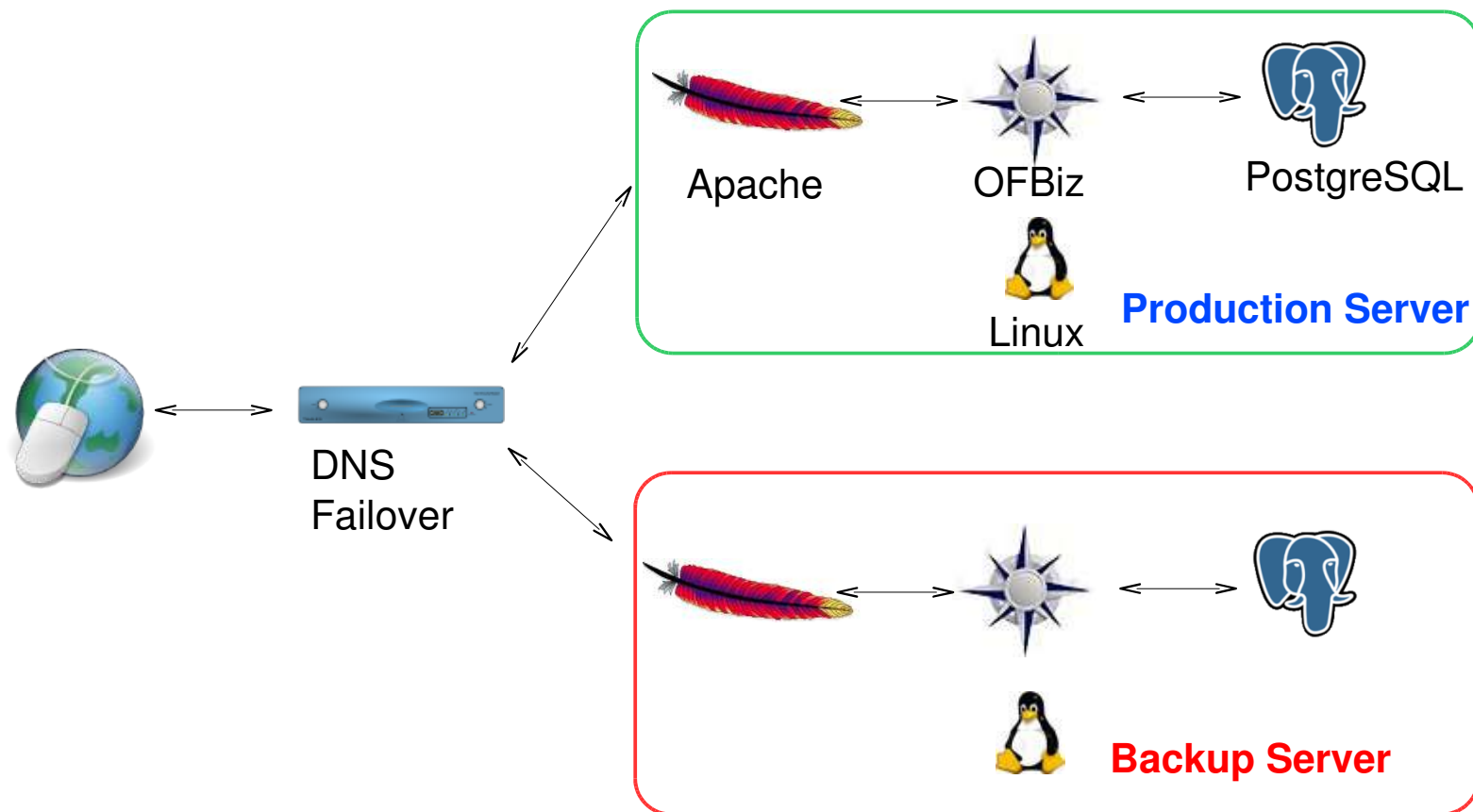Customer Lists
Order Management

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A Growing Company Needs...

- Low Cost of Ownership

- Integrated solution for efficiency

- Adaptable to niche product

- Flexible as business changes

- Scalable, in functions and in volume

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Why We Chose OFBiz

- Strong Feature Set

- Robust Data Model

- Architecture for Growth

- Powerful Development Framework

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Deploying OFBiz

Apache   OFBiz   PostgreSQL

Linux   **Production Server**

DNS
Failover

Backup Server

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What We've Learned

Rapid Development with OFBiz

- Fast design to code process

- Study the data model

- Prototype with beanshell

- Services and secas make code highly reuseable

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Learn OFBiz by Joining It

- Read the tutorials:

    http://www.opensourcestrategies.com/ofbiz

- Identify area of interest

- Find tasks on JIRA or dev list

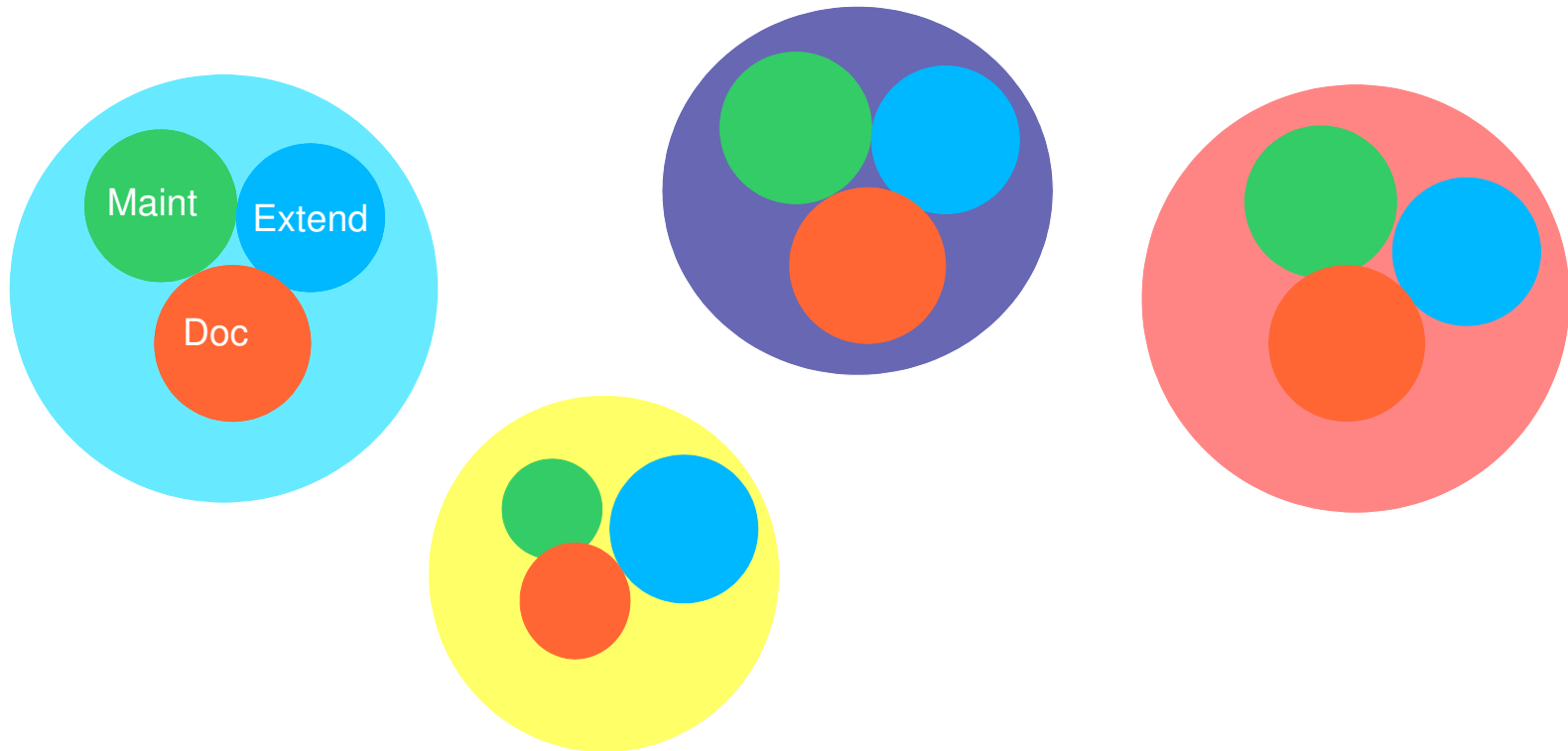- Invest 4 hours/week x 13 weeks (3 months) = 52 hours

- Submit your work for review

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Making OFBiz Work

Collaboration

Contributions

Improvements

Continuing
Innovation

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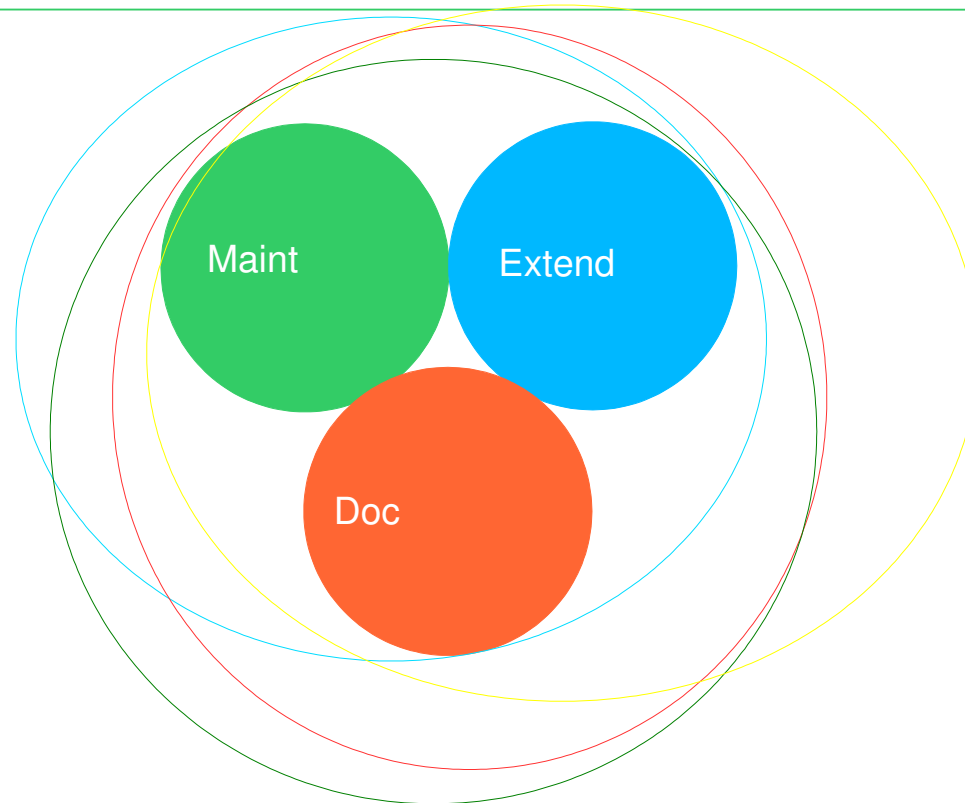
Community without Contributions
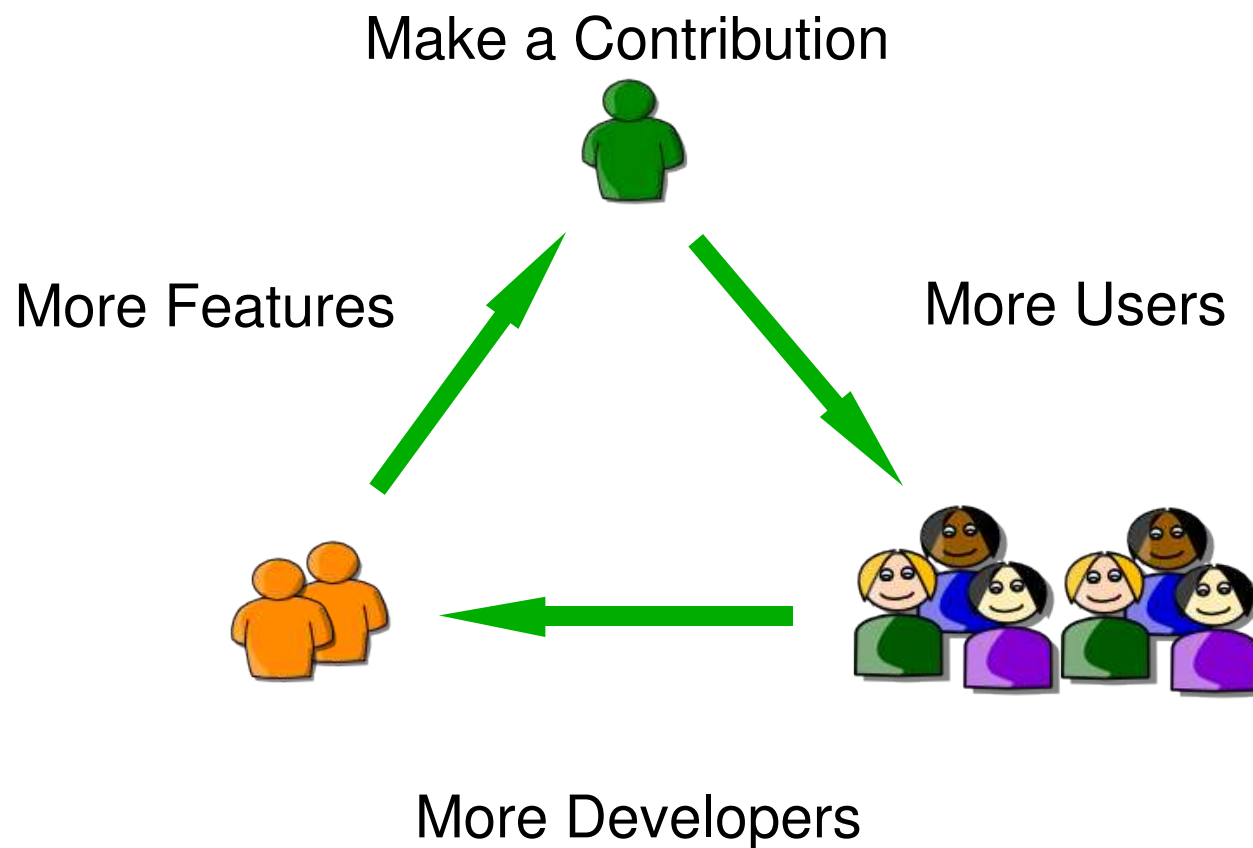

- Each organization invests in maintenance, documenation, and extensions in isolation

- Highly inefficient duplication of efforts

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Community with Contributions

- Pool of collective resources

- Lowers each organization's costs

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The Virtuous Cycle

Make a Contribution

More Features

More Users

More Developers

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Benefits of Open Source Collaboration

Better Requirements

Peer Review   Lower Cost

Testing   Better Software

Maintenance

- Generating code is only small part of creating software

- Unless all experts are in house, collaboration is good

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And Most Importantly...

Better Requirements

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Should I Contribute to Open Source?

If I Contribute...

- Collaborate with other developers

- Feedback, maintenance, improvements from community

- Easier to upgrade

- Encourage more contributions

If I Don't Contribute...

- Keep unique offering

- Maintain and improve it yourself

- Gulf with open source code base

- What if open source catches up?

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What Should I Contribute?

You should contribute UNLESS:

- It forms your unique competitive advantage

AND

- You will invest to maintain that advantage

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What Can I Do?

- Give feedback on designs

- Try new features and vote on them

- Bug reports are good

- Patches are better

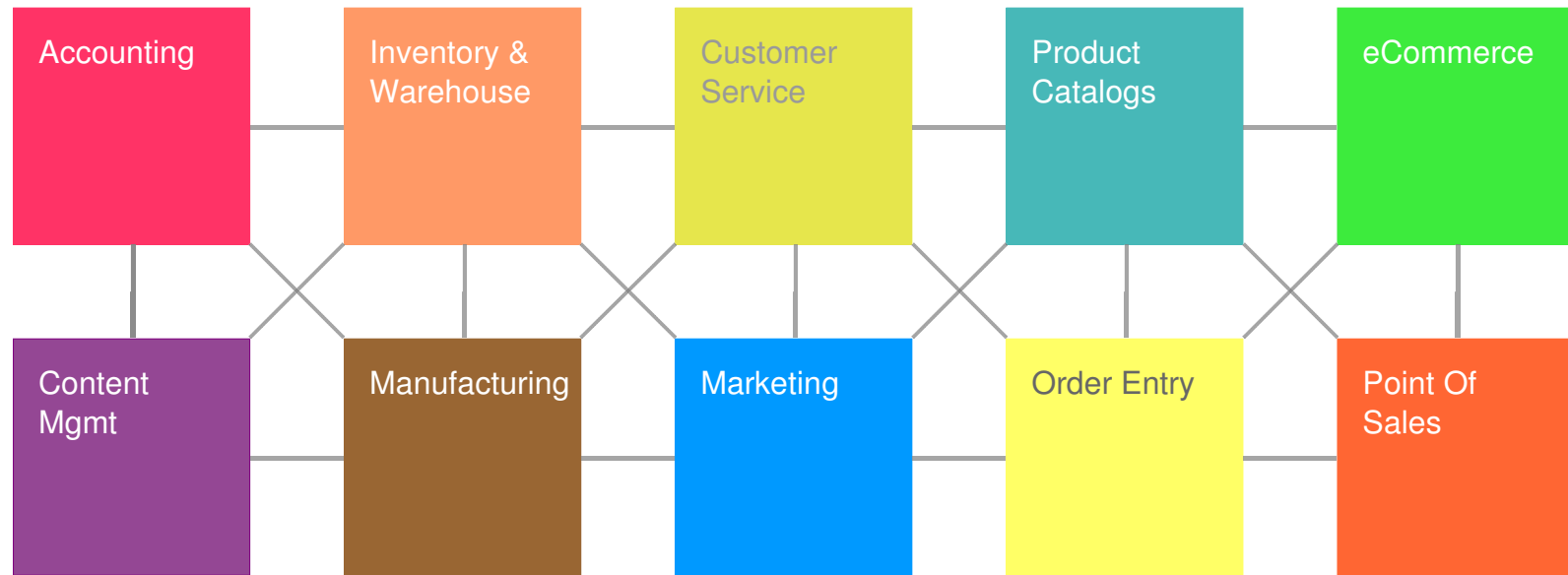- Help with documentation

- Tell others about OFBiz

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Remember...

Open source doesn't succeed because of charity.

Open source succeeds because we work together.

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The Road Ahead

Next Step with OFBiz

Accounting	Inventory & Warehouse	Customer Service	Product Catalogs	eCommerce
Content Mgmt	Manufacturing	Marketing	Order Entry	Point Of Sales

- Bring together business processes with OFBiz-based ERP solution

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Bringing Open Source to the Enterprise

Logos properties of their respective owners

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About ![opensource STRATEGIES]

- Bridge gap between open source and commercial enterprise software

- Create key support and marketing networks

- Promote open source software development