

# What MySQL can learn from PostgreSQL (and some vice versa)



The PostgreSQL Company

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# Before we get started...

- Who am I?
  - Major contributor to PostgreSQL.Org
    - PostgreSQL SPI Liaison (basically Treasurer)
    - Fund raising contact (jdrake@postgresql.org)
  - Lead consultant Command Prompt, Inc.
    - All kinds of fun database stuff
  - President and Director U.S. PostgreSQL Association
    - [www.postgresql.us](http://www.postgresql.us)
  - Retiring (SPI Director)
  - Known throughout community as JD or Linuxpoet

# What this talk is not

This is a discussion about open source community and software, not product.

# What's the same?

- Let's not twiddle with the obvious
  - MySQL and PostgreSQL both:
    - Have large communities
    - Have large feature sets
    - Are SQL based
    - Have Good users
    - Have Bad users
    - Have Arrogant asses
    - Have Super geeks

# What's different?

Lots of stuff... Let's start with something simple



No, this was not the MySQL booth at OSCON 2007 but it may as well have been.

# Sea of blue, army of smurfs!

## PostgreSQL Booth, OSCON 2007



# Advocacy Efforts

- MySQL AB (now Sun) does not advocate. They promote, they sell.
- Does the MySQL community advocate?



# PostgreSQL Advocates!

- In the first quarter of 2008 there are already 7 planned PostgreSQL community conferences
  - East – Maryland (done)
  - PG UK 2008 (done)
  - PDXPUG Day @ OSCON
  - LWEPG Day @ LinuxWorld
  - West – Portland
  - PGDay.IT – Italy
  - PGCon EU – TBA



# MySQL User Conferences?

None...

(We are at a MySQL AB conference)

# What makes a community?

- Members/Users
- Review of other communities (versus MySQL)
  - Ubuntu:
    - The most popular Linux distribution in only 4 years
      - Driven by rabid, friendly fans
  - PostgreSQL:
    - Highly active in all areas
      - Driven by all walks of technical life. Engineers, hackers, consultants, user end developers, advocacy folks who all work toward technical excellence in their DB.

# Community part two

- User groups
  - PostgreSQL has user groups all around the world
    - Regional Groups (PGUS, PGEU)
    - City Groups (LA, PDX, SFPUG)
    - Country Groups (Italy, France, Brazil, Japan)
  - PostgreSQL User groups are autonomous

# Co-opetition

- What is Co-Opetition?
  - Competition
    - The community thrives because companies compete
  - Cooperation
    - The community thrives because companies who are competing, also cooperate.



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# Co-opetition part two

- Only successful with companies understand Open Source
  - PostgreSQL is a meritocracy
    - Contributors gain influence through their merits
    - Companies can earn influence through the sponsorship (or employment) of contributors
  - Only works with there is more than one company
    - Must not be in direct competition

# Competition and community

- Recognizing the value of the community
  - The community is the real stock holder in Open Source
  - To be truly successful as an open source project (with commercial participation) the commercial participation must be a servant to the community

# Leveraging Co-opetition

- Truly successful communities have multiple entities creating the software
  - Linux
    - Redhat, SUSE, Canonical, TurboLinux, Xandros
  - PostgreSQL
    - Command Prompt, EDB, Fujitsu, NTT, Sun, Truviso
  - MySQL
    - MySQL AB
- Without diversification, project suffers



# Downside to Co-opetition

- MySQL has mostly (all?) Open Source product so the community benefits from all resources
- PostgreSQL has resources redirected in lots of directions. Many closed source and not a benefit to the community.
- Competition can sometimes forget the cooperation directive.

# The feature game part two

- Because of the MySQL model, new features appear but quality suffers
- PostgreSQL takes a more stable development approach but doesn't practice the release early, release often
  - (PostgreSQL still releases on average 3x faster than closed source databases)

# The feature game part three

- PostgreSQL tends to be ultra conservative and focused in their development
- MySQL will deliver features before they are ready (stored procedures) and fix them in stable tree during development of next release.

# The Right Way

- Depends on goals
  - If the goal is customers
    - MySQL is the 'World's Most Popular Open Source Database'
    - Microsoft has the 'World Most Popular Operating System'
  - If the goal is community
    - PostgreSQL provides a technically superior (for most workloads), highly scalable, business and open source friendly database

# The feature game

- MySQL adds micro features more quickly to PostgreSQL due to its willingness to add features to stable releases
- PostgreSQL adds features **only** in major releases causing 12-14 month breaks between feature sets