



The open source community for infrastructure software

Press release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OW2 announces new Open Source Accessibility initiative

At OSCON, OW2 announces Open Source Accessibility initiative (OSAI), a new community initiative aimed at fostering vendor-neutral technologies to ensure and manage accross-the-board accessibility.

OSCON, Austin, TX, May 17, 2016 - OW2, the global community for open source infrastructure software and application platforms announces the OW2 Open Source Accessibility initiative (OSAI), a community-driven initiative designed to develop open source technologies and share best practices in the field of accessibility.

OSAI will contribute to building synergies between OW2 members and the larger community around open and compliant digital solutions for people with physical or cognitive difficulties. The initiative seeks to facilitate technology integration between open source accessibility enablement and management software. It will provide a neutral forum to identify, discuss, develop and integrate quality open source solutions for accessibility.

Currently in incubation, OSAI is spearheaded by **Orange**, one of the world's leading telecommunication operators, which has secured the initial participants in the initiative. These include **DINSIC**, the IT and Digital Agency of the French Government, **La Poste**, the French postal service company, **Worldline** the European leader in payment and transaction services, **Smile**, a leading European integrator of open source solutions, digital accessibility agency **Océane Consulting** and eAccessibility consulting firm **Atalan**. Additional contributors such as research and international participants will be announced shortly.

"Accessibility is a fundamental right enshrined by the European Disability Strategy set out in 2010, it is a common need, shared by all enterprises," says Christian Paterson, Head of Open Source Governance at Orange. *"We look forward to leveraging OW2's open source community model to collectively explore accessibility research and application domains,"* he adds.

The roadmap of the OW2 Open Source Accessibility initiative will be jointly developed by its participants. However, the initiative is being launched with an initial focus on the following domains: supporting online and face-to-face communication, content creation and access, and exploring the work environment for accessibility at the office or while traveling.

"We are proud to host the Open Source Accessibility initiative launched by our strategic member Orange," says OW2 CEO Cedric Thomas, *"Open source is the right paradigm for sharing experiences, skills and resources between companies and individuals,"* he adds.

At OW2, initiatives are joint efforts by its members that aim to foster use of OW2 technologies by mainstream systems integrators, end-users and software vendors. Within an Initiative, OW2 members work together to develop technical integration between projects as well as synergies to address specific market needs.

OW2 exhibits at OSCON Austin, booth #109-3. Come meet the OW2 Management Office team for more information on the OW2 Open Source Accessibility initiative or contact management-office@ow2.org.

About OW2

OW2 is an independent community dedicated to developing open source code infrastructure (middleware and generic applications) and to fostering a vibrant community and business ecosystem. The OW2 Consortium hosts some one hundred technology projects, including ASM, Bonita, CLIF, DocDoku, Emerginov, erOCCI, JOnAS, JORAM, Lutece, Nanoko, ProActive, SpagoBI, Talend Studio, WebLab, XLcloud, Xwiki. Visit www.ow2.org

Contacts

OW2 Management Office
mo@ow2.org

Press: Catherine Nuel
Tel: +33 6 77795915
catherine.nuel@ow2.org