Kraft

KDE Software for Craftsmen Business

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1 Special KDE Users

2 The KDE Framework

3 Kraft
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KDE Users
Are we ready for 'Other' Users?

Computer Nerds
- Are interested in computer technology and innovation
- Have fun on working on their infrastructure

Craftsmen with Small Own Business
- Have their business to follow
- Have usually no interest in computers at all
- Have usually no professional knowledge about computers
- See IT as an additional cost factor
People driving small companies usually face:

- Hard business pressure from competitors
- Pressure from customers
- A personal multiple role situation
- A real Demand for Software

As a result: They tend to avoid risks and buy commercial software.
Commercial Software tends to

- come with many features, maybe too many
- cost a lot of money
- use outdated database centered frameworks
- be more or less a usability nightmare
- pretends to be standard
- pretends to be reliable and supported
There is no strong opinion about open source, but

Some very Pragmatic Needs:

- Low costs
- Stability and security
- Connectivity
- Efficiency: “Finish my office tasks quickly”
- Support: “I need a phone number…”

Open Source is good for them

Especially KDE software can be a good alternative for that kind of users.
Outline

1. Special KDE Users
2. The KDE Framework
3. Kraft
KDE Benefits
Examples why KDE already makes it really easy

From the Users Perspective

- Communication: KMail, Konqueror, KFax
- PIM: KOrganizer, KAddressbook, openSync
- KOffice
- Tools: KCalc, KNote

From the Development Perspective

- Address Management: kabc
- KParts
- Networking
- Printing

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Improvement Possible
Where can we improve KDE?

Improvements from Users Perspective
- Standard integrations like “Send as email”
- Usability
- ‘Killer’ Applications (Banking, CAD)

Improvements from the Development Perspective
- Database integration (Qt3)
- Powerfull reporting tool (Kugar)
- Support for business Standards (DATEV, Datanorm)
Outline

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The name: Kraft from Craft with C→K, in german *Power*
Kraft Vision
In which direction are we going?

Project Principles
- Usability first: Focus on unexperienced users
- Avoid feature bloat but offer as much as needed
- Try to stay generic and not focus on one sector
- Produce first class customizeable print outs

Next Milestone
a first public release with usable software

Long Term
Keywords: Usability, Features, Integration (Banking, Inputfilters etc.), Pluginarchitecture ...
Special KDE Users
The KDE Framework
Kraft

Application Overview
Blockdiagram

KAddressbook

Report System "openReport"

PDF Documents

Report Template

Kraft

Document
Document Meta Data

Defaults

Doc Archive

Position
Quantity and Price

Position
Quantity and Price

Position
Quantity and Price

Catalogs
Chapters

Template
Calculations

Template
Calculations

Template
Calculations

Database

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Positions can be created from templates. Every position needs to be priced. Prices should be calculated. Kraft supports the following calculation parts:

- Time calculation based on duration of work
- Fix part calculation
- Material

A calculated template is done once and stored in a catalog for multiple use.
Future: Catalogs can be provided by 3rd party.
A **document** (offer, invoice, etc.) consists of

- The document type and an unique ID
- Customer address
- Letter head with text
- Positions
- Document footer with goodbye text

Static parts can be defined on the printing template.
The outcome on paper

- Makes the difference: Quality required!
- Design must be highly flexible
- Technically a complicated task

Kraft does the print document creation through filling a RML Template that is converted to PDF. Kraft uses openReport from ReportLab http://www.reportlab.co.uk, python, BSD-License.
Kraft lives in svn playground/office
Of course: contributions are very welcome

Thank you for listening