



# Kraft

KDE Software for Craftsmen Business

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- 1 Special KDE Users
- 2 The KDE Framework
- 3 Kraft



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### 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



# The Other Users

What is the problem of a Craftsman?



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- use outdated database centered frameworks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



# Open Source Software?

## Is Open Source Software an Option?



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.



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# 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



# 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)



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# The Kraft Project

What is Kraft?



## One-Sentence Definition

Kraft is open source software for persons in small businesses writing correspondence like offers and invoices to their customers.

Offers and invoices are base of business. Handcrafters have to hand out *offers* to people who are interested in a service and if the person orders, often a *acceptance of order* is committed to become clear about the tasks and the costs. After the job is done, the handcrafter sends an *invoice* and the customer pays.

The name: Kraft from Craft with C→K, in german *Power*



## 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 customizable print outs

## Next Milestone

a first public release with usable software

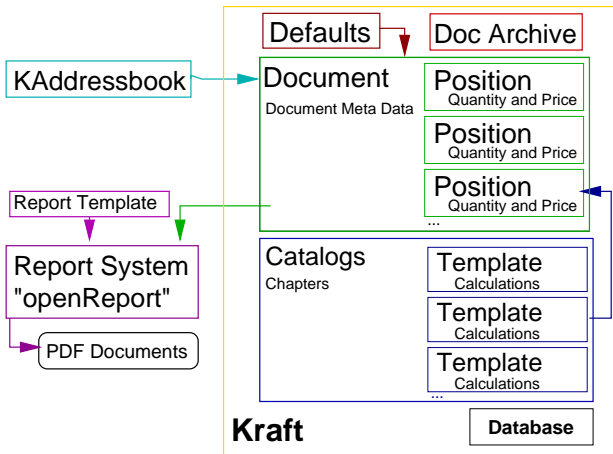
## Long Term

Keywords: Usability, Features, Integration (Banking, Inputfilters etc.), Pluginarchitecture ...



# Application Overview

## Blockdiagram





# Position Template Catalogs

Don't do the same job twice



**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.



# Documents

What is built from Templates



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 Result

What counts is paper



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