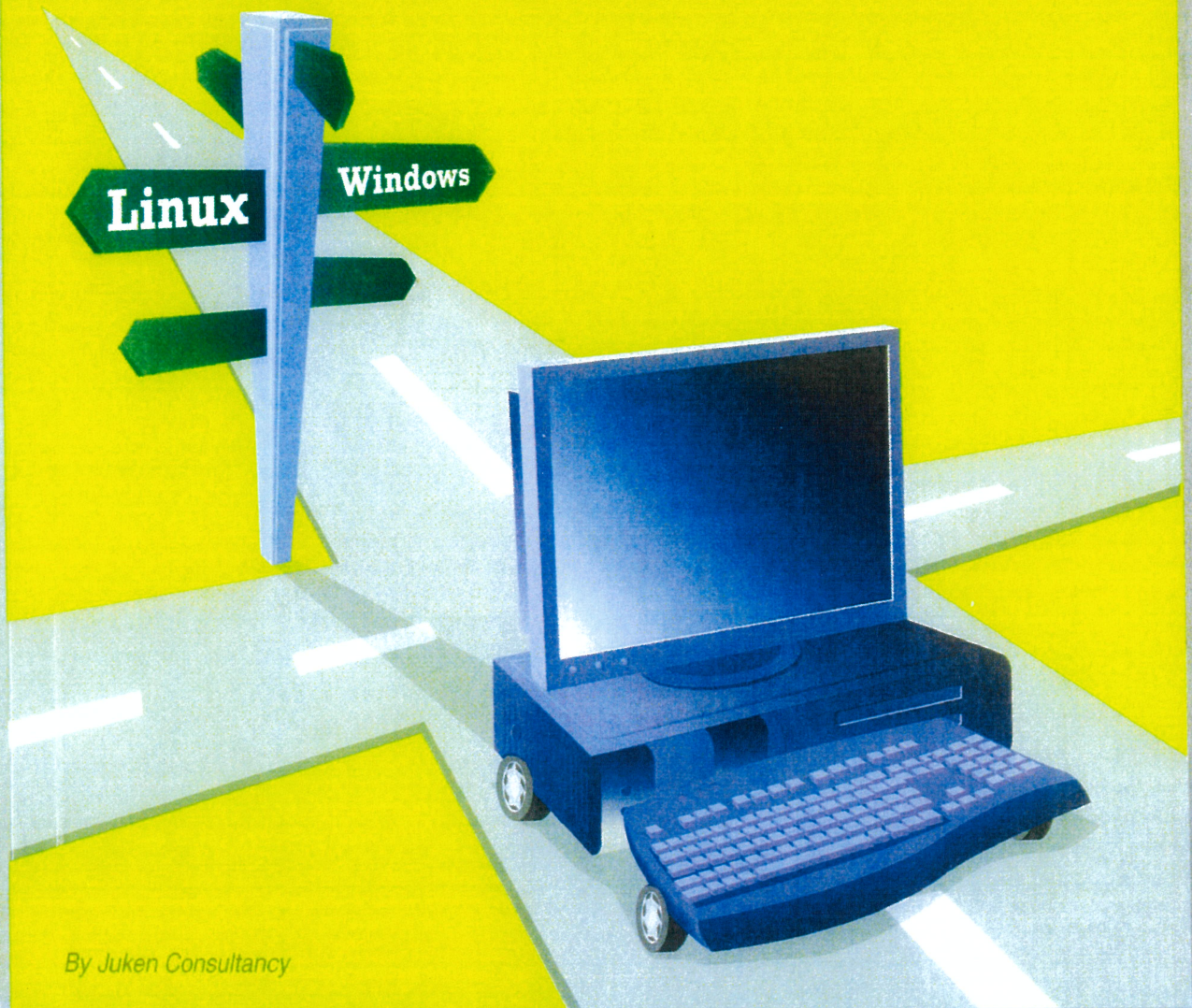


Best Selling International Handbook

The Great Software Debate

- Open, Free Or Proprietary?



By Juken Consultancy

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PRIME MINISTER
MALAYSIA



MESSAGE

The ICT industry is facing many challenges today which affect the development of many countries. Of these challenges, the single most controversial, divisive and yet interesting issue is the debate over the so-called open source software or OSS.

At the last (6th) IAP meeting held in Cyberjaya in September 2002, the issue received much attention and interests from all IAP members who represent the largest ICT corporations in the world.

Many governments around the world are also in the midst of evaluating their policies on software usage and policies. It is therefore timely that this handbook entitled "The Great Software Debate – Open, Free Or Proprietary?" is being produced and published now which would help to throw more light on this important issue and assist policy makers in making well-informed decisions based on facts rather than just perceptions.

I understand that this handbook is the first such comprehensive attempt in the world to explain and clarify the issue. I am therefore proud of such a bold and significant effort in contributing positively to the issue and debate on the international level as well.

I would like to congratulate Juken Consultancy Sdn. Bhd. for its commendable efforts in producing this handbook aimed at explaining and clarifying the background, rationale and terms surrounding the issue.

I wish Juken Consultancy Sdn. Bhd. every success in distributing and promoting this handbook locally and internationally.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD

Prime Minister of Malaysia

Chairman of International Advisory Panel (IAP) MSC

DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD

Putrajaya
6 January 2003

What is open source software (OSS) and, in particular, its standard bearer Linux?

What is the background of OSS and why is it receiving so much attention today?

How is Linux different from Windows?

Why are so many governments around the world making or contemplating policies on the usage of OSS?

Why is Microsoft generating so much interest for its dominant software position?

Is the IT world heading towards a clash of “civilizations” between the two models of open source and proprietary software?

These and many other interesting questions make up what is perhaps the single most contentious issue confronting the development of IT in the world today. Facing off across the battle line are the proponents of Linux and Microsoft of Windows, the most famous face of proprietary software. Caught in the middle are the end-users comprising governments, corporations and ordinary folk who may feel that they have to make a choice of which model to use and support.

It is for such individuals and entities that this book *The Great Software Debate – Open, Free Or Proprietary?* has been written. It is the first comprehensive attempt in the world to explain and clarify, in clear and simple language, the issue objectively with the views and positions of both sides.

Produced & Published By Juken Consultancy Sdn. Bhd.

ISBN 983272300-0



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