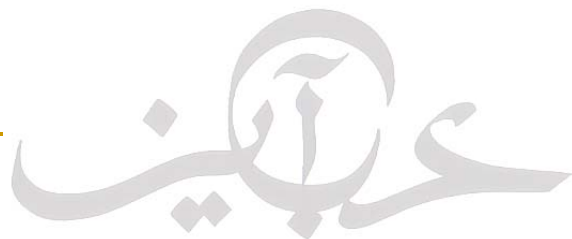# www.arabeyes.org
(support@arabeyes.org)

عبين

The First Open Source Project Container for/by the Arab Community
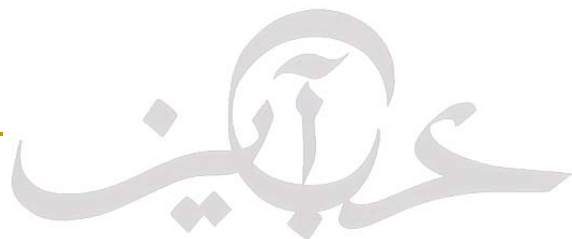
What is Open Source ?

- Its the ability to dissect source code line-by-line
- Its the ability to copy/modify building blocks of programs
- Its the ability to distribute modified/personalized code at will
- Its knowing that millions of people scrutinize the code daily
- Its knowing that bugs and vulnerabilities are addressed immediately
- Its security without "Blind Trust" and/or "Promises"
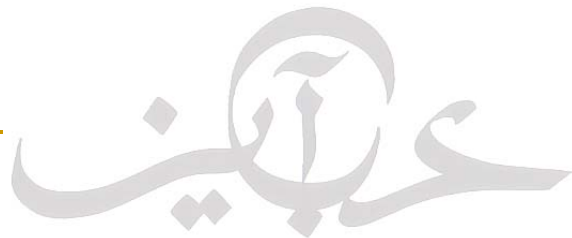- Its knowing that your Intellectual Property will be maintained

What is Arabeyes ?

- Evolved to its current final form on July 29, 2001
- Its a beacon for Open Source in the Arab Community
- Brought forth by Arabs to address the lack of Arabic language support in Linux/Unix platforms
- Its a development organization offering the required know-how regarding all aspects of Arabization
- Its a platform to help/support/educate all issues regarding Open Source and Linux/Unix
- Its a rallying-point for all those interested in advancing the cause of Arabs and computers
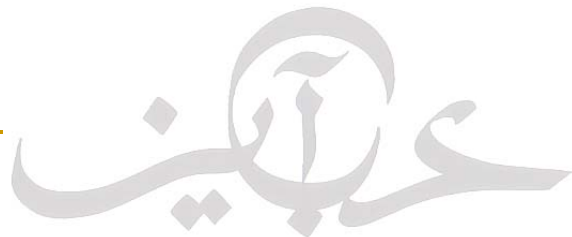- Its an eternal project setup to continue unlike anything before it

What is Arabeyes' Mandate ?

- Fully furnish and supply Arabic support on Linux/Unix platforms
- Contribute/affect standardization - "determine our own fate"
- Raise awareness about Arabic needs and feature Arabic talent
- Introduce Open Source/Linux to Arab Educational Institutions
- Instill the idea of communal work and a sense of cooperation
- House knowledge-base and experience all Arabs can tap into
- Increase the number of competent Arab programmers
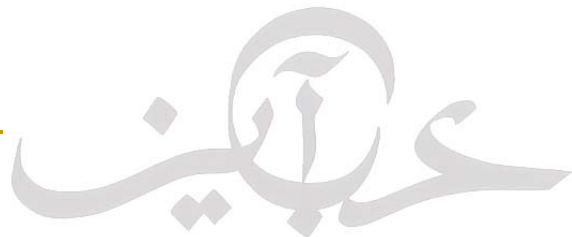- Enhance and propel technical industry in Arab world

Linux - a brief look...

- **The Open Source movement gets created in 1984 - GNU.org**
  - To better organize people/efforts and share their work
- **Linus Torvalds a student from Finland releases linux in 1991**
  - The "kernel" is the heart of the Operating System (OS)
- **1000's of contributors continually refine/add/scrutinize the code**
  - New Applications get created/improved complementing the "kernel"
- **Linux touted as,**
  - The most reliable Operating System
  - The most secure Operating System
  - The fastest security exploit discoveries, fixes and patches
  - The most cost-effective enterprise/desktop solution
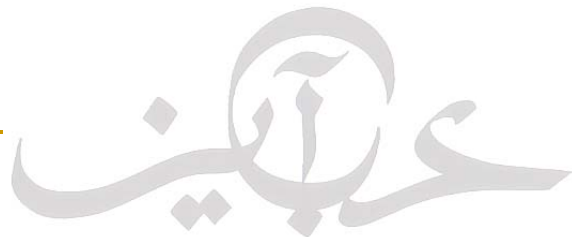- **Linux holds 27% of the server market (Windows - 41%)**

Benefits to Arabs...

- Linux assures transparency by having visibility into its code
- Linux guarantees security (millions inspect the code daily)
- Linux enables the development/refinement of source (customization/enhancement)
- Linux will enhance the Arab world's technical abilities
- Linux nurtures a sense of self-reliance (do it yourself attitude)
- Linux is a programmer's ideal experimentation medium
- Linux is a business opportunity (consulting, services, etc)
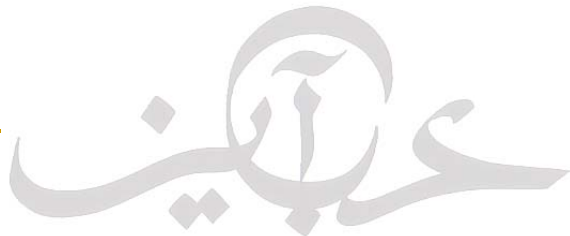- Linux is extremely cost effective (Free and Legal to copy)

Benefits to Universities...

- **Students benefit via**
    - Being provided "real-world" experience/options
    - Maintenance/upgrade emphasis rather than inception/creation (realism)
    - Research/development avenues and ideas (MS, PhD projects)
    - Group/team work attitude with project/schedule management emphasis
    - Establish self-confidence/trust in one's own abilities - "can-do" attitude
    - Fosters a love for exploration
- **Universities benefit via**
    - Lower Cost of Ownership
    - Ideas for future research
    - Case studies for teaching
    - An increased possibly of enticing external funding of internal projects
- **Open Source projects generate respect and garners a reputation**
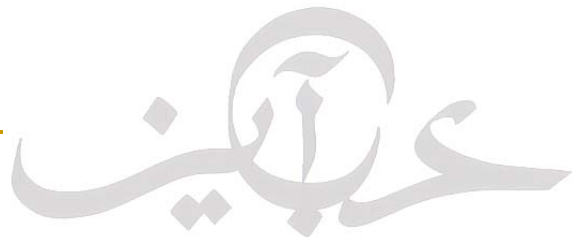
Benefits to Companies...

- Security
  - No viruses, no hidden backdoors/peepholes
  - Secure networks, data and domains (internal/external)
- Cost
  - Lowest cost of ownership/maintenance
  - Most cost effective, customizable solution in the marketplace
  - World-wide free technical support, debug and assistance
- Fosters homogenous, interoperable solutions
- Linux's popularity ensures availability of technical local talent
- Linux "hacker" mentality ensures "get it done" workforce attitude
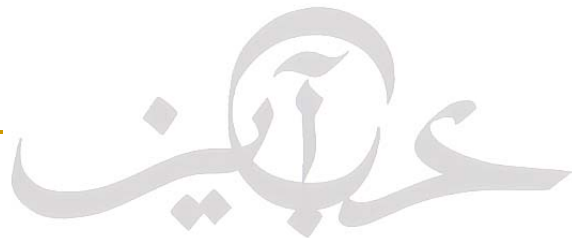- Exceptional medium for research and product proof-of-concept

Arabeyes' accomplishments...

- Website/mirrors, mailing-lists, repository - online and functional
- Deployed bug-tracker system; registered own IRC channel
- In excess of 75,000 visits/impressions monthly
- In excess of 40 'committer' volunteers/contributors worldwide
- Seven released projects (code and translation)
- Eleven on-going projects
- Established communication with ALL Arabic Linux/Unix entities
- Established initial contact with various Arab University programs
    - University research is paramount and beneficial to all involved
- Seeking limited cooperation with select companies
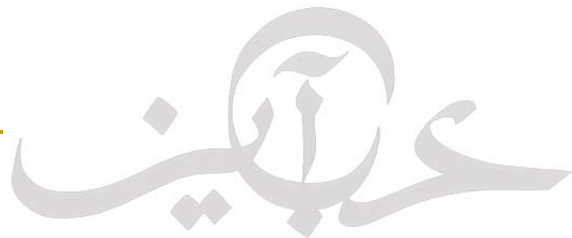- Roadmap set forth and project charter refined/revisited

Arabeyes – the Translation projects...

- **Translation Projects**
  - Arabic KDE
    - Core   (10,566 / 15,079 translated terms – 70%)
    - Complete (21,814 / 63,266 translated terms – 35%)
  - Arabic Gnome
    - Core   (6,677 / 11,451 translated terms – 58%)
    - Complete (8,142 / 36,075 translated terms – 23%)
- **Provide a localized Arabic Graphical User Interface (GUI)**
  - Arabize environment/look-n-feel for non-English aware users
  - Arabize menus, error messages, help balloons, applications, etc
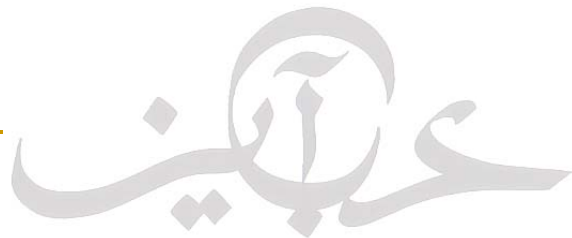 - Include regional settings - currency, time/date, number formats, etc

Arabeyes – the Internal projects...

- **Software Development/Coding Projects – Internal/InHouse**
    - Akka   - provide Arabic support under the Linux/Unix Console
    - QaMoose   - provide an English-Arabic interactive dictionary
    - Katoob   - provide an Arabic text editor that is GTK based
    - Duali   - provide an Arabic spell-checker
    - Distros   - help/support Arabic Distribution projects
    - Quran   - provide a browse-able, audible, multi-lingual Quran
- **Initiate projects to fulfill daily usage requirements**
- **Initiate projects in accordance to user demands/interests**
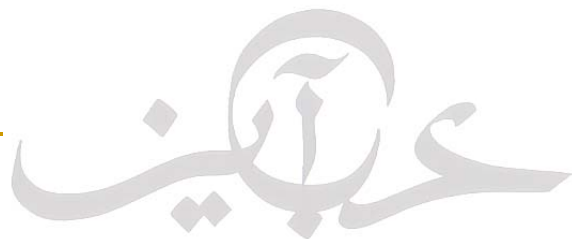
Arabeyes – the External projects...

- Software Development/Coding Projects – External
  - Vim   - add Arabic support to VIM-6+
  - PuTTY   - add Arabic support to Win32 Xterminal emulator
  - Various Patches (txtbdf2ps, lyx, mlterm, fvwm, xkb, gkb, kxbk)
- Supplement popular applications with Arabic support
- Engrave Arab's abilities/necessities as a requirement

What can **you** do to help ?

- Raise awareness
  - Tell your family/friends/colleagues
  - Solicit corporate and governmental involvement/engagement
  - Seek and support local efforts
  - If a local Linux User Group (LUG) doesn't exist, start one
  - Impress upon schools/universities the use of Linux
  - Preach the need for self-reliance and the refusal of "blind-trust"
- Get involved yourself
  - All skill-sets are needed (programmers, artists, tech-writers, etc)
- Convert all your data, documents, websites to UTF-8
- Consider making a donation to advocate and show your support

Further help/links...

- www.arablug.org
- www.linux4arab.com
- www.arabiclinux.com
- www.linux-egypt.org
- www.linux.org
- www.linuxtoday.com
- We want to hear from YOU on www.arabeyes.org