
Arabeyes: The Arab Community's First Open Source Project

Open Source has received an enormous amount of attention of late and has grown in popularity over the past five years resulting in world-wide acceptance. Linux, an Open Source Operating System (OS), is arguably the most popular Open Source OS/application out there with legions of users and developers. Linux's scalability, availability, reliability, security, manageability, flexibility, as well as server consolidation makes it a platform to be reckoned with. Unfortunately, the Arabic Language support in Linux was rather lacking until Arabeyes' emergence onto the scene in 2001. Arabeyes.org, an Open Source non-profit volunteer grass-roots organization, stepped forward with the required determination, acumen and commitment to develop and supplement the required Arabic language support deemed necessary by users to address their daily needs within the Linux framework.

Arabeyes, with its transparent management model and fresh 'best idea wins' approach, was able to bring forth the fundamentals required by all Arab Linux users. Arabeyes has successfully brought Arabic language support into various well established main-stream open source applications such as the VIM editor, LyX word processor, among others. Arabeyes has also embarked upon a gigantic effort to translate and bring forth completed Arabic interfaces for the most popular desktop environment known - such as KDE and Gnome. Arabeyes has also chartered itself with developing new applications to better serve its Arabic community aiming to cover different aspects of the Arab language user's needs. Those include:

- + Akka - Arabic support under the Linux/Unix console
- + Duali - Arabic spell-checker
- + Quran - A browsable audible multilingual Holy Quran
- + QaMoose - an interactive English-Arabic Dictionary etc.

Arabeyes has also welcomed any Arabic-centric project by giving it a home, a well established foundation and a support system. Arabeyes' hundreds of volunteers have contributed enormously to Arabeyes' overwhelming success and proliferation of projects. Their efforts have achieved undeniable results which prove that Arabeyes' goals are very much attainable/achievable.

Arabeyes' success stems from the fact that its built by the community, supported by the community for the good of the community and as such YOUR help is requested and outright required. Your help can take on many forms including, educating your friends/colleagues about Linux and Arabeyes or by introducing Linux and Arabeyes' efforts to different institutions, universities and businesses or in the form of you yourself getting involved into Arabeyes' daily ongoings. Your participation in Arabeyes is most certainly requested irrespective of what your talent skill-set. Arabeyes is a diverse entity and is in constant need for volunteers from different fields (programmers, translators, testers, technical writers, artists, etc).

We are building our collective Arab future hand-in-hand and await your ardent commitment, support and backing; it's our heritage, technical abilities and future that we are really upholding.



www.arabeyes.org
contact@arabeyes.org