The Odd Couple

RedMonk

http://redmonk.com/public/nxt.pdf

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What a difference a year makes

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"We live in a world where we honor, and support the honoring of, intellectual property," says [Steve] Ballmer in an interview. FOSS patrons are going to have to "play by the same rules as the rest of the business," he insists. "What's fair is fair."

- Steve Ballmer, 2007

RedMonk

"**Customers need all their vendors, including and especially Microsoft, to deliver software and services that are flexible enough such that any developer can use their open interfaces and data to effectively integrate applications or to compose entirely new solutions. By increasing the openness of our products, we will provide developers additional opportunity to innovate and deliver value for customers.**"

- Ray Ozzie, 2008

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A Kinder, Gentler Microsoft?

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"As a Microsoft admirer, critic, and competitor, I can't help but applaud the depth and breadth of this move...It is a banner day in the software industry."

- Matt Asay, 2.21.08

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You can probably hear the "but" coming...

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"In response to these requests for clarification, we publicly conclude that the OSP provides no assurance to GPL developers and that it is unsafe to rely upon the OSP for any free software implementation, whether under the GPL or another free software license."

- SFLC, 3.12.08

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So who's right?

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As usual, only the lawyers know for sure

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But in the meantime

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"Many might think there are few commonalities between MySQL and Microsoft. But there are more than you'd think, and they're not limited to the common first letter of the alphabet...The biggest commonality is WAMP. A simple real-world observation is that plenty of the organisations deploying LAMP applications, have developed them in whole or in part under WAMP."

- Kaj Arnö, MySQL, 7.28.07

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"I believe Microsoft has finally understood that their closed nature has significantly hindered the growth of their eco-system... Microsoft is now enabling the open-source community to grow its contributor base around such technologies and significantly improve the delivered quality. As most open-source developers and users live in heterogeneous environments this will benefit many."

- Andi Gutmans, Zend, 2.21.08

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"Technical Analysis: Installing Apache on Windows"

- Port25, 2.12.08

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"Technical Analysis: Recovering Data from Windows systems by using Linux"

- Port25, 11.20.07

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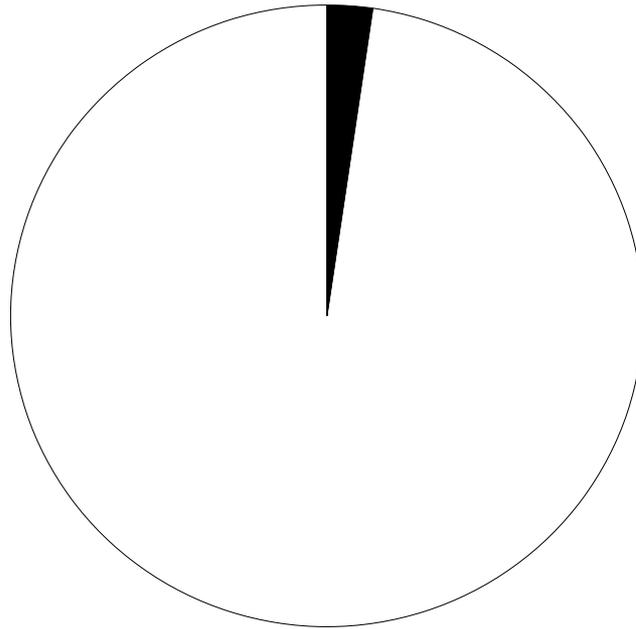# In short, the relationship is evolving

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Maybe from

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To this

RedMonk

OS Marketshare

Source: NetApplications

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