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WayBackMachine
83 captures
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OPEN SOURCE APPLICATIONS FOUNDATION

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Welcome to the Open Source Applications Foundation

Our mission is to create and gain wide adoption for software applications of uncompromising quality using Open Source methods. Our first product, now [under development](#), will be used to manage email, appointments, contacts, and tasks and easily allow information to be shared with friends, family, and colleagues. It will be free and will run on the Windows, Macintosh and Linux platforms. It will not require a server or complex administration.

We are committed to serve the broad base of users while also offering advanced capabilities for the more expert user. Above all, we are committed to keeping the end-users' interests and needs central to our undertaking.

See our [mission statement](#).

Learn more about our [product](#).

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Our Product

Our product (code-named "Chandler" after the great detective novelist Raymond Chandler), is a Personal Information Manager (PIM) intended for use in everyday information and communication tasks, such as composing and reading email, managing an appointment calendar and keeping a contact list. Because of the ease with which Chandler users can share information with others, we might call Chandler the first Interpersonal Information Manager. (The term PIM was first used in conjunction with the product Lotus Agenda in the 1980's. Chandler is the spiritual descendant of Agenda (and has a common designer in Mitch Kapor.)

Today's de facto standard PIM is Microsoft Outlook, which dominates both the corporate and consumer markets. Outlook is stuffed with features, but no one can fairly claim it is either an elegant product to use or an easy one to maintain. The full feature set, including, for instance, the sharing of calendars, is only available in the Enterprise edition with the Microsoft Exchange server, not to Internet users with a standalone Outlook application. Outlook/Exchange is scalable, but extremely complex to administer, making it unsuitable for organizational deployment without a large information technology budget for administration, maintenance, and support. The enterprise version of Outlook is expensive, given Microsoft's license fee structure, and, of course, the full version only runs under Windows, leaving Macintosh and Linux users out in the cold.

Recent open source groupware products and projects (Evolution, Kroupware) use Outlook as the baseline for design and functionality, an approach which benefits users by being familiar, but doesn't take design risks which could have big pay-offs for users in power and simplicity. We're trying to re-think the PIM in fundamental ways and expect to be judged in terms of our success in achieving that goal. We're building the product on using up-to-date architectural components (peer-to-peer networking, integrated instant messaging, an RDF-compatible semantic database) and are not saddled with legacy code. At the same time, we will be fully compliant with a variety of open standards, such as iCal, vCard and the Jabber protocol.

We don't expect to cut significantly into Outlook's share of the overall enterprise market or its revenue. In its initial incarnation, Chandler is designed for individuals and small-to-medium enterprises of up to about 100 people (populations, which, by the way, are underserved by Outlook/Exchange).

We are committed to making free software, supported on multiple platforms, which emphasize ease of use and administration, while also adding significant new capabilities.

[Feature Summary](#)