



## Open Source on the Fast Lane

Manfred Schauer, PhD

### JoinVision

[www.joinvision.com](http://www.joinvision.com) is a market place for IT-services in the German-speaking area. Employed IT-experts and self-employed freelancers submit their CV to the electronic platform and hence meet the projects and jobs offered by companies.

The information gathered on this market space is analyzed by JoinVision and provided to the community as statistics – the IT-FACTS.

### The Survey

The present issue shows temporal tendencies in the field of operating systems, programming languages and data base systems. The information is gathered from the CVs of those IT-experts, which are registered on JoinVision. There the IT-experts cite those technologies, which have been applied in each period of their career (project or training). On a scale from 0-100 they state, if the technology has been used seldom or to a large extent.

The aggregation of this information overlapping all the CVs, shows the cumulated choice of technologies since 1990. Unlike other market analyses, which determine market shares based on the sales or the amount of sold licenses, this survey is based on the subjective self-evaluation of the participants in the market. If you compare commercial products with Open Source commodities, it does not make sense to apply parameters such as sales as an indicator of the relevance of a

technology on the market. Because Open Source technologies have a different business model, JoinVision's approach allows a better integration of Open Source products in the analysis.

70% of the IT-experts, from whom the data is extracted for this survey, are from Austria, 30% are from Germany.

### Operating Systems

Figure 1 shows the history of the development of operating systems. Microsoft Windows (including MS-DOS) dominates constantly with a share between 50% and 60%. Linux is gaining importance, especially on behalf of IBM-Mainframe, Unix and the "other" operating systems. In Figure 1, all the Unix-derivates, which do not originate from Linux, such as HP-UX, Sun-Solaris, Mac OS X, BSD, etc are included in Unix. The most important operating systems under the point "others" are Open VMS, and OS/2.

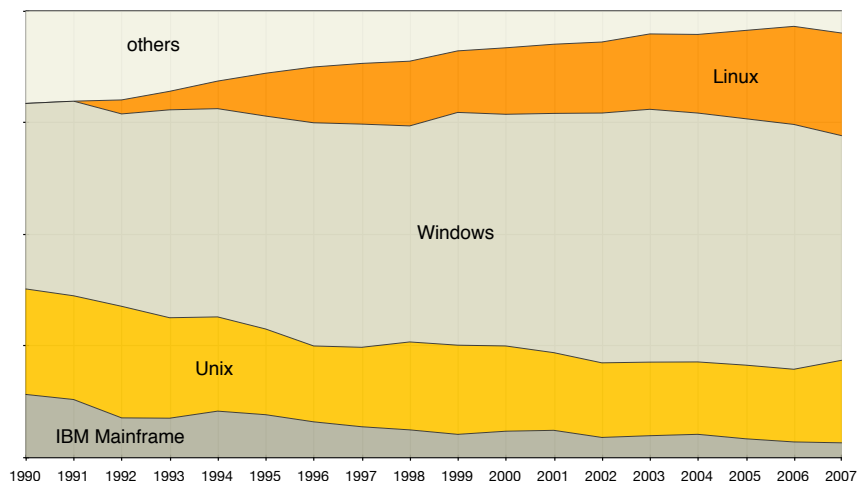


Figure 1: Relevance of Operating Systems

### Programming Languages

While operating systems tend to last longer, in consequence of lock-ins (apart from constant release changes), programming languages last shorter. Illustration 2 clearly shows a break in this area, which took place in the 1990s.

In the first half of the 90s Assembler, Cobol and PL/I (Mainframe development) dominate, as well as C and C++ in the PC- respectively midrange- area.

With the uprising of the internet and the introduction of Java, a grave break took place in this field. From then on the IT-experts on JoinVision increasingly turned towards Java and Visual Basic, later on also towards C#, which Microsoft has launched as a part of its .net-strategy (also) as a reaction to Java.

PHP and JavaScript are rated nearly equally relevant by the IT-experts.

If you compare the languages by producer dependent/proprietary versus open/producer independent/Open-Source, the tendency is towards the latter, with PHP, Java and JavaScript as representatives of this category.

### Data Base Systems

There is a similar tendency in the area of data base systems, see Figure 3. IT-experts state, that they use MySQL almost as often in their projects as Oracle, SQL-Server or DB2.

### Conclusion

Summarizing, you could say, that not only Open Source plays an important role in the IT, but also that

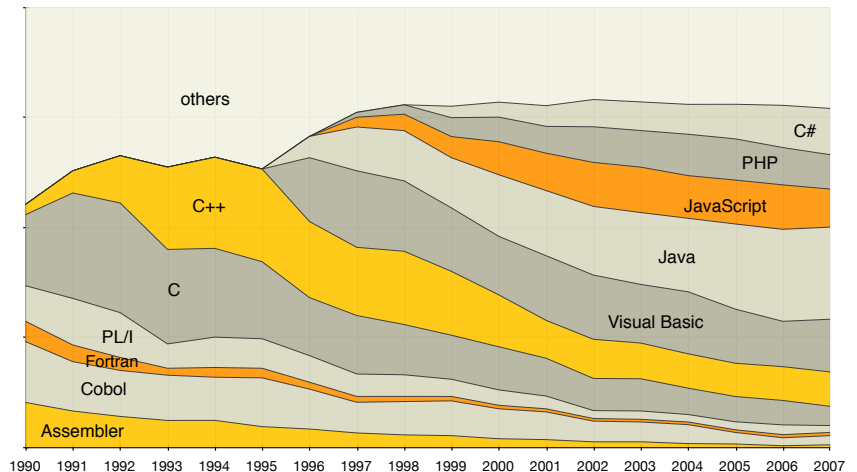


Figure 2: Relevance of Programming Languages

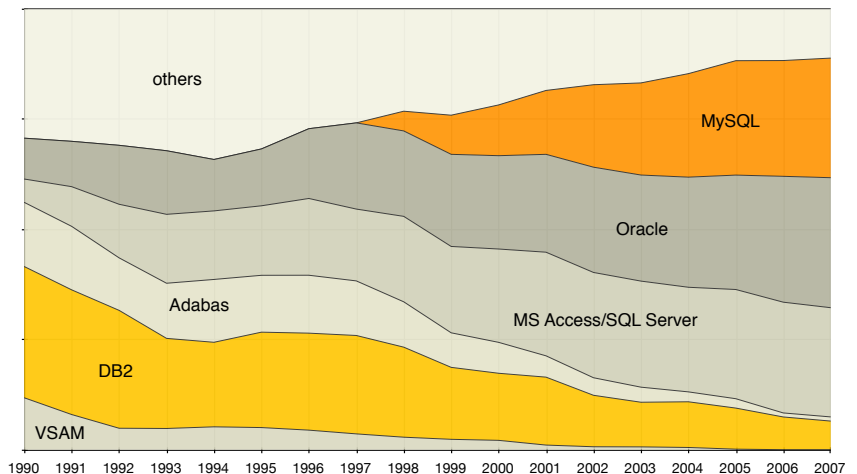


Figure 3: Relevance of Database Systems

the market share of Open Source technologies is rising continuously.

These statements are based on the historized data on the career of IT-experts, which are registered on the job exchange [www.joinvision.com](http://www.joinvision.com). Therefore they show the relevance of the technology from the point of view of the IT-experts, and consequently the distribution of technology in a pooled way on the IT-labour or IT-project market.

Responsible for the content:

Dr. Manfred Schauer - JoinVision E-Services GmbH - Prinz Eugen Str. 70 - 1040 Wien - [www.joinvision.com](http://www.joinvision.com)

Online available at: <http://www.joinvision.com/itfacts>