

# Diplom/Master-Thesis

(Diese Arbeit kann auch als Studien/Bachelor-Arbeit vergeben werden oder als studienbegleitendes Projekt.)

## Migrating Community Open Source to Commercial Open Source

Technology

Software Process

Legal/Law

Business/Economics

The thesis can be written in either English or German. Description last revised 31.01.2010.

### Summary

At some point of time in the life of a community open source project, the project leaders may decide that they want to earn a living by selling products and services around the project. There are many ways of doing this, and each one can be addressed in a Master Thesis.

### Problem and Work Description

Community open source is open source software that is collectively owned by a community (typically by every community member holding parts of the copyright). Retrofitting a business model onto community open source is hard, as many conflicting interests have to be balanced. There are multiple ways of doing it, and hence many different Master Theses that can be written. Here are two possible theses:

- Using a specific community open source software, techniques and practices are employed that migrate the code base from a community-owned one to a single-vendor owned one. The theses analyses the interplay of dynamic software architecture, static code architecture, community interests, legal issues and business strategy.
- Using a specific community open source software, techniques and practices are discussed that allow a commercial entity to build a business model around the community open source project without sharing its collective ownership structure. Example companies that have done this and can serve as examples are Acquia (Drupal) and Twiki.

But there are other options and we are open to your suggestions and specific examples.

### Thesis Advisor

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