Proposed title: **Open source and open standards in KM/CM**

Abstract: A review of how the key requirements of Knowledge Management (KM) tools and Content Management Systems (CMS) include the use of technologies based on open standards, and how they can benefit from development in open source environments. The community around e-Learning, a field closely related to KM, has long ago discovered the potential and need for open standards in storage, transparency and transportation of information in their repositories. The fact is that an open system, which use is going to be organizational-wide, and perhaps even be used across different organizations, will not be successful less open standards are utilized. It will be too difficult for third parties to build around and re-use the digital information stored within.

This concept is of course not new to the KM movement, as XML and web services are being evangelized as much as always. XML is an open standard which in most contexts is used correctly as a versatile and transparent transport layer of information. However, server side developers of systems have a hard time pulling information out of their relational database, setting up a web service and exporting XML, and afterwards it is almost just as hard for the developers of receiving system to build an application re-using the exported XML. Well hyped standards like WSDL and SOAP promised to rid developers of these problems, but only showed that open standards do not enforce neither visibility or quality of web services.

A possible solution to this lack of visibility could lie in the potential use of open source in the development of such systems. Examples of successful open source software include Gaim, Jabber (instant messaging tools), BitTorrent applications (file exchange software), Mozilla's Firefox and Thunderbird (web-browser and e-mail client), as well as centralized tools for information exchange like Webcalendar (scheduling), eGroupware and JasperReports (general XML-transformation).

There are as of now no full open source implementations of KM-systems or Enterprise CMS, but smaller and lighter web CMS are beginning to appear, sometimes recognized as Portals. Examples are Mambo and eZ publish, both of which are light PHP implementations, but heavier and potentially more powerful Java and .Net applications are also evolving (Magnolia, OpenCMS, eXo Platform). The purpose of this paper is to determine the link between open source/standards and the success of distributed software, then discuss how the discovered factors can be applied in a KM effort.