# OpenLDAP
## *Five years in the making...*

### Kurt D. Zeilenga

`kurt@openldap.org`

# Pre-history

- University of Michigan LDAP
  - DOB ~1991 w/ DIXIE & DAS
    - LDAP (1992)
    - U-Mich LDAP 3.3 (April 1996)
  - DOD 1996
- Critical Angle *LDAPworld* patches

# Early History

- The birth of *Net Boolean* (Feb. 1998, incorp. June 1997)
  - Business plan: host e-mail services for businesses
    - POP/IMAP boxes
    - Auto-responders
    - Mailing lists
    - Corporate address books
  - Commercial solutions too expensive
  - Use open source software
    - Apache, FreeBSD, Sendmail, majordomo, and U-Mich LDAP
- *Boolean LDAP* (July 1998)
  - U-Mich 3.3 + critical angle patches + misc. patches + bug fixes

# Early Questions

- Are we (net boolean) a software company, a service company, or a email services provider?
- Do we want to become a directory vendor?
- Can we meet our directory needs by ourselves?
- How do build a community to meet our directory needs?

# OpenLDAP Founded

- Net Boolean Incorporated sponsors the OpenLDAP Foundation and Project in August 1998
  - "to provide open source LDAP software and information"
- OpenLDAP 1.0 released August 1998
  - *Artistic License*

# Initial Project Goal

- Provide "a commercial-grade, fully featured LDAP suite"

- Provide a reasonably capable LDAP suite to meet OUR needs

    OUR == the developers

- "open community hence open source"

# Initial non-goals

- Compete with directory vendors
- LDAPv3
- Altruism

# Events

- DirConnect3 (Nov 1998)
- Net Boolean "messaging" business plan fails, shifts to consultancy (Dec 1998)
- OpenLDAP 1.1 (Dec 1998)
- OpenLDAP 1.2 (Feb 1999)
- OpenLDAP 2.0 alpha (July 1999)
- ISC Sponsors OpenLDAP (1999)
- Kurt attends first IETF (Nov 1999)
- SuSE hires Kurt (Jan 2000)
- Howard Chu joins the "core"

# Events (con't)

- OpenLDAP 2.0 released (Aug)
- LDAPBIS chartered / LDAPEXT shuts down
- SuSE lays Kurt off (Mar 2001)
- OpenLDAP 2.1 alpha (Feb 2001)
- IBM/LTC hires Kurt (May 2001)
- OpenLDAP 2.1 (July 2001)

# Powered by OpenLDAP

- OpenLDAP used in Linux Directory Services
- Novell C SDK based on OpenLDAP, contributes Java LDAP
- Apple ships OpenDirectory
- Symas ships CDS
- Numerous ISVs ship OpenLDAP

# Did we meet our initial goals?

- Yes
  - Provide a reasonably capable LDAP suite to meet OUR needs
- Maybe
  - Provide "a commercial-grade, fully featured LDAP suite"

# Current?

## Goals

- Open Community
- Provide a reasonably capable LDAP suite to meet OUR needs
  - *bilities: Flexibility, Reliability, Scalability
  - Standards Conformance
- Directory R&D

## Non-Goals

- Compete with directory vendors
- Altruism