Microsoft's Man in Open Source: Sam Ramji on Redmond's Linux Strategy

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Sam Ramji is a busy man. As Microsoft?s senior director of platform strategy, his job is a big one: overseeing the company?s initiatives in Linux and open source.

Wait a second ? Microsoft?s strategy in open source? Yes, that?s right. The planet?s largest software company, whose relationship with open source has been, at best, hypercompetitive ? Linux partisans might describe it less diplomatically ? is reaching across the divide to the (formerly) enemy camp.

Or, as Ramji wrote on his LinkedIn profile:

?Open Source Software projects and ISVs should contact me to initiate a relationship with Microsoft. I am focused on narrowing the gap between the Open Source community and Microsoft through research, collaboration, interoperability, and community engagement.?

Goodness. Back in, say, 2002, who would ever have thought that a Microsoft executive would extend such an offer? Apparently, Hades has finally frozen over. Never let it be said that Microsoft isn?t willing to change and adapt with the times.

Redmond?s change of heart (or at least change of strategy) isn?t brand new.

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[1] http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/62
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