

OSI asks German Federal Cartel Office to investigate Novell Sale

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Seven years ago, Novell acquired the German Linux distributor SuSE in a transaction valued at \$210M, giving Novell a position in the fast-growing market of commercial open source software. Last month Novell announced that it would be acquired by Attachmate in a transaction valued at \$2.2B, causing many to wonder what will become of Novell's open source assets.

The fact that Microsoft was leading the takeover of Novell's patents was itself alarming to the open source community, but when it was revealed that Microsoft had recruited Oracle, Apple, and EMC to be co-owners of the patents, the OSI Board felt compelled to request that competition authorities take a closer look at the proposed transaction.

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