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UP Executive Committee News

Congratulations SilverStripe, Farewell Tim

Congratulations to the team at [SilverStripe](#) whose open source software has been chosen as the platform for the US Democratic National Party website [DemConvention.com](#). Unfortunately for [Unlimited Potential](#) this means we lose our Chair, Tim Copeland, who in the wake of this project is following up on a range of opportunities for the company in the US and Europe.

Like many companies involved in open sourcing their IP, SilverStripe gives their core product away for free and harnesses contributions to the code from the open source community. The successful commercial business model is based on offering

professional development and technical support to those using their free software.

In making its decision to use New Zealand-based technology for the DemConvention website, Tim Chambers, the co-founder of Dewey Digital explains what made SilverStripe special:

"We rapidly needed a robust website that quickly and efficiently let us push English and Spanish content to a vibrant-looking website for the millions of people interested in the November 2008 presidential election. We also needed a platform that could continually evolve to support the latest emerging technologies. After evaluating the alternatives, the clear choice to us was SilverStripe, especially since we could rely on working with the core developers to ensure success of the website, a critical part of the overall Convention experience."

Choosing to open source their software is a smart move that's paying off for the Wellington company. It has been winning awards and international contracts, while adding value to the local community with a number of projects that use their technology. A good example being www.TheLowDown.co.nz a collaborative website initiative produced for the Ministry of Health to help combat youth depression. The website profiles young people who have battled with youth depression and allows them to tell their stories. You can find out more about the work of Silverstripe by reading their [blog](#) or visiting their new [YouTube channel](#).



Our thanks to Tim for his work with the Executive Committee, and best wishes for his trip overseas.

Welcome Paul and Kirsten

In other news, the Exec is pleased to welcome Paul Spence and Kirsten Rose, who have recently joined the Committee.

UPcoming Events & Other News

Start-Up, UP and Away Party

Unlimited Potential brings you... the **SiliconWelly Start-Up Party**, celebrating the 2nd edition of the [Start-Up magazine](#), which is all about making connections with IT communities in our town. This celebration of all things Welly will have fine Hell pizza (all the way from the top 'o' Cuba St), fine beer, fine networking (that's you) and a fine story of Start-Up success. Keep your eyes peeled for the magazine which will be out later this week, and register [HERE](#) for the next UP event, **Thursday 10 July**...and don't forget: no nametag, no beer!



Calling all Gadgeteers, Game-Meisters and Geeks...

Have you been tinkering with some tech? Want to demo a gadget, or show off your Grid computing enabled gaming setup? You need to be exhibiting at **Gadgets, Games and Geeks**, Wellington's tech showcase, coming up in **August**.

If you've got a product to sell, then bring a few samples for people to check out. In the past we've had a good mix of big brands, and local

people. We love to see homegrown innovation and integration, and nothing beats a live demo. **This is the official call for exhibitors** to showcase leading edge gaming technology, connectivity, multimedia, software and technology that can enhance your everyday life.

There will be about 10 stands, and we have plenty of corners for a 'stand'. All we ask from exhibitors is to cover costs. We'll provide power and free wifi connectivity, along with a table - and leave the rest up to you. Check out the [website](#) for more info, and contact jo-ggg@up.org.nz to book your spot right now!

Software Freedom Day - Watch This Space

Watch out for an event celebrating **Software Freedom Day** on **20 September 2008**, in association with the New Zealand Open Source Society and others.

[Software Freedom Day](#) is a global, grassroots effort to educate the public about the virtues and availability of Free and Open Source Software.

Docvert 3.4 Just Released!

One great homegrown example of Free and Open Source Software is **Docvert** – created by Unlimited Potential member and Wellingtonian Matthew Holloway. After 8 months of development Docvert 3.4 has been released at <http://docvert.org>. Docvert is an open source OpenDocument to HTML converter that can convert Office documents to webpages and make them fit into any website design. Because it's has a webpage interface an office of people can share a single Docvert server, and if you attach OpenOffice.org then you can remotely use Docvert to convert Microsoft Word files to OpenDocument or HTML. It can also go the other way -- from HTML to OpenDocument (see <http://tinyurl.com/4dx999>). The results of a conversion can be downloaded in a .ZIP file or uploaded to an FTP or WebDAV server.



Docvert is based on XSLT, XML Pipelines, and PHP plugins. Although it uses external software to convert Microsoft Word to OpenDocument the subsequent conversion from OpenDocument to DocBook and HTML is custom and they've been improving it for years now. Infact if you upload OpenDocument files then Docvert does not use any external software.

There's a demo [here](#) (which only converts ODFs, due to server resources). Check it out now!

SuperHappyDevHouse Aotearoa

SuperHappyDevHouse Aotearoa is a monthly hackathon, combining serious and not-so-serious productivity with a fun and exciting party atmosphere. The whole thing is about rapid development, ad-hoc collaboration and cross pollination. Hardcore coders, I33t hax0rs, passionate designers, and other types who enjoy software and technology development are welcome.



There will also be some presentations – with Rob (Django), Brenda (Drupal), Sam V (Catalyst perl mvc), and Nik (Ruby on Rails) presenting on the topic of Web Frameworks. The presentations follow a format whereby attendees join the same IRC channel. The speaker talks out loud but posts links to webpages and pastes code snippets to the channel while everyone follows along. If you're interested in speaking don't be shy – it's not too strict! If someone wants to talk on building websites with wordpress or some kind of wiki that's okay too.

If this sounds like fun to you, then join us at The Cross, Abel Smith St, on **6 July 2008** starting from 1pm. Order some a brunch and coffee, dhcp into wifi and tag your commits with SHDH. Meet fellow geeks, scheme and come up with world changing creations, while consuming beer, milkshakes, cookies.

You will need to bring your own laptop. Visit <http://superhappydevhouse.org.nz/> for more information.

Event Reviews

A Tale of Four Cities Video



So a great evening was had by all. The Hell Pizza was great, with just the right amount of *Mischief*. We snuck an extra panelist in, and even had an innovative spotlight operator.

Those of you who attended **A Tale of Four Cities** in May might also remember the presence of a video camera documenting the event. That video is now available on our [website](#). Some great issues and observations were raised and discussed by our panelists, host, and audience relating to being an ex-pat in the Wellington (and broader NZ) ICT industry. Check it out to find out what they were...

IT Rockstar Summary

A packed house on 21st May saw the finale of New Zealand's **IT Rockstar**. With spot prizes, paparazzi, champagne and Hell pizza it was another classic UP event! Public voting for the top IT professional opened around the country in April and closed in early May.

The top prize was a \$10,000 all expenses paid trip to an ICT event of the winner's choice and.....drum roll.....the winner was **Adam Brown** who will be jetting off to Las Vegas soon. The scary judges weren't all that scary, though 15 minutes of intense focus on guitar hero was! But the crowd was kept entertained by MC Jason Pine and the party kept going until we were kicked out, in true rock and roll style. It was a great way to celebrate our industry and our heroes, congratulations to the finalists (Matt van Deventer and Nick Breese), and to 920 for making it happen.



X | Media | Lab Delivers Quality ConneXions



Held last month at Te Papa, **X|Media|Lab** proved that we can all be global influencers of digital innovation. Not only that, but by utilising knowledge networks, we can leverage the creativity that already exists in our own back yard to help build successful global businesses. UP Exec member Paul Spence attended the conference day and drafted some quick notes. You can read them [here](#).

Membership Update

We've seen over 15,000 unique visitors to our site in the last few months, with over 5000 in April. We have well over 1000 members, and with our events this year we're growing all the time. Apparently we're giving the real estate crowd a run for their money on the web, with Unlimited Potential listed as one of the top organic competitors to a leading real estate site in New Zealand. We'd encourage members to update their bio and profile at <http://up.org.nz/ForumMemberProfile/edit>.

In progress are a few improvements to the site that should encourage more community and connectivity amongst members and between events.

Sponsorship Update

Xero fuss!

Unlimited Potential has recently welcomed **Xero** as a sponsor and as a result we now have use of the [Xero online accounting package](#). It's a great opportunity for us to streamline our accounting data all in the one place so it's safe and accessible from anywhere.

Xero really suits a networking organisation like us. We can allow committee members differing levels of online access. It offers a no fuss approach to managing our accounts, and will even allow our Executive an easy way to lodge expense claims following our events. Communicating with our accountant is now something we can manage online and Xero will make it easier to view our financial position in realtime.

From time to time as with any organisation people come and go and its important to have a good handover of financial information from one treasurer to the next. We think Xero is a really useful tool for executive committees, groups and organisations trying to manage a transparent set of accounts. The Xero framework helps ensure that an established and consistent accounting record can be easily maintained on an ongoing basis.

As an added bonus we can meet up at internet cafes and drink coffee while we look over our accounts!



Trial offer for Unlimited Potential members



Xero is offering a special hassle free **30 day trial period** for Unlimited Potential members so you can get the world's easiest accounting system.

You can log on to Xero's sign up page www.xero.com/signup and get unlimited access to a free, full demo company. This means you can use pre-populated data and have unlimited access to our customer support team. Or, Unlimited Potential members can sign up to Xero and enter their company's details and data. Again you get to use Xero free for a month and see if it suits your business needs. If at the end of the month Xero suits you then we will process your organisation's billing details – you won't pay a cent if you choose to opt out during this month.

For any questions please contact sales@xero.com or phone 0800 GET XERO.

**Best wishes,
The UP Executive**

A big thanks to all our sponsors, without whom we wouldn't be able to run any of these events:

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920 Career Agents

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