Open-Source: An Infinite Game

M. Denker
S. Ducasse
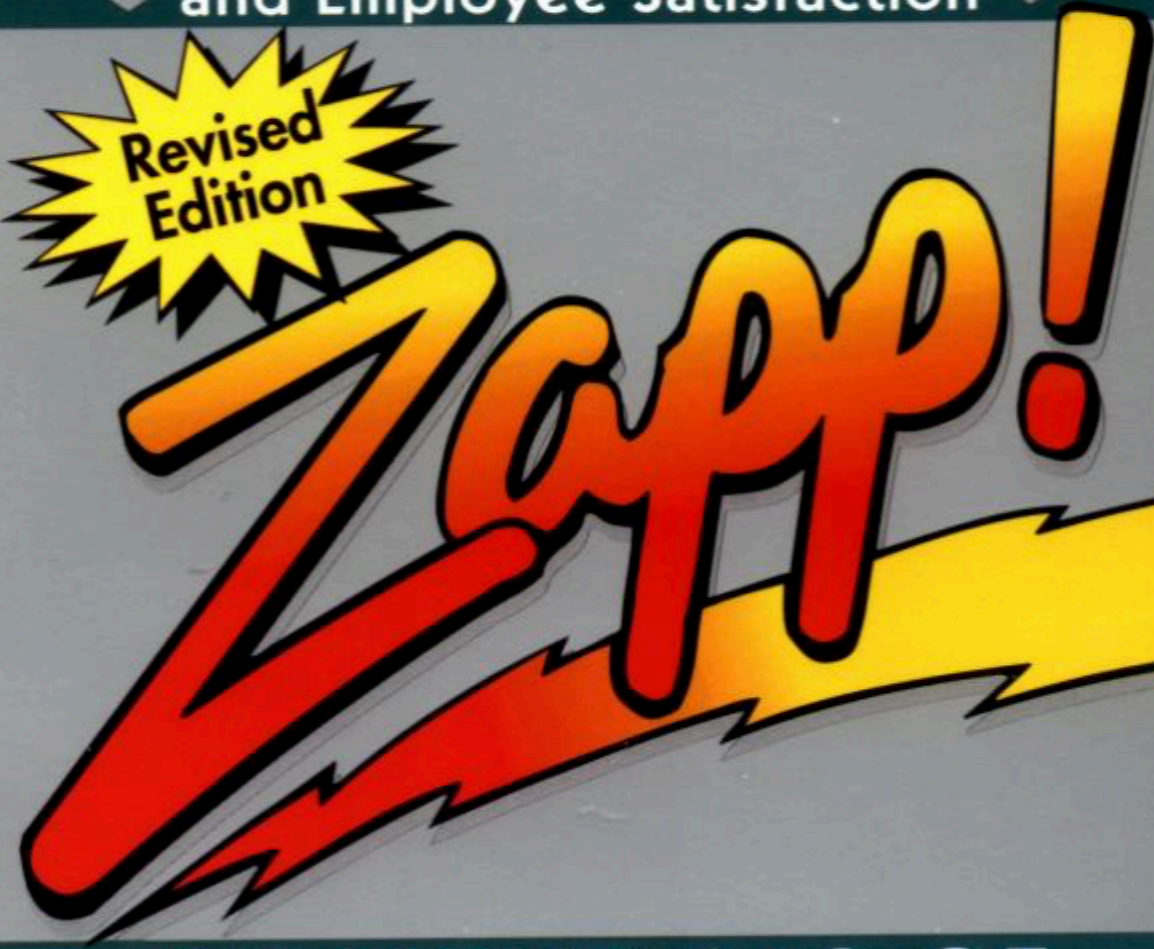
Some ESUG past…

Book Presentation

Book Suggestion

How to Improve Quality, Productivity,

◆ and Employee Satisfaction ◆

Revised Edition

Zapp!

THE LIGHTNING OF

EMPOWERMENT

William C. Byham, Ph.D.

◆ WITH JEFF COX ◆

We should have a book session at esug

Today

1

There are at least two kinds of games.
One could be called finite; the other infinite.
A finite game is played for the purpose of winning,
an infinite game for the purpose
of continuing the play.

2

If a finite game is to be won by someone,
it must come to a definite end. It will come to
an end when someone has won. . . .

FINITE
AND
INFINITE
GAMES

A Vision of Life as
Play and Possibility

JAMES P.
CARSE

Strange Book

Interesting Book

"The wisdom held in this brief book now informs most of what I do in life."

Kevin Kelly

There are at least two kinds of games.

One could be called finite, the other, infinite.

A finite game is played for the purpose of winning

An infinite game is played for the purpose of continuing the play

Book is more than that (and a bit odd)

Interesting way to look at what you do

"…resolves my uncertainties about what to do next. Easy: always choose infinite games"

Kevin Kelly

Open-source as an infinite game

1. For the Individual

Story one

X worked Z years on a business

But business failed and
position got
"compressed"

X did not have any code legally in his hand

Story two

Company Z is successful, project X is nice

Company K "merged" company Z

Project X does not fit the new vision

Xxx years of efforts thrown away

For Individuals, work done in companies are often finite games

Do not die with the company

Contribute to Open Source and be part of a community!

2. For Companies

A company should be an Infinite Game

e.g. Toyota

Would be a nice Book

Here: Open Source

Of course not everything has to be open source

But it has a space even in a company where the product is closed

Finding Talent

Find experts inside a community

Find future real colleagues within a community

Story three

Company X was looking for CTO and hired a "super smart" guy without the possibility to really look at his achievements

How a company could do that?
No idea.
But it did :(and miserably failed

Be wary about a developer you cannot browse source code…

Retaining Talent

e.g. allow people to contribute to a community

An infinite game is played for the purpose of continuing the play

Open-source is an infinite game

No one can play a game alone

Links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finite_and_Infinite_Games

Speaker:

http://marcusdenker.de

http://stephane.ducasse.free.fr