

# The Network Characteristics of Open Source Software Business – a Multi-disciplinary Case Study

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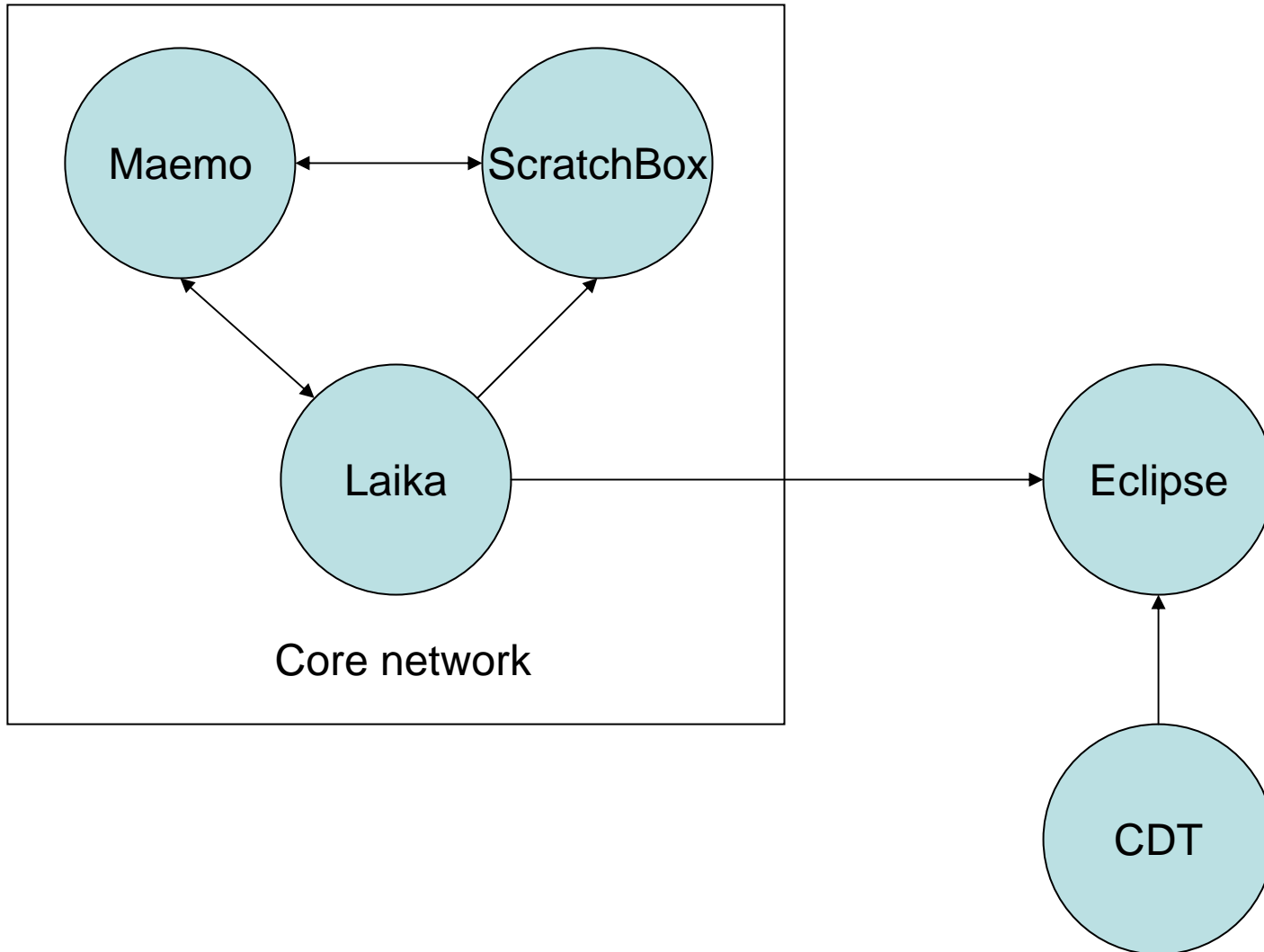
# Purpose of the paper

- Aim is to analyze Open Source software network characteristics through an in-depth case study of a one specific Open Source community, called Laika.

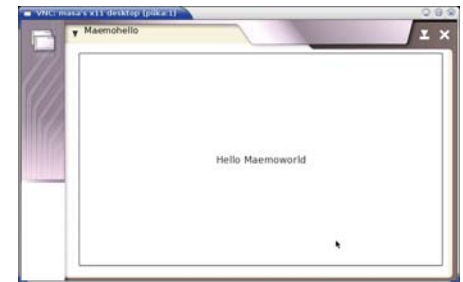
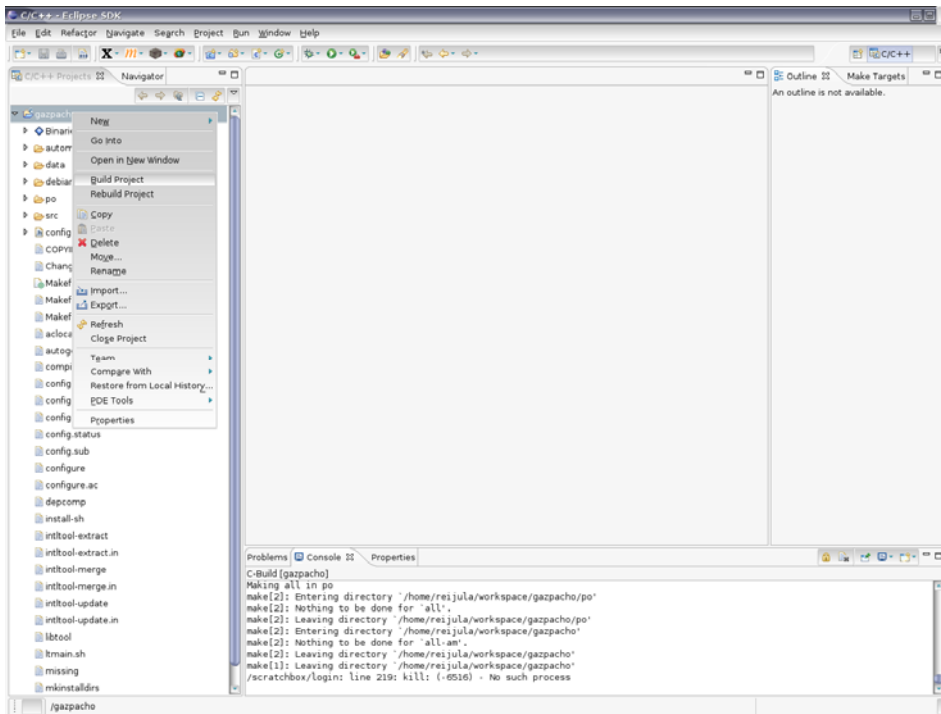
# Laika

- An open source project aiming at the creation of an integrated development environment for developing applications on embedded Linux devices.
- Integrate several open source projects into a single software tool.

# Laika IDE



# LAIKA IDE



# Communities related to Laika

- Maemo
  - ” Development platform to create applications for Nokia 770”
- Scratchbox
  - ” A cross-compilation toolkit used by Maemo platform”

# Communities related to Laika

- Eclipse
  - ” A vendor neutral open development platform”
- CDT
  - ” C/C++ development environment for the Eclipse platform”

# Network elements

- Relationship mutuality and interdependence
- Relationship investments
- Network position and power relations
- Network structure
- Network processes

<b>Network Element</b>	<b>External network of Laika</b>
Relationship mutuality and interdependence	Mutual relationship and high interdependency between Maemo and Laika; one-way dependency between Laika and the other projects (e.g., Eclipse)
Relationship investments	Shared goals as drivers of fruitful cooperation – e.g., sometimes priority has been given to the work of another project instead of one’s own
Network position and power relations	Laika: critical position as “glue” between other projects but has no power in the other projects
Network structure	Mostly loose networks
Network processes	Evolution – radical when the supercommunity experiences major changes, static otherwise

# Conclusion

- Network elements are a key to understanding how communities work and are linked together
- Open source communities set their priorities themselves to best benefit the network to which they belong
- "Super-communities"

# Future research

- Concentrate more on the internal network analysis of Laika project.
- Observe how funding issues affect the community.
- At more general level: study networks of other communities, special focus on the relationship between communities and companies

Thank you for your attention!

Questions, please?