TYPO3

Hello world *http://typo3.org/community/people/kaspers-korner/kaspers-korner-original/*

(Last updated back in 2007, kept for historical reasons. See this page for an up-to-date profile).

I'm Kasper. I live in Copenhagen, Denmark. Between 1998 and 2007 I have spend much of my time programming TYPO3. In April 2007 I finally passed over the core development leadership to the next generation of TYPO3 gurus. So now, I'm just the Old King.
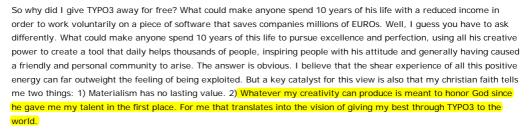
I'm married to Rie, father to Amelie, occasionally smoking cigars with friends, a recent Mac-convert and enthusiast, shining up our house, rollerskating in the spring, polishing the lenses for my Nikon D200, reading creation/evolution literature, snowboarding with my TYPO3 friends and running a non-profit cafe (cafe-retro.dk) with my wife and friends.

This website is in general about the large developer community surrounding TYPO3. However this is my little personal section where my personal rules apply. If you are offended by my writings then I'm sorry. Just don't read this section of the website and you will be OK.

What's up with Jesus?

The most important thing in my life is my faith in Jesus since I'm a personal christian. So what does that mean? Am I sitting in a little jar bell world reading my Bible all the time? No, in fact most of my time I don't talk about Jesus. I try to "live" Jesus. Do what he did. I'm probably far from good at it, but hey - at least I can do my best.

So why did I give TYPO3 away for free? What could make anyone spend 10 years of his life with a reduced income in order to work voluntarily on a piece of software that saves companies millions of EUROs. Well, I guess you have to ask differently. What could make anyone spend 10 years of this life to pursue excellence and perfection, using all his creative power to create a tool that daily helps thousands of people, inspiring people with his attitude and generally having caused a friendly and personal community to arise. The answer is obvious. I believe that the shear experience of all this positive energy can far outweight the feeling of being exploited. But a key catalyst for this view is also that my christian faith tells me two things: 1) Materialism has no lasting value. 2) Whatever my creativity can produce is meant to honor God since he gave me my talent in the first place. For me that translates into the vision of giving my best through TYPO3 to the world.

So that's my story. TYPO3 is my personal mission from God. And I think much of the transforming power of a belief in Jesus Christ is behind it and shows through in my own case. But just to make things clear; This is strictly my view. Everyone in the community has his or her own reasons and to my knowledge most of the people contributing are not christians in the same sense that I am. In fact TYPO3 is simply Open Source Software and "religiously neutral" as such. So don't worry.

Why not commercial?

Early I decided that TYPO3 was not going to end up on the commercial and unmercifull battlefield of internet-software. Too much of my own visions and work had been involved to let that happen. So I chose the safer way. I decided to let the fruit of my labor be freely available bringing joy to people instead. This means that TYPO3 was published under Open Source Software conditions (GNU GPL).

It's not that I don't want to make money with TYPO3. After all that is what I have done the last years. But I'm not a millionaire and my income is unstable since donations play a part in it. After giving up core development it is even a bigger step in faith; what will I do next, how will I live now? But I trust God to have a plan.

Anyway, I never regretted publishing it under GPL. Long working nights, weeks without much sleep and 300 hours working a month in addition to the neglect of body, soul, God and wife - this cannot be payed back with money. At least I don't think this can be compensated with dead EURO-bills.

(Thinking about donating, take a look here.)

Turning the other cheek

There is no doubt that TYPO3 has inspired many people to consider their own outlook on contribution and volunteer work for a good cause. That is just *so* encouraging to know! But what has hurt me most during the years is not people making a living with TYPO3 but when people do *not* give anything back to the community. Or trying to make people think that TYPO3 is *their own* product. Always taking, never giving. That makes me angry for really good reasons!

However I want myself and TYPO3 as a whole to be "salt in the world" or "a light shining in darkness". These are christian metaphors. To me it means to be a *source* from which good things flow - even when they are exploited or laughed at. So should a minority of ill-minded people make us shut down the TYPO3 project in frustration? No. The Bible clearly tells us that we can expect a lot of selfishness from this world, but we are told to turn the other cheek!

The license

GPL has the appeal that the software is as free as it ever gets - and that attracts developers and users. On the other hand it offers no legal way to avoid "moral misuse" of TYPO3.

But as the original author of TYPO3 I will express my personal wish here; that TYPO3 is not used to spread material that is against the moral teaching of the Bible and the human rights. Especially I would be sad to see TYPO3 being used for pornographic material which in my eyes and personal experience is the greatest plague of the Internet and definitely one of the last things I wanted to support with my work.

Finally, we are kind people, not stupid. Please read the GPL rules for TYPO3 carefully. If you break them, we roll you in tar and feathers…

Thanks

Finally I want to say thanks to everyone who has contributed to TYPO3 and whoever has encouraged me so greatly through the years. Especially thanks to the people in the core group and others who has been willing to take responsibility and commit themselves to the project on a regular basis. It has been a tremendous pleasure to participate in this interesting project and I had no idea it would come to all this! Praise God!

My final credit will go to my wife, Rie. More than anyone apart from myself she has felt the high pressure on me, she has had to deal with a husband spending most of his time stressed like before an important exam. I'm never finished, I'm always carrying my work with me, always consumed with concern for the development and the community. That has been going on for years and Rie has only seen glimpses of peace and rest in me. So thank you, Rie, for all your support, loving patience and the faith we share in Christ!

- kasper