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Real World Experience: Kemet Uhuru

Kemet Uhuru

Moving a mission critical U.S. Federal Agency from Nexus OSS to Nexus Pro

U.S. Federal Agency

Mark Miller, Nexus customer advocate, interviews Kemet Uhuru about his views on Nexus, factors for helping a U.S. Federal Agency upgrade to Nexus Pro (formerly Nexus Professional) and the role of a repository manager in their service oriented architecture. Uhuru is a program manager & senior principal engineer for Engility Corporation.

Miller: Your client, a large U.S. Federal Agency, recently upgraded from Nexus Open Source to Nexus Pro. What were the key drivers?

Uhuru: They had been using the Open Source version of Nexus and considering the important role of Nexus in the agency, I didn't think it was wise to continue with Nexus Open Source with no support. More features have been added to Nexus, so in order to leverage advancing technology built into the product, I wanted to make sure we could also take full advantage of that moving forward. And if there was anything we didn't understand how to do or if something went wrong, I wanted to have a place to turn instead of searching the Internet wasting time to try and find a solution.

Miller: Many customers tell me that when they reach a certain tipping point within a project—when it becomes enterprise critical—they upgrade because of support. Was that the major underlying decision for you?

Uhuru: Absolutely. I didn't think it made sense because all of the other tools that we use in order to help us do the service-oriented architecture, messaging for these various programs under a program System-Wide Information Management, SWIM for short. All the other tools we use have vendor support. We have a professional version that we can create tickets and issues for and Nexus Open Source was the only exception.

Miller: What other tools did you look at?

> **And if anything we didn't understand how to do or something went wrong, I wanted to have a place to turn instead of trying to search all over the Internet wasting time to try and find a solution.**

Uhuru: We looked at both Artifactory and Archiva because over a certain dollar threshold, we are required to do a comparative study. But since we had been with Nexus Open Source since 2009, it would have required additional work to migrate all of that data and everything else over to another product, and I just thought it wasn't worth the effort. Especially given the cost comparisons. It wasn't much of a difference in price. I think you guys actually came out ahead.

When you sum it all up, it just made sense to get a professional license from you guys as we were already using the technology.

Miller: What role does Nexus play in continuous integration/development?

Uhuru: There are eight (8) different programs that use the Nexus repository to host and download things.

Right now, we are using Nexus to host mainly Red Hat middleware products and some other test tools and other amazing tools like that. Things that anybody would use to set up a development environment. We will probably start hosting Oracle Java Developer Kit (JDK) in there as well. That's so people can pull from our repository rather than looking all over the Internet or trying to find the appropriate link to download things. They can come to our repository and find it much easier.

Miller: Thank you for all of your insights. Before we close, we would like to know if there is anything we could do to improve our services?

Uhuru: No. The support and responsiveness has been excellent. I don't have any issues with you guys. Plus, I subscribe to your You Tube and Google pages and all those other things so anytime there are things going on with you guys, I usually find out about it.