



Ivan Denisov &lt;d.ivan.krsk@gmail.com&gt;

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**[BLACKBOX] BlackBox after Oms - Forum**

Писем: 15

**Robert Campbell** <rdcampbell.98@gmail.com>

17 августа 2013 г., 18:24

Ответить: BlackBox &lt;BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch&gt;

Кому: BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch

Hello

My memory woes have raised some issues of wider concern, so I have started a new topic.

Ivan Denison says:

"I was not subscribed to the mail list in 2011, that is why I worked not with origin Louwy fix. I just have updated it in Gitorious. Now it will returns 5.

It is one of the reason, why bugtracking via mail is not best choice :) New members do not see the full picture."

His criticism of the BlackBox list is both right and wrong.

It is right from a technology perspective, a point that has been made in the past.

He is wrong from a social perspective. Active users were a very small group, and they all seemed to be on the mailing list. If you wanted help it was the place to ask, and help was usually provided. So the list was the place to be.

However, now that the centre of BlackBox activity is moving East, and Oms will no longer be hosting updates or even bug fixes, maybe we should consider replacing this list with a more "structured" forum.

Obviously such a more will only be an improvement if both:

- Someone suggests and organises some decent forum hosting medium (not me, I don't have the knowledge)
- And more importantly the vast majority of us willingly make the switch almost immediately.

Comments ???

Regards

Robert "I still want my missing 800 MByte" Campbell

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**Rene A. Krywult** <rene.krywult@gmx.at>  
Ответить: BlackBox <BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch>  
Кому: BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch

17 августа 2013 г., 19:19

Sorry, I don't see how bugtracking via forum is better than bugtracking via an eMail list. Bugtracking should be done via something like Bugzilla, IMHO.

Rene

**Gesendet:** Samstag, 17. August 2013 um 12:24 Uhr  
**Von:** "Robert Campbell" <rdcampbell.98@GMAIL.COM>  
**An:** BLACKBOX@LISTS.OBERON.CH  
**Betreff:** [BLACKBOX] BlackBox after Oms - Forum

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**Oleg N. Cher** <[allot@bk.ru](mailto:allot@bk.ru)>  
Ответить: BlackBox <[BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch](mailto:BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch)>  
Кому: [BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch](mailto:BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch)

17 августа 2013 г., 19:23

Dear Robert, dear All,

I have wanted to offer the forum <http://zx.oberon2.ru/forum/> for this purpose. And although some people think that the forum, which is available on the domain .ru, only for Russian-speaking people, it is not true. Oberon has no nationality. It was born in Switzerland, but it's good for people who speak all the languages of the World. And I was able to get the subdomain name "zx.oberon2.ru" (I was accepted to live there).

Topics of the forum are all Oberon dialects and any Oberon technologies (and beyond that - Modula-2, Modula-3 languages). Russian language is not necessary. A man with the nickname slenkar (he doesn't know Russian) came to the forum and he fully uses all forum's features without any problems.

So I'm actually surprised inattention of world Oberon community to the forum. I'm doing a forum not only for the Russians.

But in order not to embarrass anybody by using domain .ru, I still consider the possibility of moving the forum into another domain name. But we need to find sponsors to buy a domain name. I have experience in administration of the forum and I can offer my services. But I do not see myself make sense to have one forum dedicated to Oberon, and make another forum dedicated to Oberon.

Now your comments?

Thanks.

Robert Campbell wrote:

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Oleg N. Cher  
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17 августа 2013 г., 20:04

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lets go for it.

Bugzilla is probably the kind of support infra-structure I had in mind when I wrote "structured forum".

I don't know anything about Bugzilla. My guess would be that even if it forms part of a BlackBox list replacement, it would not be the complete answer?

Oleg:

A question for the community: Do we want a BlackBox specific forum, or to be part of a wider Oberon forum?

I think we want a BlackBox specific forum.

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And while the BB community is a subset of the Oberon community and needs good ties to it, we need to be an OpenSource community on our own, too, or BB will be history.

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Кому: BlackBox <BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch>

18 августа 2013 г., 0:09

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I suggest the special new tool (3 days alive) for the bug tracking and development:  
<http://redmine.molpit.com/projects/bbcb>

Believe me, that the most structured and moderated forum is <http://oberoncore.ru> and I recommend it for communication. I am not the author of this communication platform but I use it for 6 years and always satisfied. Boris and Eugeny (admins and moderators) says they will think how to internationalize it for more comfortable use.

I do not criticize <http://zx.oberon2.ru/forum/> and great work done by Oleg. He collects all the projects of a lot of programmers! And his forum is more Oberonic than BlackBox and that its strong side.

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18 августа 2013 г., 0:18

I need to comment that "special new tool" means Redmine + OdcReader for binary comparison by Git.

The examples you can see here:

[http://redmine.molpit.com/projects/bbcb/repository/diff?utf8=%E2%9C%93&rev=cd1890cf52db2e1747e818d7a85caeda344aacc2&rev\\_to=4ceab0a5e1b116ae358558e24964863a32eaf98c](http://redmine.molpit.com/projects/bbcb/repository/diff?utf8=%E2%9C%93&rev=cd1890cf52db2e1747e818d7a85caeda344aacc2&rev_to=4ceab0a5e1b116ae358558e24964863a32eaf98c)  
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**Romiras** <[romiras@users.sourceforge.net](mailto:romiras@users.sourceforge.net)>

18 августа 2013 г., 3:39

Ответить: BlackBox <[BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch](mailto:BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch)>

Кому: [BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch](mailto:BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch)

There are two main options for BlackBox community:

1. Use free (or paid) project hosting facilities. This option give us limited set of common used features like VCS, forum, bug-tracking and possibility to focus on team coordination and development of BlackBox. You can choose one of them in [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_open-source\\_software\\_hosting\\_facilities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_open-source_software_hosting_facilities)
2. Manage full stack of software of our choice on own hosting (buy if need). This option give us full control. Yet it costs money and requires knowledge and time in maintaining hosting (system administration). Combine - CPC Collection, Oberon Community Redmine, OberonCore etc all together - in one domain. But this requires a lot of coordination work from us.

2013/8/17 Rene A. Krywult <[rene.krywult@gmx.at](mailto:rene.krywult@gmx.at)>

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18 августа 2013 г., 6:16

Dear All,

I am sure that the Oberon community is too small to be separated. All people who like BlackBox and, for example, hate AOS - will prefer pure BlackBox-oriented resources. But people who like AOS and hate BlackBox - will prefer AOS resources. Folx, it's very harmful for Oberons at all. But I do not think the appearance of two (or more) forum is the separation of Oberon community. On the contrary - especially if the forum works and makes a real benefit to someone - it should be very much welcome by anyone who is interested in the dissemination of Oberon ideas.

Only one thing. I want to ask what is Ofront? Ofront is a half of BlackBox compiler (based on OP2), but AOS is based on ETH Oberon, and ETH Oberon has the same half of the compiler. Do you realize how close these themes to have a separate resource about BlackBox with the size of half a dozen people?

About the other. From the start I did not set objectives for the internationalization of the forum [zx.oberon2.ru/forum](http://zx.oberon2.ru/forum). Maybe it's my fault (I thought that the Russian Oberon community more active and will be pleased Forum as just forum, and not to play politics who is on which side plays). But I think the surest be centralized set of solutions to improve BlackBox (although this is difficult to achieve). BUT necessarily a DECENTRALIZED resource's administration.

Mind you, I am ready to share control (and ownership) of the forum to a few people, each of which will be able to download a full snapshot of the database, to have access to the admin panel. And be able to continue the support of the forum if, for example, I'll die. Now I'm ready to readdress the same question to the OberonCore - they are willing to share their forum to decentralized management to people who are interested in supporting the BlackBox even if the OberonCore will stops the BlackBox support?

I may be poorly explained, but I want to know your thoughts.

Ivan, thanks for the high appreciation. :-) Maybe you are right about OberonCore and BlackBox. Yeah, my forum is now by far the few viable. It's a forum of one person (about half of messages are mine). And to make it more viable definitely need people whose motto is "A set of ideas embodied in Oberons + PRACTICE" who need a forum. But for the time being so far I have met very few such people. So making the Oberon forums is an unprofitable business - too much competition, but very little turnover. ;)

\*Gentlemen\*, I want to take this opportunity to propose to everybody who want to place links to their projects at the forum [zx.oberon2.ru/forum](http://zx.oberon2.ru/forum) as well as the source code in Oberon, any unfinished projects, bindings to libraries written in other programming languages, the projects written in others Oberon implementations (non-BlackBoxed) and so on, to send me. Even if you are not registered on the forum - I'll create your own section with subforums where anyone can discuss and continue your projects.

I again emphasize that the Oberon community is very small, so that probably we do not have the right to withhold any of even the smallest project. Thank you very much.

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Oleg N. Cher  
VEDAsoft Oberon Club  
<http://zx.oberon2.ru>

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**Douglas G. Danforth** <[danforth@greenwoodfarm.com](mailto:danforth@greenwoodfarm.com)>  
Ответить: BlackBox <[BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch](mailto:BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch)>  
Кому: [BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch](mailto:BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch)

18 августа 2013 г., 13:45

Folks,  
Whatever structure we decide upon I would strongly suggest that a stable version of BlackBox be maintained and **changed at most twice a year**.  
Beta versions can be updated more frequently.  
-Doug Danforth

On 8/17/2013 12:39 PM, Romiras wrote:

There are two main options for BlackBox community:

1. Use free (or paid) project hosting facilities. This option give us limited set of common used features like VCS, forum, bug-tracking and possibility to focus on team coordination and development of BlackBox. You can choose one of them in [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_open-source\\_software\\_hosting\\_facilities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_open-source_software_hosting_facilities)
2. Manage full stack of software of our choice on own hosting (buy if need). This option give us full control. Yet it costs money and requires knowledge and time in maintaining hosting (system administration).  
Combine - CPC Collection, Oberon Community Redmine, OberonCore etc all together - in one domain. But this requires a lot of coordination work from us.

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18 августа 2013 г., 17:53

I agree, though I do not imagine that we can provide a stable version more than once a year.

Rene

---

**Gesendet:** Sonntag, 18. August 2013 um 07:45 Uhr  
**Von:** "Douglas G. Danforth" <[danforth@GREENWOODFARM.COM](mailto:danforth@GREENWOODFARM.COM)>  
**An:** [BLACKBOX@LISTS.OBERON.CH](mailto:BLACKBOX@LISTS.OBERON.CH)  
**Betreff:** Re: [BLACKBOX] Aw: Re: [BLACKBOX] [BLACKBOX] BlackBox after Oms - Forum

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**Robert Campbell** <[rdcampbell.98@gmail.com](mailto:rdcampbell.98@gmail.com)>  
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22 августа 2013 г., 3:57

Hello

When I started this thread I had already intended to start a companion "BlackBox after Oms - Code Base".

So I am pleased that this conversation has already begun.

Much of what has been said I agree with, quite a bit I don't understand, and about a little I hold a different opinion, or at least a different emphasis.

Rene's list is interesting, but too much to do all at once. My suggested first priorities are:

1=) Agree a new inclusive communication forum.

1=) Set up an authoritative 'Centre'.

We need the forum to discuss who / what the Centre is, and to give it its authority.  
One of the Centre's first tasks is to define, or at least endorse, the 'Official' discussion forum.

This is why these priorities cannot be ordered sequentially.

3) Establish, maintain, and give authority to BlackBox Code base 'A'. (I am deliberately giving it a temporary name that is not associated with any previous code base.)

It would have the following properties:

- a) - Based on Oms BlackBox 1.6 rc6, Build 8-9-2008.
- b) - Supports exactly the same functionality as 1.6 rc 6; no new functionality.
- c) - Includes bug fixes after they are properly reviewed / documented.

One might call it 'Stable', but I worry that that term implies some specific (low) update frequency. The update frequency of 'A' would be driven by need. When fixes are needed and available they should be applied.

There will be later code bases (I hope), but we should not discuss them now; that discussion should be hosted and concluded by the Centre when it exists.

I believe that Code base A is an urgent and important priority.

Currently Helmut Zinn has reported on (I think) 5 or 6 variants he has. I have my own (rc 6 + whatever fixes on the Oms mail list I thought were relevant and I copied correctly). There is a variant on Gitorious. There is a variant on Redmine. There may well be 1 or many more on OberonCore - I don't know. There is rc6 itself.

This confusion must be stopped.

Since Russia is where most BlackBox activity seems to be taking place, it is natural that the Centre might be heavily influenced by Russian members. I have no problem with that. But if it is in fact OberonCore that becomes the centre we need to ensure that the Oms list members do not feel totally excluded. They should all feel that they could apply to join the centre, although I am sure Wojtek will not be the only one not to do so in a hurry.

Rene's observation that Oms' decision to abandon BlackBox was a necessary move to trigger active discussion of starting an BB OpenSource project is interesting. Maybe they also need to close this list to encourage us to move to a new forum?

Finally I would like a clearer explanation of the relationships between:

- OberonCore
- Ivan's Gitorious project
- Ivan's Redmine initiative
- Oleg's [zx.oberon2.ru/forum](http://zx.oberon2.ru/forum) offer
- Any other organisations I don't even know about.

We want to understand if any of these already provide the forum we (I ?) want, or if something new and free from history is better.

(I have already expressed a personal opinion that a BlackBox specific project is desirable, rather than being a small part of a wider Oberon activity.)

Best Regards

Robert.

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**Oleg N. Cher** <allot@bk.ru>  
Ответить: BlackBox <BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch>  
Кому: BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch

22 августа 2013 г., 6:43

Dear BlackBox Community,

Remember I wrote about centralization of BB development but decentralization therein the center can continue to work, and the work was not based on one person, and wholly dependent on him - to not to create problems if the person ceases the BB activity. To be independent from anyone to continue the project.

Ivan have proposed Redmine and Git repository. Why it is good?

- 1) Git is a practically best system of version control. Every developer even if not use Git at least must know it, I think.
- 2) At Redmine Ivan is implementing the showing of the differences between the BlackBox's .odc binary sources. This is a unique opportunity that is not available anywhere else.
- 3) Every developer has full cloned copy of the:
  - a) actual distribution of BB (and easy possibility to actualize it by typing "git pull").
  - b) list of all changes (commit history)
  - c) a possibility to start his own BB assembly from his own copy of the repository, if he wants. (But I agree with Robert - too many of BB assemblies is evil)

It is not ideal, but well "decentralisation" of development, at least in role of first step.

I think, only people who used BB actively can continue the development of BB to solve their problems. But there is another way. Is there anybody who want to see in BB a feature needed by him and ready to pay for implementation the feature and support? We can do development in such way. In other case I'm in doubts about BB future... a lot of fixes, adding some little features, nothing else.

Who agrees with me?

But if no interest to develop and use BB with benefits - better to use Java (reluctantly).

;-)

I do not see myself as active BB developer, but I can be an admin of the forum, if it is needed.

Reply to Robert's "Finally I would like a clearer explanation of the relationships between

- OberonCore
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We want to understand if any of these already provide the forum we (I ?) want, or if something new and free from history is better."

I answer about relationships between [zx.oberon2.ru/forum](http://zx.oberon2.ru/forum) and other. The forum is fully non-profit, independent from other Oberon resources and maintained by a few Oberon enthusiasts (including me). Founder of the forum is me. First (but not only one) language is Russian.

If someone here needs an Oberon forum and would like to be the forum's user, please write me privately what is obstacle of the registration at [zx.oberon2.ru/forum](http://zx.oberon2.ru/forum) ? I ask this because I am willing to consider any proposals for the development of the forum and increase its usefulness - do more internalization (de facto englishication), etc. I'll be waiting for your suggestions.

Maybe somebody here wants to propose me the creation of a new forum for the needs proposed by Robert, I would consider - but we need to buy hosting first. And choose an engine. I would prefer BHP-BB.

--

Oleg N. Cher  
VEDAsoft Oberon Club  
<http://zx.oberon2.ru>

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22 августа 2013 г., 12:21

Robert et al,

It occurs to me that each major 'country' should have a center. The country center then coordinates with the 'international' center to keep in step with the 'official' software/documentation release.

I propose that Switzerland be the international center (long history of neutrality).

Perhaps each country center has a (rotating) representative who jointly sits on the international coordinating committee and his home center. It is the international committee that has to (must) make the (joint) decision on what is official.

-Doug Danforth

On 8/21/2013 12:57 PM, Robert Campbell wrote:

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Кому: [BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch](mailto:BLACKBOX@lists.oberon.ch)

22 августа 2013 г., 18:18

Great thought. Is there anybody from Switzerland on this list or on OberonCore?

On this note: it would be helpful to know who is ready to partake in this endeavor as "center". May I ask for a vote?

I made a GoogleDocs sheet where all of you who want to participate in the center can enter their name, email adress, country, mother tongue and affiliation (i.e. OberonCore, Blackbox list or whatever).

Since I created the document, I entered my data first. This should not be misunderstood as a trial to take the lead.

Currently the document does not have security! He who has the link can read and change the data! I think it would be prudent to change this as quickly as possible, for data security reasons. Therefore, if possible, it would be wise to have all your data by tomorrow evening.

If any of you have a different idea on how to gather the relevant data so that we know who COULD be part of the "center", please tell us.

Here is the link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0At8-mq2IVCqtdFh6RW1vb1I2Rm5POXdxczNaallmTXc&usp=sharing>

Rene

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**Gesendet:** Donnerstag, 22. August 2013 um 06:21 Uhr  
**Von:** "Douglas G. Danforth" <[danforth@GREENWOODFARM.COM](mailto:danforth@GREENWOODFARM.COM)>  
**An:** [BLACKBOX@LISTS.OBERON.CH](mailto:BLACKBOX@LISTS.OBERON.CH)  
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