All About Koha

Koha Workshop, Stuttgart

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Who Am I?

- A Koha developer for Catalyst New Zealand
- Debian package maintainer for Koha
- What do I do with Koha?

What do I do with Koha?

- Migrations to Koha
- Developing new features
- Training
- Support
- Conferences and Workshops

What is Koha?

- Koha is a library system...

What is Koha?

- ...but you knew that already.

What is Koha?
Some History and Background

- **Koha** is a Māori word that can be translated as "gift" or "donation"
- Koha (the software) was originally made for the Horowhenua Library Trust in Levin, New Zealand
- They didn't want to be in the software business, so released it as Free Software
- It slowly started catching on around the world, and is now quite popular in France, the USA, India and many other countries

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What is Koha?
What's so special about it?

- Many small things:
    - A good range of features
    - Rapid development
    - A very active community of users
    - Free Software

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Free Software?

- Libré, not (necessarily) gratis
- What does this mean for you?
    - You can choose your implementation according to your budget and skills
    - You have the ability to influence the direction of the project
    - You can share the development load with other libraries
        - Collaborative funding of features
        - Waiting for a feature sponsored by others to be developed
    - More on Free Software and how it works in a business sense to come later

How does development work?

- It usually starts with the library
- They have a feature they want, or a bug that's annoying them
- They get a fix developed

How does development work?

- There are a number of ways a library can do this:
  - Do it themselves
  - Hire a programmer to do it
  - Ask the community nicely
  - Hire a support company to do it
    - Catalyst, BSZ, 31 other companies around the world
      http://www.koha-community.org/support/

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- It gets sent "upstream"
- In this case, to the main Koha project
- Now it gets tested and QAed by two other people, who must be from different companies

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How does development work?

- It (probably) goes into Koha
  - A bug fix goes into the current release
  - A feature goes into the next release

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- All this happens in the open
- If a bug is bothering you, and a fix has been made, you can add it to your copy
- This is quite common

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How does the community work?

- Development is part of the community, but there is more
- Koha users
- Translaters, testers, documenters, . . .

How does the community work?

- Helping other users with operational questions
- Reporting bugs, suggesting features
- Pointing out when things don't work in a good way, or could be improved
- Answering when asked "how should this work?"
- Sharing information, e.g. MARC frameworks and reports

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How does the community work?

- Testing fixes/new features
- Writing documentation
- Making tutorials
- Translating Koha into other languages

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Community Resources

- Mailing lists
  http://koha-community.org/support/koha-mailing-lists/
- IRC - Real time chat
  http://koha-community.org/support/free-support/
- Manual - All about how to use Koha
  http://manual.koha-community.org/
- Wiki - Community knowledge base
  http://wiki.koha-community.org/wiki/Main_Page
- Bugzilla - Where bugs and features are reported and tracked
  http://bugs.koha-community.org/
- Git - Where development happens
  http://git.koha-community.org/
- Pootle - Translation system
  http://translate.koha-community.org/

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Community Events

- KohaCon
  - 2012 was in Edinburgh, Scotland
  - 2013 will be in Reno, Nevada, USA

- Local workshops
  - Common in the USA, New Zealand, and some other countries
  - Only one (so far) in Germany

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