

# WorldVistA

K.S. Bhaskar  
Co-founder, Director, & Acting COO – WorldVistA  
Vice President – Fidelity  
[ks.bhaskar@fnf.com](mailto:ks.bhaskar@fnf.com) / [bhaskar@bhaskars.com](mailto:bhaskar@bhaskars.com)  
+1 (610) 578-4265



# Mission

- Affordable healthcare information technology worldwide through the use of VistA



# Leadership team

- Board
  - Maury Pepper – Chair
  - Joseph Dal Molin, Rick Marshall, Larry Landis, K.S. Bhaskar – Directors
- Executives
  - Joseph Dal Molin – Acting President & VP, Bus. Dev.
  - K.S. Bhaskar – Acting COO
  - Rick Marshall – CTO
  - Dave Whitten – Treasurer
  - Chris Richardson – Secretary and VP, Special Projects
  - Colin Smith – VP, Special Projects
  - Peter Groen – VP, Government Liaison, USA



# History

- Many members came from MUMPS Development Committee's task force on object oriented extensions
- Founded in 2002 – incorporated in California, IRS status 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization
- Seminal work on port of VistA to GT.M, prior to porting project funded by Pacific Telehealth and Technology Hui
- Organizer of 13 VistA Community Meetings
- Active role in VistA Office EHR project



# WorldVistA is about VistA

- Overwhelming evidence that the systemic use of automation such as electronic health records leads to both better quality as well as more affordable healthcare
- *VistA provides this functionality!*



# FLOSS for health

- FLOSS (Free Libré & Open Source Software) empowers users
  - Unrestricted right to use
  - Ability to learn from it
  - Ability to adapt it to your needs
  - Protection against extortionate pricing
  - Synergistic user community
- FLOSS business models are definitely commercial
  - But different from more common business models based on revenue from restrictive licenses
- *VistA is FLOSS!*



# VistA software stack

- Neutral with respect to all vendors
- WorldVistA's preference is for FLOSS because of user empowerment
- But by no means restricted to FLOSS (e.g., VOE work was non-FLOSS stack)



# WorldVistA – looking ahead

- “It's the software stupid” (apologies to Bill Clinton)
  - Make the software as widely & readily available as possible
    - Release on Source Forge
    - Pre-packaged ready to run releases
  - Keep VistA from forking
    - Software is naturally fissiparous – actively working to bring forked projects back to mainstream
    - Standards to encourage sharing
    - Persuasion as important as technology & standards





# WorldVistA – looking ahead .. 2

- “It's the software stupid”
- People are more important than technology
  - FLOSS needs a community of developers and users
  - Communities have a social purpose too
  - People trust the people they know
  - Successful FLOSS projects have a transparent meritocracy



# WorldVista – looking ahead .. 3

- “It's the software stupid”
- People are more important than technology
- “An army marches on its stomach” (Napolean Bonaparte)
  - Balance volunteerism with paid work
  - Need to attract funding to increase effectiveness and impact



# What WorldVistA is

- Software and technology
- People
- Funding and projects



# Questions? Comments!

---



FIDELITY NATIONAL  
INFORMATION SERVICES

