Bouncing forwards, tracing back.
2002

- January: George W. Bush faints after choking on a pretzel
- February: Crown Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands marries Máxima, Princess of Orange in Amsterdam
- March: U.S. invasion of Afghanistan
- April: Funeral of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother
2002 (contd.)

- May: First Eurovision Song Contest in a former Soviet country: Estonia
- June: Mozilla 1.0, the first 'official' version, is released
- July: During Bastille Day celebrations, Jacques Chirac escapes an assassination attempt unscathed
- August: Central Europe is ravaged by floods
2002 (contd.)

- September: Switzerland, known for its neutrality, finally joins the United Nations.

- October: U.S. Congress passes a resolution, which explicitly authorizes the President to use the Armed Forces as he deems to be necessary and appropriate, against Iraq.

- November: Iran bans advertising of US products.

- December: Total solar eclipse.
December 11, 2002

Dear Radiance community,

Following your enthusiastic response to the announcement of our plans for the Radiance software, we are happy to announce the new Radiance Open Source License! The objective of the Radiance Open Source License is to encourage further development and distribution of the Radiance software and derivative applications, so that a larger number of users can benefit from Radiance's capabilities.

The Radiance Open Source License follows the "Apache" open source paradigm, which provides complete freedom on the use, development and distribution of the Radiance source code and executables. The initial version of the Radiance software that is distributed under the new open source license is version 3.4, which has been available through the Radiance website (http://radsite.lbl.gov/radiance) since January 2002.
Open Source

OSS: Open Source Software
FOSS: Free Open Source Software
FLOSS: Free, Libre, Open Source Software

The term 'free' is ambiguous in English Language:

'Free' as in speech (livre)
'Free' as in beer (gratis)
Evil
'Source code available' vs 'Open Source'

Personal anecdote: Solar geometry formulae
(DayMedia, now CLEAR:
  http://www.learn.londonmet.ac.uk/
  packages/clear/visual/daylight/sun_sky/sun_calc.html)
Open Source Requirements

- Free redistribution,
- Source code access,
- Derivative works,
- No discrimination,
- No restrictions on other software.
Four Families of OS Licenses

Open Source Definition (OSD) by the Open Source Initiative (OSI)

- strong copyleft licenses
- weak copyleft licenses
- no copyleft licenses
- other open source licenses

Stephen Fishman: *Open Source Licenses Are Not All the Same*
Strong Copyleft Licenses

- GNU General Public License (GPL)

Anyone who modifies the source code and distributes it to the public must license the modifications back to the public under the same terms as the original software.
Weak Copyleft Licenses

- Mozilla Public License (MPL)

For programmers who wish to contribute to open source software don't want to give up all their ownership rights in their modifications. Watered-down Strong License.
No Copyleft Licenses

- Berkeley Software Distribution (BSD) License,
- Apache Software License,
- MIT License

Permits users to do virtually anything:
- They may distribute the software (either for free or commercially) without providing the source code;
- They may modify it and distribute the changes without providing the source code.
- Anyone can turn software distributed under no-copyleft licenses into proprietary software.
Other OS Licenses

- Artistic License,
- Academic Free License

Combine elements from the other license families and contain additional provisions as well.
“The objective of the Radiance Open Source License is to encourage further development and distribution of the Radiance software and derivative applications, so that a larger number of users can benefit from Radiance's capabilities.”
“The Radiance Open Source License follows the "Apache" open source paradigm, which provides complete freedom on the use, development and distribution of the Radiance source code and executables.”
“LBNL encourages Radiance developers to contribute enhancements and improvements to the Radiance software back to the Radiance community. LBNL will be happy to evaluate contributions for inclusion in the official LBNL version. We intend that end-user applications using the LBNL version of the Radiance software will be entitled to use a "Powered by Radiance" logo (although this logo does not exist yet) to indicate that the underlying engine is the LBNL-approved version of the Radiance engine.

“We look forward to exciting new opportunities on improving the Radiance software and making it easier to use!”
Apache license:

“Take the code and run, and don't even send me postcard.”

BTW: Does LBNL actually have any resources to maintain the code?

Many potential contributors might be put off by this license.
Advantages of OSS (user)

- No restriction of how the software is used;
- No single entity on which the future of the software depends;
- No “black boxes” are possible;
- Possibility of “forking”;
- No per-copy fees for modified versions;
- Fewer conflicting priorities due to marketing pressures;
- Provides a new forum for democratic action

http://eu.conecta.it/paper/Advantages_open_source_soft.html
Advantages of OSS (developer)

- Feedback;
- Contributions;
- Bug testing
An Open Source Project

- Software
- Man pages
- Getting Started Guide
- Tutorials
- Manuals/Hand book
- FAQ
- Mailing list
Let's look at it, then.

Axel's Ratings on a scale from one to five:

- **Software** -> 5
- **Man pages** -> 5
- **Getting Started Guide** -> 1
- **Tutorials** -> 1
- **Manuals/Hand book** 1
- **FAQ** -> 0
- **Mailing list** -> 2
Mailing List Myth

- Software
- Man pages
- Getting Started Guide
- Tutorials
- Manuals/Hand book
- FAQ

All ends up here: • Mailing list
IES
Windows

Restart and set the recovery options in the system control panel or the /CRASHDEBUG system start option. If this message reappears, contact your system administrator or technical support group.
gensky
People answering on the list will run out of steam.
Hang On!

What about The BOOK?
Yeah, what about it?

Very good resource, but:

- Tries to be all things to all users,
- No open documentation,
- Limited shelf life (like all computing books),
- Can't possibly cover all or even the most important aspects of RADIANCE,
- Non-editable,
- Indirectly discourages other documentation (How an I possibly compete with The BOOK?)
What Makes OSS Developers Tick?

• Enjoy coding just for the sake of it
• Code to solve a problem, then share it with others
• Acknowledgment from peers, “Hacker” status
• Pat on the shoulder
Common Misconceptions

- Coders are 'cool'
- Writing documentation is for losers that can't do anything decent
- 'Baby, do you wanna see my code' sounds better than 'Would you like to read my documentation?'
- Once the software is there, the rest will sort itself out.
An Open Source project is nothing without the documentation to go with it!

Since before the OSS announcement, the software has been mostly complete, but good documentation IS STILL MISSING (four years later)!

Axel is cool (but writes documentation)!
What Needs Doing?

- Developers: Produce the tools for people to create contents. A thriving community requires a functioning infra-structure.
- Users: Produce and share documentation for RADIANCE!
- Designers: Have a logo competition, design a new community web site!
- All: There is something that can be done for ANYBODY, with ANY experience and with ANY skills.
warning
no light sources found
Quick Fix

Create moderated topics from mailing list threads
(remove duplication, make it more readable)

Put up for discussion (Wiki?), get comments

Include screenshots and examples.
Problem

Missing infrastructure
(Community web site)

This needs addressing very badly!!!
Or is it all there?

Maybe all this documentation exists, but it's just impossible to find (like extraterrestrial intelligence)?

Where is RADIANCE's Area 51?
RadHub - RADIANCE Resource Index

Please select which keywords to display. Selected keywords are logically combined with OR.

- AddOns
- Export
- LightSources
- Patterns
- Tutorial
- Ambient
- Generators
- Materials
- Reference
- Validation
- Animation
- HDR
- Modelling
- Parameters
- Scripting
- Textures
- Daylighting
- Import

2 Generate material primitives from colour values
URL: http://localhost/resources/radiance/cp4r/index.html
Keywords: Materials, AddOns
Vote: Useless ◾ ◾ ◾ ◾ ◾ Great

5 Axel's WebHDR: Create HDR images on-line
URL: http://localhost/webhdr/index.shtml
Keywords: Daylighting, Materials, HDR
Vote: Useless ◾ ◾ ◾ ◾ ◾ Great

6 LEARN RADIANCE Resources
URL: http://www.learn.londonmet.ac.uk/student/resources/radiance/index.shtml
Keywords: Materials, Modelling, Ambient
Vote: Useless ◾ ◾ ◾ ◾ ◾ Great

Vote for your favourite sites: Vote, or clear the votes: reset.

Last modified 20 June 2006, 13:33 GMT

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When feedback requested on the dev-list, the comments were:

- RadHub was 'SILLY';
- Did nothing that Google didn't.

'Developers' need to understand what's needed by the RADIANCE users and provide the necessary tools.

Change of climate required (oh, what irony!)
"It's an emerging rule of thumb that suggests that if you get a group of 100 people online then one will create content, 10 will "interact" with it (commenting or offering improvements) and the other 89 will just view it..."

"Wikipedia: 50% of all Wikipedia article edits are done by 0.7% of users, and more than 70% of all articles have been written by just 1.8% of all users”

Source: http://technology.guardian.co.uk/weekly/story/0,,1823959,00.html
Statistics, ...

Over the one year from April 2005 to March 2006:
- 233 Questions were asked on RADIANCE-General
- 95 users wrote 939 posts.
- 50% of all posts were made by seven users.
27 users with 1 post,
12 users with 2 posts,
38 users with 3 posts,
23 users with 4-10 posts,
12 users with 11-20 posts,
5 users with 20-50 posts,
4 users with 50-100 posts,
1 user with 171 posts (no shown).
Over the same year:

- 28 topics were discussed on RADIANCE-Devel
- 19 users wrote 96 posts.
- 50% of all posts were made by two users.
..., and damn Lies.

RADIANCE is doing well and has a flourishing community.
One-man band
Where's the orchestra?
Conclusions

Sorted by 'niceness'...
The RADIANCE community has not realised the potential of Open Source Software yet.
The RADIANCE community has failed miserably (so far).
Conclusions (Version 3)

RADIANCE Community?
What Community?
The End

Thank you for hearing me out.