

# Evaluating Pentaho As An Open Source Project

## Purpose and Audience

This document is designed for users who may be new to open source software. It relies on a framework for evaluating open source projects published recently in InformationWeek. As a starting point, it's worth reviewing the original article from InformationWeek, entitled [How to Tell the Open Source Winners From the Losers](#).

The article presents the following 9-point checklist for evaluating an open source project.

<b>How To Spot A Successful Open Source Project</b>		
A 9-point checklist before considering using open source.		
<b>A thriving community</b> A handful of lead developers, a large body of contributors, and a substantial—or at least motivated—user group offering ideas.	<b>Disruptive goals</b> Does something notably better than commercial code. Free isn't enough.	<b>A benevolent dictator</b> Leader who can inspire and guide developers, asking the right questions and letting only the right code in.
<b>Transparency</b> Decisions are made openly, with threads of discussion, active mailing list, and negative and positive comments aired.	<b>Civility</b> Strong forums police against personal attacks or niggling issues, focus on big goals.	<b>Documentation</b> What good's a project that can't be implemented by those outside its development?
<b>Employed developers</b> The key developers need to work on it full time.	<b>A clear license</b> Some are very business friendly, others clear as mud.	<b>Commercial support</b> Companies need more than e-mail support from volunteers. Is there a solid company employing people you can call?

The chart below includes relevant information on Pentaho, using this same framework.

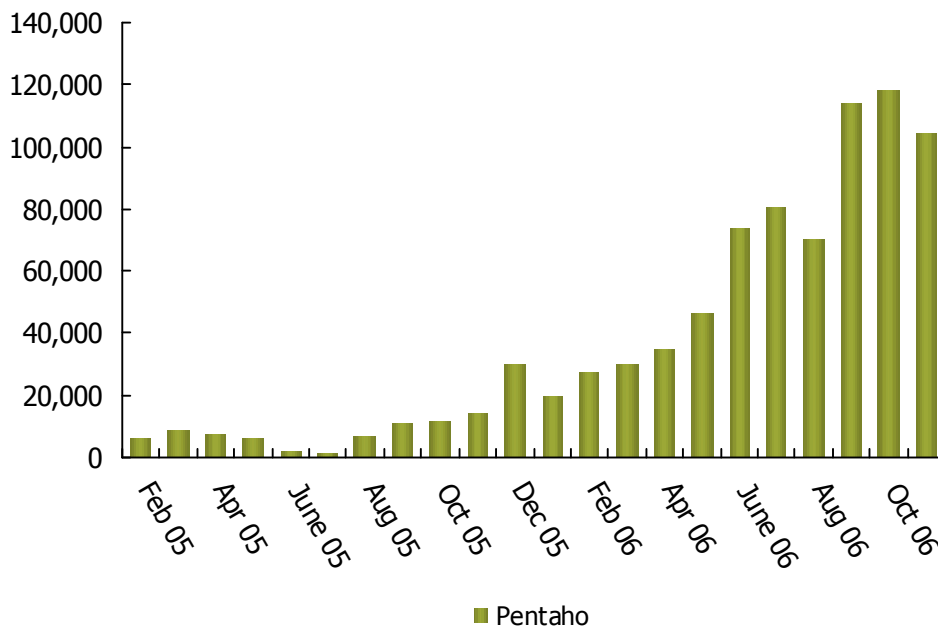
<b>Pentaho's 9-point Checklist</b>		
That have made Pentaho The World's Most Popular Open Source BI Suite		
<b>A thriving community</b> Pentaho has a large and vibrant community, more than 100K downloads / month, SourceForge.net Project of The Month Oct. 2006	<b>Disruptive goals</b> Pentaho's architecture and embedded workflow create many innovative new possibilities for embedded and operational BI.	<b>A benevolent dictator</b> Pentaho's project leads are all passionate, experienced open source developers who've earned the trust of their communities.
<b>Transparency</b> Pentaho's roadmap, forums, and bug tracking are publicly available to community members.	<b>Civility</b> Pentaho has a public forum participation policy that users respect. In rare cases, offending users or posts are removed.	<b>Documentation</b> Pentaho provides extensive documentation as well as public technical tips and an open, evolving documentation Wiki.
<b>Employed developers</b> Pentaho has acquired strategic projects, and all core developers are employed by Pentaho.	<b>A clear license</b> Pentaho's licenses are all OSI-certified, and designed to be business- and community-friendly.	<b>Commercial support</b> Pentaho provides telephone and electronic support including 9-5 and 24X7 offerings.

# Clear Leadership in Open Source BI

## The World's Most Popular Open Source BI Suite

Publicly available information from sourceforge.net shows that Pentaho's opens source BI projects are now downloaded at roughly a rate of 100,000 downloads per month. While downloads do not in-and-of-themselves mean that a given project is exceptional, Pentaho's large and growing volumed of monthly downloads shows much faster community adoption of the project, and contributes to a larger base of users providing quality feedback, project contributions, and enhancements.

Monthly Download Totals –Through November 2006



Source: SourceForge.net public monthly download data for [Pentaho](#) projects.

Pentaho's popularity and vibrant project community also led to its selection as the SourceForge.net [Project of The Month for October 2006](#).

*"A project like Pentaho showcases the emergence of enterprise applications among the many projects hosted on SourceForge.net. Pentaho's growing popularity exhibits the leadership, innovation and activity that the SourceForge.net community likes to see."*



- Jay Seirmarco, General Manager for SourceForge.net

## Widespread Adoption for a Wide Range of Applications

A number of organizations have turned to Pentaho to address their BI needs – from departmental and embedded reporting to data warehouses, balanced scorecards, dashboards, large-scale data analysis, and more. Pentaho customers like [DivX](#), [MySQL](#), [Unionfidi](#) and [Terra Industries](#) have publicly announced their selection and deployments of Pentaho.

“Pentaho addresses our reporting and data integration needs, provides tremendous flexibility, and offered far better value than proprietary alternatives. Pentaho was also an attractive partner because of the quality of their team, and the size and activity of the Pentaho community.” - DivX



“We selected Pentaho for its ease-of-use. Pentaho addressed many of our requirements -- from reporting and analysis to dashboards, OLAP and ETL, and offered our business users the Excel-based access that they wanted.” - MySQL



“Pentaho provides a great solution for us, addressed our technical and business requirements, was quick to deploy, and provided far better value than other alternatives.” - Unionfidi



“We chose Pentaho because it has a full range of functionality, exceptional flexibility, and a low total cost of ownership because of its open source business model. We can start delivering value to our business users quickly with embedded, web-based reporting, while integrating our disparate data sources for more strategic benefits down the road.”

