

African Virtual Open Initiatives and Resources (AVOIR) / University of Witwatersrand

The African Virtual Open Initiatives and Resources (AVOIR) builds capacity in software engineering in Africa using Free Software (Open Source) as the vehicle. A partnership of 16 African Universities in an alliance that includes partners in North America, Europe, and Kabul, Afghanistan, AVOIR is a network with a node in each member institution.

Each node participates in the development, deployment and support of software, seeks business and partnership opportunities that lead to sustainability, implements software in support of their institutional requirements, participates actively in communication and collaboration activities, and helps to market the network, and its products and services. AVOIR has created the Chisimba framework and applications based on it.

Chisimba is a Web 2.0 enabled rapid application development framework for creating web applications that are platform independent, browser independent, and can use a number of common databases. It is written in PHP5 using the model-view-controller architectural paradigm, implemented via a modular architecture. Over 200 modules of functionality are already available and these can be used out of the box to create a content management system, a feature-rich e-learning platform, a group-based collaboration platform, a blogging system that allows posting from mobile phones, and many other applications.

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