

Course Introduction

COMP8440: FOSSD



An experiment ...

- Most people learn FOSS by doing
 - Very few learn about FOSS through courses
 - Can FOSS be taught? We think so
- Feedback essential
 - We will need good feedback on this course
 - We are relying on *active* participation by you
 - Tell us if you don't understand something!
 - Ask us to cover new topics

Reading Tasks

- Background reading
 - You are expected to read the following articles *before* the course starts
 - Read them carefully and take notes!
- History from Karl Fogel's 'Producing OSS'
 - <http://producingoss.com/en/producingoss.html#history>
- Two articles by Eric Raymond
 - <http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>
 - <http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/cathedral-bazaar/homesteading/>
- The GNU Project Free Software Definition
 - <http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/free-sw.html>
- The OSI Open Source Definition
 - <http://opensource.org/docs/osd>

Course Outline

- Tuesday
 - An introduction to FOSS
 - Getting started in a FOSS project
 - How are FOSS projects governed?
- Wednesday
 - The history of FOSS
 - Inside FOSS licensing
 - FOSS and the law
- Thursday
 - Source code management for FOSS projects
 - FOSS and business
 - What motivates a FOSS developer?

Course Outline (2)

- Friday
 - Case study: Samba
 - FOSS distributions and platforms
 - FOSS and Security
- Saturday
 - Starting a new project
 - FOSS Culture
 - Release early, release often

Lab Work

- **Tuesday**
 - Installing a FOSS project (specified project)
 - Installing a FOSS project (choice of small list)
- **Wednesday**
 - Finding your own project
 - Study chosen project
- **Thursday, Friday**
 - Work on chosen project and produce a report
- **Saturday**
 - Project presentations

Selecting a Project

- Project assessment
 - A large part of the course assessment is based on submission of a project report
 - It is strongly suggested that you start looking at possible projects *now*
- Suggested criterion
 - Project is moderately active
 - at least several commits per month
 - Is at least 3 years old
 - Has produced a usable release
 - Must use a FOSS license
 - Welcomes new contributors
 - Has several active contributors
 - Can run on DCS Linux lab machines (Ubuntu)
 - Is interesting to you!

Selecting a project (2)

- Suggested Resources
 - <http://freshmeat.net/>
 - <http://gna.org/>
 - <http://sourceforge.net/>
 - <http://savannah.gnu.org/>
 - <https://launchpad.net/>
 - <http://directory.fsf.org/GNU/>
 - <http://packages.debian.org/>
 - language specific sites (for programming languages you know)

Assessment

- Saturday presentation
 - 15% of total mark
 - Very short presentation!
 - Very little time to prepare – work hard!
- Project study
 - 40% of total mark
 - Approximately 10 pages expected
 - See web site for detailed description
- Project work
 - 45% of total mark
 - See web site for detailed description

Learning Linux

- Knowledge of Unix/Linux
 - The course assumes you have some familiarity with Linux/UNIX
 - If you don't feel confident of your skills, please learn before the course starts
- LiveCD
 - Try a Ubuntu LiveCD before you come
 - Go through one of the Linux command line tutorials
 - Try compiling and running some FOSS projects

Pizza!

- Enjoy the pizza
 - Please ask questions, and say hello to the other students in the course
 - Grab a Ubuntu LiveCD if you want one