

Mozilla Sprint at the URJC

EduCamp@FOSDEM 2009

Gregorio Robles, Pascal Chevrel

grex@gsyc.urjc.es

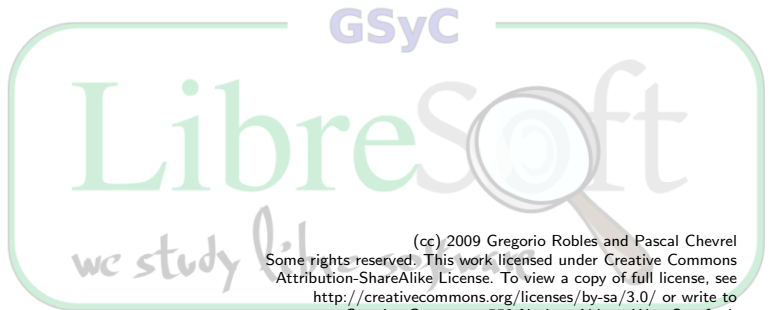
GSyC/Libresoft, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

Brussels, February 6th 2009

we study libre software



Universidad
Rey Juan Carlos



(cc) 2009 Gregorio Robles and Pascal Chevrel
Some rights reserved. This work licensed under Creative Commons
Attribution-ShareAlike License. To view a copy of full license, see
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/> or write to
Creative Commons, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford,
California 94305, USA.

Context: URJC

- Universidad Rey Juan Carlos
- One of the six public universities in the region of Madrid
- URJC is the youngest one (founded 1996)
- 20,000 students, 1,000 faculty members
- Several campi: mostly in the Southern part of Madrid (20 km away from the city center)
- Graduate and post-graduate courses
- Fundación URJC (FURJC): Foundation of the university. Promotes master degrees
- FURJC building located in the city center (Manuel Becerra)

GSyC/LibreSoft

- Research group at the URJC
- Goal: research and promote FLOSS
- Over 30 members (3 faculty members). Members of Debian, GNOME, Apache, Wikipedia community
- Ample experience with FLOSS: labs, (European and national) research projects, tools, masters...
- Experience organizing FLOSS conferences and meetings: 2 HispaLinux, GUADEC, GUADEC-es, etc.
- Teaching duties at the Telecommunication School (by now, few students in the last courses)

Context: Studies in Europe

- “Bologna agreement” implementation on the way
- Undergraduate (bachelor): 4 years (240 ECTS)
- Postgraduate (master): 1-2 years (60 - 120 ECTS)
- Promotion of exchange (students and lecturers)
- Two type of masters:
 - Official masters: public prizes (from 1500 to 5000 euro), possibilities of Erasmus and Erasmus Mundus exchange programs, allow to do a PhD
 - University-own masters and other post-graduate programs: title from the university, more versatile, title has less advantages (learning is more important)

Titles by public universities

- *Master*: 60 - 120 ECTS
- *Curso de especialista universitario*: 25 ECTS
- *Curso Monográfico*: 15 ECTS



Sprint context

- Goal: to have a Mozilla-specific course
- Title: “Curso Monográfico en Tecnologías Mozilla” or “Curso Superior Universitario en Tecnologías Mozilla”
- Number of ECTS credits: 15 ECTS (i.e. 375 hours of effort on the side of the student):
 - 3 on-site ECTS (in a sprint in Madrid during one week)
 - 3 on-line theoretical ECTS (with on-line support)
 - 9 on-line practical ECTS (project, with on-line support)
- Official language: English

Methodology: Blended learning (b-learning)

Lots of advantages:

- Face-to-face: community feeling, networking, etc.
- On-line: allows to teach in a geographic distributed environment; very much the way FLOSS communities work (and with the tools the community works)
- Specially in Europe: allows to have a wider audience
- GSyC/LibreSoft has an ample experience with blended learning
 - Use of Moodle since 2004
 - Master on Libre Software in Madrid 2009 is completely b-learning
 - Practices from the FLOSS Community: on-line mentoring via IRC, mailing lists...
- Requires to create materials (reuse!)

Calendar

Possible dates:


- Course: July to October
- Sprint: one week in July in Madrid at the URJC dependencies
- First two weeks: on-line presentation and materials
- 3rd week: Sprint in Madrid
- 4th week: Proposal of projects (and mentors) by Mozilla Foundation and GSyC/LibreSoft
- 5th week: Selection of projects by students
- 9th week: Intermediate deliverable by student
- 13th week: Final project (grading)

Why a Sprint?

- Face-to-face learning increases motivation, empathy, etc.
- Creates a sense of community
- Requires only one week of on-site teaching (of the three months of the course)
- Addresses people from all over Europe
- Monday morning and Friday afternoon: travel. Makes it possible for professionals to attend
- Very much like a community meeting (FOSDEM, GUADEC, aKademy...)
- Social activities

Sprint schedule

On-site lectures during the sprint in Madrid (32 hours):



Monday:	17:00 - 20:30
Tuesday:	9:00 - 13:30 15:00 - 20:30
Wednesday	9:00 - 13:30 16:00 - 20:30 (social event visiting Madrid) 21:00 - 24:00 (social dinner)
Thursday	10:00 - 13:30 15:00 - 20:30
Friday	9:00 - 13:30

Syllabus

Sprint lectures (32 hours):

- I. General part (7h)
 - Presentation of the sprint and other organizational issues (2h)
 - Introduction to Moodle platform and learning methodology (1h)
 - Introduction to Free Software, licensing, etc. (4h)
- II. Mozilla project (7h)
 - Introduction to the Mozilla project (3h)
 - Introduction to Mozilla products (4h)
- III. Mozilla technologies (18 hours)
 - Introduction to Mozilla technologies (3h)
 - Gecko, SpiderMonkey, XPCOM, XUL Runner, Plug-ins... (15h)

Budget

Several scenarios:

- All included - students won't have to pay anything during the whole week
 - Includes flight, accommodation, lunch, social activities, lecturers and administrative fees by university...
 - Requires external funding
 - Price per student (from Europe: 1,000 euro/student; local: 600 euro/student)
- Course + accommodation included - students will have to pay for their flight
 - Includes accommodation, social activities, lecturers and administrative fees by university
 - Requires external funding
 - Price per student (500 euro/student). Students will pay the rest
- Public price + several scholarships

Long run

- We would like to have an optional Mozilla-own module in a (possibly official) masters program (60 to 90 ECTS).
- Pros: lecturers, funding, exchange. Cons: less flexible
- Universities are slow implementing new programmes. Having smaller efforts meanwhile helps
- In addition, other optional project related modules: GNOME, KDE...
- 15-20 ECTS core credits, 10-15 ECTS optional credits
- 12-15 ECTS optional project-related credits (Mozilla, GNOME, KDE...)
- 15-30 ECTS practicum + master thesis
- Strong collaboration with FLOSS communities
- Modules could be offered in isolation (for instance, one could only do the Mozilla module)

In short...

- European universities are in a shape of change. Lots of possibilities, but also lots of risks
- Collaboration between academia and FLOSS community for having specific courses
- b-learning as a methodology close to FLOSS development and suited for geographically distributed students
- The Mozilla Sprint is a first step towards something more ambitious

Mozilla Sprint at the URJC

EduCamp@FOSDEM 2009

Gregorio Robles, Pascal Chevrel

greg@gsyc.urjc.es

GSyC/Libresoft, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

Brussels, February 6th 2009

we study libre software



Universidad
Rey Juan Carlos