Mozilla Sprint at the URJC
EduCamp@FOSDEM 2009

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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)
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.
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