

Free Software diffusion in an university

5 years experiments

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Agenda



- Free Software evangelism at university
 - Versailles University
 - Curriculum vitae
 - Free Software usage
 - Free Software evangelism
 - Idea 1 : Useful software for teaching
 - Idea 2 : C2I companion
 - Idea 3 : Tool for communication / advertisement



Versailles University

- 20 km from Paris
- 16000 students
- Multi disciplinary
- Multiple towns
 - Versailles, Saint-Quentin en Yvelines, etc
- <http://www.uvsq.fr>



Versailles University specificity



- Multiple site = multiple infrastructures
- Many disciplinary
 - Science
 - Medecine
 - History
 - etc



Curriculum vitae

- Assistant professor in CS since 1993
- Free software user since ... 1988 :
 - LaTeX, gcc, emacs are my friends
 - (I usually always use LaTeX for my slides :-)
 - FreeBSD addict
- Compiler expert
 - gcc modifications
 - video compressor optimization



Free Software evangelism

- Since 2004 : part time free software evangelism (funded by my university)
- What to do ?
 - Install party ?
 - Seminar on tools ?
 - Try to change software by free equivalent
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- “Bussiness as usual”
- Not sufficient for beginner



Software for infrastructure



- Our university use a lot of free software
 - Bind for name service
 - Sendmail/pop for mail delivery
 - Apache/php for web services
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This is the easy part !



Software for teaching



- Varying situations
 - Learning specific software ie : cisco certification can not use no cisco software
 - Programming language : usually “open” languages
 - Software as tool : if a free software equivalent is better, big deal
 - firefox is a good tool to learn HTML/HTTP
 - openoffice.org is good for interoperability
 - ...



Idea 1 : Collect useful software

- Collect all the really used free software in our university
- Collect them on a DVD
- Broadcast to all students / teachers
- Target the students
- Target used operating system : Windows
- Write software description “for dummies”
- Somethink concrete to give at the end of a talk



DVD contents

- Desktop
 - Openoffice.org, firefox, thunderbird, pidgin
- Science
 - Scilab, LaTeX, ...
- Multimedia
 - gimp, inkscape, ...
- Computer science
 - Java jdk, eclipse, gcc, ...



Benefits of idea 1

- 50 euros cents / DVD : not expensive
- Huge impact
- More accepted than “download this and that”
- Surprisingly good impact on others university
- Done during 05/06 and 06/07 with many partners



French specificity : C2I

- C2I = Certificat Informatique Internet
- IE : a basic course for all 1 year students
 - A1 / A2 : theoretical chapter CS evolution & legality problems
 - B1 : Workstation
 - B2 : Information retrieval
 - B3 : Backup & security
 - B4 : Printed document → OpenOffice.org
 - B5 : Slideshow → OpenOffice.org
 - B6 : Communication
 - B7 : Collaborative work



French specificity : C2I

- C2I is a government initiative
- C2I is nation wide
- C2I curriculum is nation wide
- Independancy by knowledge !
 - How to read a 10 years old document ?
 - What about security in closed source software ?
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Idea 2 : Share C2I contents

- Add C2I contents on our DVD
- Software + teaching contents
- Target Windows & MacOS



Benefits of idea 2

- The perfect swiss knife for C2I teaching
- Teaching contents
- Software for work and homework



Idea 3 : Communication

- DVD has lot space
- Put video advertisement for our university
 - Use free software to watch it (VLC)
 - Use open format (theora)



Benefits of idea3

- Our DVD become a tool for
 - Teaching C2I
 - Teaching specific tools
 - Internal advertisement
 - External advertisement



Actual work

- DVD produced by multiples university
- Teaching economic models !
- Teaching “green software” ie : which minimize disasters



Conclusion

- Thanks to Openoffice.org community to allow our project ! Teaching the “right way”
 - 2005 : 8000 CDROM / 2006 : 10000 CDROM
 - 07 : 12000 DVD / 08 : 15000 DVD
 - 2009 : 16000 DVD
- 61 000 openoffice.org program in an academic context
- DVD + teaching = efficient evangelism
- <http://libre.uvsq.fr>

