

COSI Projects Final Report

Fall 2005

Introduction

This is the third time I have taken COSI for credit. In the past, I have taken it for 0 credits (Fall 2003, my first semester as a graduate student) and 1 credit (Spring 2004 second semester as graduate student). This time I am also taking it for 1 credit.

Goals

My goals for this semester were to have a workshop targeted at new Linux users, make a Windows build with open source software installed on it, learn how to triage bugs for Ubuntu Linux, and have a workshop on Google-style web development.

Progress

I have made significant progress towards my goals, but I realize that I did not have enough time this semester to accomplish them all. First, Patty, Chris, Creighton, Anthony, Russ, and I went to Ubuntu Love day in Montreal. This was a great experience and we learned a lot about Ubuntu and met some of the Canonical employees that get paid to develop and market Ubuntu. We decided that we would have an Ubuntu Install day when we got back. The only promotion for this was to send out email to the computing mailing lists, which is not actually the target audience, but I just wanted to see if there were any new members (i.e. COSI freshmen) that might want to participate, this was just meant to be a trial run and then we could have another one for the rest of the campus and the community. I plan to run this again next semester and then follow through with doing some really good promotion of it. Chris and Patty have expressed interest in helping with this effort. Others I expect would help out as well. We have also made some progress with the open source on Windows build. We installed some of the easy ones (Firefox, Thunderbird, WinSCP, putty, etc.) and are experimenting with other software (In particular TheOpenCD project has some nice open source software that runs on Windows. This is ongoing and we will work on this a little more over break. Next, Rouslan taught me the basics of how to triage bugs. I had a mentee that was interested in working on that for awhile and we would meet each week and triage bugs for Ubuntu Linux. I triaged a bug successfully, it was fixed and I installed the new version. This was a really fun process and I will continue to do this sort of thing now and in the future. I also made some progress on my Google web development. As you may know, I have been interested with Google for awhile and finally, while at LinuxWorld in San Francisco, I was able to go to a tutorial on Google web development techniques. It was a really nice talk. Deryck Hodge, for the Samba web team, gave the talk. He is a Google fanatic too, he took the time to learn how they do things and gave prepared a nice tutorial on it. I am working on learning more about it and have made some progress. The one thing that I have learned is the basics of AJAX (Asynchronous JavaScript and XML). I would like to give a tutorial on this sometime next semester. The other things I am looking into is a tool that Deryck Hodge is developing called gcli (Google command line interface). It is a nice little tool, but I haven't been able to get it working on Ubuntu yet.

Other Things

I have spent some time using and learning more about Xen, by installing it, and using it for various projects (currently only Nagios, but more to come). I downloaded the Xen test CD when it came out and tried it on a few computers in the ITL, this CD is for testing hardware to make sure that it will work correctly with Xen. The reports are sent to the Xen team, things seemed to work OK, so I will soon try Xen 3.0 on some of my servers. Also, I have been answering question about our repeated Xen work and made some of the scripts and benchmarks available on my personal web server, this should

be transferred to our project site on the Clarkson AFS space, it just needs a little help in terms of a couple README's that explain what is there. I have also reported bugs on the COSI Linux build and most of those were fixed as well.

Conclusion

Although, I didn't accomplish as much as I would have liked, I still made a lot of progress and will continue to be involved with COSI.