

CS 435 - Assessing a FOSS Project

Much of the software that students work on is quite small. FOSS projects provide an opportunity to start to develop some skills at approaching a larger project, starting to find your way around it, and starting to assess it.

For this assignment, you will go look at a particular FOSS project and gather some facts about it. The goal isn't for you to understand the project in detail, but rather for you to get some feel for the scale of the project, and a bit of understanding about how the project operates from a developers' perspective. You'll be looking at Mozilla Dev Tools.

A. Spend at least an hour looking over the project. Approach the project as someone interested in helping with the project (as a developer, documenter, tester, etc). See what you can learn from that perspective. Some places to start your investigation include:

- <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Tools>
- <https://github.com/devtools-html>
- <http://docs.firefox-dev.tools/getting-started/>

B. Provide a written summary (one page single spaced, New Times Roman, 12 pt font) discussing what you found and what you thought about the project. Your summary should answer the following questions about the project:

- What is the purpose of the project?
- How many people are working on the project?
- How active is the project?
- Where would you start if you were interested in helping with the project?
- What usable technical documents that describe the project (e.g., functional requirements, design documents, installation documentation, etc.) exist?
- How are bugs and feature requests tracked? Are there a lot of open items? Are they being worked on? Are issues being addressed?
- How long do you think it would take you to download and install this product?
- How do the developers communicate with each other? What channels or tools are available within the project?
- What has been the most interesting thing you learned through this exercise?

C. Be prepared to participate in a discussion of what you learned.

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