Massidea.org
smashing ideas

European Union
European Social Fund

Communication and collaboration tools for distributed development of Massidea.org

In order to manage a distributed development project which is done across multiple locations in different countries technology team members must have a basic understanding and ability use following communication tools.

GitHub
GitHub is a web-based hosting service for projects that use the Git distributed revision control system also known as version control, source control or software configuration management (SCM). GitHub manages changes to documents, programs, and other information where a team of people may change the same files. More information is available at github.com and github.com/massidea.

Flowdock
Flowdock is a web application that provides seamless online communication among team members. In Flowdock team members can create their own space where to discuss, share files, and collect information in one place. More information is available at flowdock.com/

Adobe Connect
Adobe Connect is software used to create information and general presentations, online training materials, web conferencing, learning modules, and user desktop sharing. The product is entirely Adobe Flash based. More information is available at www.adobe.com/products/acrobatconnectpro/

Email and Skype can also used for person-to-person communication during the development project.

Appendix 3: Massidea.org project task for technology related virtual internships

Pre tasks
A trainee must have a personal user id to following web services: Massidea.org, GitHub and Flowdock.

Development technologies related tasks
A student should have basic theoretical understanding and some level ability use the technologies defined in Appendix 1. However, Zend Framework is typically unknown for students and therefore it perfectly all right if this development tool is not familiar before joining the project. It is estimated that getting familiar with Zend Framework takes from one to three weeks depending on the students skills.

During the internship period a student will conduct a series of coding tasks which are managed throughout GitHub version control system. First tasks are bug corrections or small scale new features. Trainees contact person responsible for setting and monitoring the fulfilment of the defined tasks will point the first task from GitHub issue list (github.com/massidea/site/issues) based on trainees starting profile and skills.

First task is used as evaluation tool for trainee skills and help student to getting familiar with Zend framework and GitHub version control system. This phase also defines what kind of tasks will be pointed to trainee in the next phase. While conducting the defined tasks, student learn applying theories in practice and delivering genuine results.

Getting familiar with the Massidea.org development tools and working methods takes time. Therefore it is suggested that trainee periods in general are longer than 2 months, typically ranging from 3 to 6 months.

Communication tasks
In the beginning of trainee period, trainee and contact person will have web conference meeting in which student will introduce him/herself and express the expectations for the internship. Trainee is also expected to send emails to current technology development team members and introduce him/herself to other team members. During the first virtual meeting contact person will explain in more detail what massidea.org is all about. After this introduction phase a trainee will independently start developing the pointed task. Trainee is expected to interact with other team members on daily/weekly bases at Flowdock environment. Trainee is also expect to keep weekly record of his/hers doings. Once pointed tasks are done, new tasks from GitHub issue list will be pointed. Trainee can also suggest new features to issue list and if these are accepted, he/she can start doing them as a part of internship.

Since this is the first virtual internship from National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur, India, the trainee is also expected to document this collaboration process from student point of view in a way that it is easy for new trainees to join the project.