Course: CS 401 01 – Spring 2012

FOSS Field Trip 2 Eucalyptus

Eucalyptus (Elastic Utility Computing Architecture for Linking Your Programs To Useful Systems) is open source infrastructure for implementing "cloud computing" on clusters. Also, Eucalyptus has a commercialized version too. This is very ambition project and also it is new project too. Eucalyptus has 5 active reviews and 44 active branches owned by 17 people and 3 teams. Like any other open source projects Eucalyptus has its own committers which are helping to fix bugs. There were 278 commits by 12 people in the last month.

One of the ways the Eucalyptus developers are communicating together is thru IRC channel # eucalyptus on irc.freenode.net but also they do have other ways to communicate with each other. For example there is community website, blog, and Planet Eucalyptus which can allow the community to communicate with each-other. Also, on the community website you can find a lot of information about the functional requirements, design documents, installation documentation, etc. Also you can download the current stable release of Eucalyptus, version 2.0.3 and the current stable release of Euca2ools, version 1.3.1 for the operating systems Red Hat -5, CentOS-5, openSUSE-11, Debian, and Fedora. You can find instructions for installation and setting up of Eucalyptus about each operating system in website. So this website is the most useful resource for the installation and setting up of Eucalyptus community.

I do think that Eucalyptus project is active, but it could be more active. It did start three years ago and already has the commercialized version 2.0.2, and they with release the newer version 2.0.3 on 25 May, 2012. About the users are not any information how many are out there and how they are using the Eucalyptus product. Also, one of the of the problems that Eucalyptus is not too active is the limitation of the operating systems that it can be install which are Red Hat -5, CentOS-5, openSUSE-11, Debian, and Fedora. I don’t think this project has very clear starting points for anybody who likes to help or contribute on this community project. It is very hard to find documentations even for the things which are supposed to be clear, for example the coding.

Eucalyptus tracks its bugs and other features by encouraging their community to submit bug reports via launchpad. Eucalyptus has high number of new and open bugs. According to Launchpad, Eucalyptus code has 102 new bugs, 168 open bugs, 5 bugs in progress, and 0 critical bugs.

Form this exercise I did learned the way how cloud computing works, and how to install the Eucalyptus on my system. I did learn also for what to look for if I am interested to contribute on a project like Eucalyptus. I hope that I will learn more from this project.