Course Introduction

COMP8440: FOSSD

A Practical Course

- Most people learn FOSS by doing
  - Very few learn about FOSS through courses
  - Can FOSS be taught? We think so
- Feedback essential
  - You need to let us know what you do/don't understand
  - We are relying on *active* participation by you
    - Get involved in your projects!
    - Ask us to cover new topics
    - Ask plenty of questions

Preparation is Essential

- A very *intensive* course
  - The week will be quite exhausting
  - You must prepare beforehand as much as possible
- Read the background material
  - Essential to understand the FOSS world
- Make sure you can use a Linux desktop
  - We will use Ubuntu Maverick in the labs
  - Download and install a virtual Ubuntu Maverick system
  - Run it at home before the course starts
  - Try building some packages from source
  - Make sure you can use the command line
    - https://help.ubuntu.com/community/UsingTheTerminal

Reading Tasks

- Background reading
  - You are expected to read the following articles ***before*** the course starts
  - Read them carefully and take notes!
- History from Karl Fogel's 'Producing OSS'
  - http://producingoss.com/en/producingoss.html#history
- Two articles by Eric Raymond
  - http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html
  - http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/cathedral-bazaar/homesteading/
- The GNU Project Free Software Definition
  - http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/free-sw.html
- The OSI Open Source Definition
  - http://opensource.org/docs/osd

Join the mailing list

- Join the COMP8440 mailing list now
  - Go to http://fossd.anu.edu.au
  - Announcements and discussions will happen on this list
- Please introduce yourself
  - Please send a short email to the list introducing yourself
  - Tell us about any background you have in FOSS

Course Outline

- Day 1
  - An introduction to FOSS
  - Getting started in a FOSS project
  - Source code management for FOSS projects
- Day 2
  - The history of FOSS
  - Inside FOSS licensing
  - FOSS and the law
- Day 3
  - How are FOSS projects governed?
  - FOSS and business
  - What motivates a FOSS developer?

Course Outline (2)

- Day 4
  - Case study: Samba
  - FOSS distributions and platforms
  - FOSS Culture
- Day 5
  - Starting a new project
  - FOSS Tales
  - Release early, release often

Lab Work

- Day 1
  - Installing a FOSS project (specified project)
  - Installing a FOSS project (choice of small list)
- Day 2
  - Finding your own project
  - Study chosen project
- Day 3, 4
  - Work on chosen project and produce a report
- Day 5
  - Project presentations

Selecting a Project

- Project assessment
  - A large part of the course assessment is based on submission of a project report
  - It is strongly suggested that you start looking at possible projects ***now***
- Suggested criterion
  - Project is moderately active
  - at least several commits per month
  - Is at least 3 years old
  - Has produced a usable release
  - Must use a FOSS license
  - Welcomes new contributors
  - Has several active contributors
  - Can run on DCS Linux lab machines (Ubuntu)
  - Is interesting to you!

Selecting a project (2)

- Suggested Resources
  - http://freecode.com/
  - http://gna.org/
  - http://sourceforge.net/
  - http://github.com
  - http://savannah.gnu.org/
  - https://launchpad.net/
  - http://directory.fsf.org/GNU/
  - http://packages.debian.org/
  - language specific sites (for programming languages you know)

Assessment

- Saturday presentation
  - 15% of total mark
  - Very short presentation!
  - Very little time to prepare – work hard!
- Project study
  - 40% of total mark
  - Approximately 10 pages expected
  - See web site for detailed description
- Project work
  - 45% of total mark
  - See web site for detailed description

Learning Linux

- Knowledge of Unix/Linux
  - The course assumes you have some familiarity with Linux/UNIX
  - If you don't feel confident of your skills, please learn before the course starts
- LiveCD
  - Try a Ubuntu LiveCD before you come
  - Go through one of the Linux command line tutorials
  - Try compiling and running some FOSS projects
- Install in a virtual machine
  - Use VirtualBox (http://www.virtualbox.org) and install or use a LiveCD

Food!

- Enjoy the nibbles
  - Please ask questions, and say hello to the other students in the course