The CoMEte Project
(Course on Mozilla Education and Technologies @ Evry)

Judith Benzakki & Didier Courtaud

Email : judith.benzakki@univ-evry.fr

didier.courtaud@univ-evry.fr

- **The FOSS market has a huge expansion rate**
  - 33 % in 2009 and 30 % in 2010 (estimated)
  - 1470 M€ in 2009 in France

- **FOSS is now used everywhere**
  - Administrations
  - Public sector
  - Big companies

- **FOSS becomes mandatory**
  - "Up to 2012, at least 80 % of all the softwares will use FOSS" (GARTNER Group)

- **There is an important need of "FOSS-formed" engineers in the companies**
  - Cost of the projects become important
  - Need of new technologies : Web 2.0, rich applications
- **It is the role of University to develop new FOSS cursus**
  - To help students find a good job
    - Make them discover new job opportunities
  - To help communities to create new technologies
    - Standards, interoperability, independance
  - To help the development of the Numerical Economy

Why Mozilla ?

- **The Mozilla Foundation is leading major FOSS projects including Firefox, Thunderbird, Fennec, ..**

- **The technologies which are used to build these products are**
  - **At the leading edge of innovation**
  - **Web standards based**
  - **Universal**

- **They give a new paradigm to make Web applications**
  - **Faster**
  - **More easy to maintain**
  - **More interoperable**

- **We began to experiment teaching these technologies on a small scale**
  - **A few courses in 2007-2008**
  - **Several successful student projects**
- **From these first experiments, we understood that**
  - **These technologies were ready to use**
  - **They define a new design paradigm for Web applications**
    - **On the Internet**
    - **But also on the Intranets**

- **The CoMETE project comes from**
  - The results of our first experiments
  - The launch in parallel of the Mozilla Education Initiative and also the Web Science Initiative
  - The will of the MIAGE of Evry to be a leader in Web technologies learning

- **Goal of the project**
  - To learn the students all the Mozilla technologies in order they can invest themselves
  - In Mozilla or Mozilla-related products or in extensions to these products
  - To spread Mozilla technologies into the companies through the students
  - To make available on line educationnal ressources on Mozilla technologies

- **About 30 students were involved in the CoMETE projects in 2009**

  - **A special "Learning Unit" has been created for them inside the MIAGE cursus**

  - **MIAGE is a well known French National Diplom in Computer Science at the M2 level of the European LMD schema**

  - **Some of the students combine work and academc study**

    - **They are employees of a company and they work directly for the company's Intranet**

- **The CoMETE project is divided into two parts**

- **Theoretical learnings are given by experts who contribute to Mozilla for a long time**

  - Laurent Jounneau and Fabien Cazenave (the project lead of Kompozer)

  - Equivalent to one full week

  - Spread over a month

  - The courses end with periods where students can test the technologies by themselves

- **Each student must do a practical project (40h / 3 months)**
  - Proposed by the Mozilla community
    - To develop Mozilla or Mozilla related projects
  - Proposed by the companies where the students work
    - If the companies accept to use the Mozilla technologies
- **Each project (ie each student) has**
  - A project lead from the Community or the Company
  - A project lead from the University
  - Both project leads work together
    - To follow the project
    - To evaluate the project at the end

- **Each project is managed as an Open Source project**
  - **Wiki and/or blog to follow the schedule of the project**
    - **And to publish the differents releases of code**
  - **Three intermediate versions of code that can be tested by everybody**
  - **Collaborative work is encouraged**
    - **With all other students**
    - **With the Mozilla community**
  - **At the end of the project**
    - **The student must write a report explaining the result of their project, how and why this has been done**
    - **There is a public oral presentation of all the projects**
    - **All the students are evaluated on the contents of their work but also on their "contributiveness" in other projects**

- **The results of the first year of the project are**

  - Students are enthusiastic to participate

  - They are astonished by the quality of management of FOSS projects

    - Most of them were discovering FOSS

  - All the projects have been well driven by the students and the projects leads

  - The resulting production of the projects is fairly good

  - Some projects are even better

    - http://kazhack.org/tmp/jnm10 (in French)

CoMETE : student feedbacks

● **What students say about CoMETE :**

- ■ **"It is marvelous to discover Open Source projects.We did not know this part of Computer Science"**

- ■ **"We did not imagine that FOSS projects were so well structured"**

- ■ **"We could apply immediately what we have learned in concrete projects"**

- ■ **"It is amazing to see that the jobs we have done is taken into account in the next release"**

- ■ **"It is the first time that we understand why we have learned this technology or another"**

- ■ **"We have discovered how to code in cooperation and it is at the same time funny and professionnal"**

- ■ **"Saying that we have participated to a FOSS project is a good point to find a job"**

CoMETe results

- **A "win-win" partnership between the Mozilla Foundation and the University of Evry**

- **The Mozilla technologies will diffuse into the Information Systems of many companies**

- **A lot of students will remember this course when in industry**
  - **To introduce and use these technologies**
  - **To collaborate to Mozilla products**

- **In any case, many of them will continue to contribute**

- **This partnership is also a good point for the University**
  - **Many students are attracted by this course**

- **The ComETe project is the beginning of a durable partnership between The Mozilla foundation and the University of Evry.**
    - **University of Evry is one of the European sites of the Mozilla Education Initiative**
    - **Possible partnerships with Seneca in Canada or Juan Carlos in Spain**

- **It is the first step to a more generalized introduction of FOSS in the academic cursus**
    - **One goal of the MIAGE Evry is to promote Web Science at large and a lot of its courses are already dedicated to Web technologies**