



Professors' Open Source Summer Experience 2009



Community Architecture Team

What?



A week-long boot camp designed to immerse professors in open source projects. Each participating professor commits to bring their classes into open source project participation over the next school year.

Why?

POSSE supports the Trusted Open Source Leader brand strategy.

Today's trends in Red Hat mindshare are a bellweather for the company's future sustainability in sales and engineering talent and in future partners.

Graduates entering the workforce in technical jobs should *expect* that they will use and create open source software. To do otherwise is a flaw that must be remedied.

Why? Remember the mission.

*"To be the **catalyst** in **communities** of customers, developers, and **partners** creating better technology the open-source way."*

All work that Red Hat does on education must scale.
A community of like-minded people must be empowered to embrace and extend our ideas.

Build a community of *educators* and let them be the force-multipliers.

Why?

Professors want their students to learn...

How to work on large, complex, existing projects...

With a diverse group of distributed contributors...

Taking initiative to teach themselves skills they need...

To create, test, and support a product for real users...

That they can publicly display in their portfolios.

In other words, professors want to teach open source.

Why?

Professors who want to teach open source have several problems:

I don't have supportive colleagues to swap notes with.

I've never participated in open source myself.

I don't see how this fits into a curriculum I could teach.

POSSE brings these professors together, lets them work through an open curriculum that gives them experience as open source contributors, and empowers them to impart those same experiences to their students.

Who?

Instructors:

Chris Tyler (Seneca College)
David Humphrey (Seneca College)

Students:

Cameron Seay (NC Central)
Kent Palmer (Wingate)
Matt Jadud (Allegheny)
Christian Jacobsen (Allegheny and Transterpreter)
Fardad Soleimanloo (Seneca)
Robert Duvall (Duke)*
Megan Squire (Elon)*
Sam Rebelsky (Grinnell)*

* Dropped out due to last-minute conflicts.



Who? Seneca.

Seneca has a history of successful academic engagement with open source.

Chris Tyler served on the Fedora Project Board.

David Humphrey is an active Mozilla contributor, and has a track record of students becoming the same.

Fardad Soleimanloo teaches a class focused on contributions to Open Office.

How?

Monday

Open

History, licensing, distributed online collaboration.

“I’m especially interested in the fact that the Fedora project has an open PR project. The fact that students in a liberal arts context can engage widely across these projects is something I have to keep thinking about.” --Matt Jadud



How?

Tuesday

Open Source

Setting up a build environment, build tools, packaging

“So, it turns out when we are asked to package a program on the order of hello world that this can be deceptive. The GNU Hello World program is actually surprisingly difficult to package, as it has i18n, man page, info page...” --Christian Jacobsen



How?

Wednesday

Open Source Development

Ticket trackers, searching code, patches, reviews

“...apparently someone during those couple of minutes committed a patch that broke the build. It was interesting for me to see how just couple of minutes difference in checking out the code, could cause such difference...” --Fardad Soleimanloo



How?

Thursday

Open Source Development

Debugging, teamwork, meet-the-community BBQ

“Cameron Seay from NC Central does a lot with System Z architectures and administration, so there is some potential opportunity in getting him hooked up with folks we have working on Z locally... I also got to talk some with Matt Jadud from Allegheny about some future extensions of EKG...” --Michael DeHaan



How?

Friday

Teaching Open Source

Teaching techniques, syllabi, looking forward

“Of this I am certain: if we can plug the NCCU students into this community, as a matter of course their expertise will grow exponentially. I can’t remember one week where I learned as much as I did about something that I knew very little about. It has been quite an experience...” --Cameron Seay

How?



Blogs and press.

http://teachingopensource.org/index.php/POSSE_Blogs

Tremendous value to those who consider involving themselves in future events, because it gives a very personal picture of the POSSE experience.

47 total blog posts during POSSE 2009 from participants plus several visitors.

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Professor's Open Source Summer Experience

Red Hat's POSSE introduces academics to FOSS

By Bruce Byfield

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Recently, five college professors spent an intense five days with Red Hat employees and other members of the free and open source software (FOSS) community. Red Hat called the experience POSSE (Professors' Open Source Summer Experience). The goal of the week was to show how FOSS could be used in post-secondary education, and to create a community to further the goal.

Greg DeKoenigsberg, Senior Community Architect at Red Hat has been promoting the FOSS as an educational resource for over a year, most notably at [Seneca College](#) in Toronto, Canada. He notes that, while many post-secondary instructors express an interest in using FOSS in the class room, when asked about implementing a program, they balk.

"Mostly, it's some combination of 'I don't have time' and 'it's scary,' DeKoenigsberg says of the responses he receives from instructors. "It's getting started that's the thing. So the question became, 'What's the best way of getting professors to participate and to get their students to participate in open source development?'"

Business

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Red Hat educates profs


Open-source software development is topic of seminar


BY DAVID RANII - STAFF WRITER



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TEXT SIZE:  

RALEIGH -- Red Hat is sowing the seeds of open source software development among college professors.

This week a fourth-floor meeting room at the company's Centennial Campus headquarters in Raleigh is the site of a boot camp for faculty from a half-dozen universities, including N.C. Central and Elon. It's a prototype for a program whose ultimate goal is to immerse computer science students in real-world open-source development projects.

"If you don't win the professors, you will never get to the students," said Greg DeKoenigsberg, senior community relations manager. DeKoenigsberg, who wore a black T-shirt emblazoned with "I change the world" during Thursday's session, is one of the organizers of POSSE, or Professors' Open Source Summer Experience. Red Hat teamed up with Seneca College in Toronto to create POSSE.

More Business

Red Hat is the world's largest distributor of Linux, open-source software whose source code



Check, please.

\$4,000	Stipends for POSSE instructors
\$2,500	Lodging for POSSE instructors & students (6 people x 5 nights = \$85 per night per person)
\$2,300	Red Hat travel and lodging
\$1,800	5 lunches and 2 dinners
\$1,000	Travel for POSSE instructors
\$400	Swag & miscellaneous

\$12,000 total

Future POSSEs should target \$10,000 in cost, with only a portion coming from Red Hat.

Follow up. How valuable was POSSE?

Surveying participants to determine effectiveness.

What was your course syllabus/content pre-POSSE?

How has your syllabus/course content changed?

Information about your classes and # of students reached.

What contributions are being made to open source?

Are POSSE professors staying in touch with each other?

Have we built community in addition to sharing knowledge?

etc.

Follow up. Force multiplying POSSE.

Hosted on university campuses around the world.

Primary organizers are professors at host institution, with Red Hat simply providing oversight support.

Opportunity for POSSE alumni to “infect” their own colleagues with a similar experience.

POSSE has the potential to grow a community in a managed, responsible way.

(sounds like the Fedora Project!)

Follow up. Modularity and option value.

POSSE content is designed in reusable modules.

Replace packaging with publican and you've got a technical writing POSSE.

Take an exercise from the curriculum and teach a conference workshop on open source participation.

Undergraduate students have discovered the material and are **asking their professors to give them homework** like that.

Follow up. Possible future POSSEs.

POSSE Technical Writing: Pennsylvania

POSSE Computer Science: Singapore

POSSE Project Management: North Carolina

POSSE Interface Design: Massachusetts

These are being vetted, from the perspective of content, participants, cost, etc.

“POSSE in a box” is being created for easier deployment and branding consistency.

Follow up. Spreading the word.

October 2009

FSOSS – Teaching Open Source panel

December 2009

FUDCon – mini-POSSE workshops

March 2010

SIGCSE – primary gathering of CS professors

March 2010

CSEET – IEEE's software engineering conference



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