PLUME and RELIER

Promoting economica**L**, **U**seful and **M**aintained softwar**E** for the French higher education and research (academic) community

http://www.projet-plume.org/

Jean-Luc Archimbaud and Teresa Gomez-Diaz

PLUME, CNRS – UREC and LIGM

FOSSa'09, Grenoble, 17-18 november 2009

Plan

plume - Introduction

PLUME
Promouvoir les **L**ogiciels **U**tiles **M**aîtrisés et **E**conomiques
dans l'Enseignement Supérieur et la Recherche

http://www.projet-plume.org/
plume@urec.cnrs.fr

Main goal: to promote economical, useful and maintained software
within the French higher education and research (academic) community

Head: Jean-Luc Archimbaud, UREC (CNRS)

Official partners: around 20 laboratories and research entities
Supporters: 10 other associations and research entities
http://www.projet-plume.org/le-projet-soutiens/

plume - Motivation

What happens in the academic community regarding software?

The reasons to launch PLUME (january 2007):

- a lot of software around, free, performant, used, useful
- some is developed within the community
- a lot of experts around: users, developers
- no organization/structure inside the community
- usual isolation of software developers/users within the community
- how to find the information to solve everyday needs?

plume - Goals

Now PLUME has four main goals regarding software within
the French higher education and research (academic) community:

- share competences and value knowledge
- promote software produced by the community
  free/open source software from Academia (FOSSa)
- create and lead a developers community
- promote the use of and contributions to
  free/open source software (FOSS)

Questions and goals lead to step up the PLUME platform:

http://www.projet-plume.org/

plume - Platform (1)

The platform has been open on october 2007 (CMS Drupal).

Now there are 6 types of software index cards (statistics, nov. 2009):

- (225) used and "validated" cards: in production on at least 3 sites
- (25) "to be validated" cards: in production on 1 or 2 sites
- (8) "on test" cards
- (125) resource cards (articles, FAQ, ...)
- (88) RELIER (dév. ESR) cards: developed within research labs
- (13) FEATHER (en)
- archives

Please contribute:

http://www.projet-plume.org/participer

plume - Platform (2)

Publishing procedure:

- a **member** propose a new software card
- a **theme manager** opens the card
  maths, biology, cooperative work, network and system admin,...
- a **contributor** (expert/experienced user): write the card
- 2 or 3 different contributors review the card
- the theme manager validated the card
- final validation and publication by the **chief editor** and author

Some cards have a lighten publishing procedure.

Example of a "validated software card":

http://www.projet-plume.org/fiche/unitex

plume - Platform (3)

The PLUME project is carried by the UREC of the CNRS, with JL. Archimbaud as project manager.

There are different roles (statistics, nov. 2009):

- visitors (around 40 000 per month)

- (906) members (login access)

- (416) contributors: authors and reviewers

- (19) theme managers

- (1) chief editor

plume - Organising the community

In order to structure the community, there are:

- RSS feeds, mailing lists and other communication tools
- summer schools (ENVOL 2008, 2010)
- PLUME days
  manage your bibliography, distribute your software, foss alternatives in maths
- news, resource cards, ...

Very easy to incorporate side projects:

- @2L: learning free/open source software (FOSS)
- DEVLOG: new project for (academic) developers
- RELIER: focus on the second goal of PLUME:
  promote software produced by the academic community

RELIER - Motivation

What happens at the research labs and the research institutions?

- some labs and universities produce a lot of software
    - for research (leading to publications)
    - for everyday needs (management, bibliography, ...)

- some are FOSS software

- some are distribued (sometimes not in the best conditions)

- most of them are unknown software

- most of them are useful for other researchers/labs/projects/industry

Idea: To reference and to index the labs/universities' software without regarding their status of completeness, documentation or distribution.

RELIER - The project

RELIER

REférencer les développements **L**ogiciels **I**nternes
de l'**E**nseignement supérieur et de la **R**echerche

Reference software within
the French higher education and research community

http://www.projet-plume.org/relier
relier-pilote@services.cnrs.fr

Born: inside the *plume* project
RELIER-pilote: V. Louvet, V. Baudin, T. Gomez-Diaz + JL. Archimbaud
Pilote labs: ICJ (Lyon), LAAS (Toulouse), LIGM (Marne-la-Vallée)
Supporters: Groupe Calcul, INSMI CNRS, DPI CNRS...

RELIER - Cards and Labs' pages

Goal: to reference all the software produced at research labs, universities or other research institutions to present them in web pages...

RELIER organizes this information with

- ▪ software cards: RELIER (dév. ESR)
                http://www.projet-plume.org/relier/unitex

- some have also ▪ "validated software" cards
                http://www.projet-plume.org/fiche/unitex

- labs' software pages
                http://www.projet-plume.org/LIGM/

Authors can be developers of the software project but
also persons nominated by the laboratory or the research institution.

A RELIER reference card (dév. ESR)

The basic information to properly identify the software:

- name, version, date, web site
- license, status (in development, distributed, ...)
- designer(s), contact information
- laboratory, head institutions
- keywords (search interface)
- general software features
- context in which the software is/has been used
- publications related to software

PLUME (fr) - FEATHER (en)

http://www.projet-plume.org/en/

The first aim of the English version of PLUME
is to publish the translation of RELIER (dév. ESR) cards.

Example of a FEATHER "dév. ESR card":

http://www.projet-plume.org/en/relier/unitex

RELIER Statistics

- RELIER
  - First reference cards published september 2008
  - Today: 88 index cards corresponding to 60 labs
  - 24 more coming soon
  - Some have also a "validated software card"

- PLUME-FEATHER
  - First English reference cards published on april 2009
  - 13 published cards
  - 12 coming soon

Useful documents

An inside RELIER initiative: to study problems related to software developement inside research labs and to propose solutions...

http://www.projet-plume.org/referentiel-doc-dev

- FAQ: Forges
- Why free licences for research software
- FAQ: Licence & copyright
- Guide for research labs software
- more coming soon...

This is an example of the collaborative work usual in *plume*