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FOSS GN-09

Report

28-31st Oct 2009

LUG Bikaner, ECB

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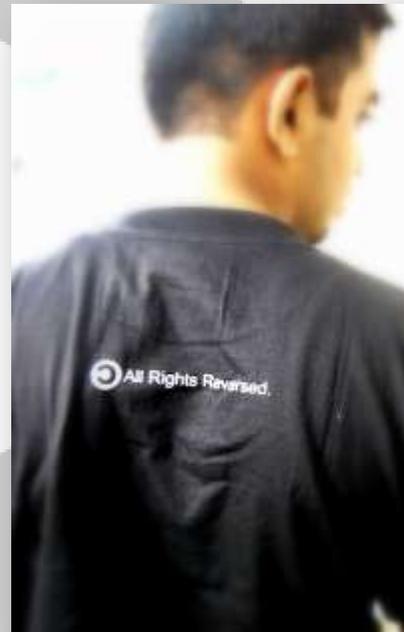.hackfest .mibbit .lugb .junta .zeal .term

FOSS GN-09

Conclusion

Events' summary

The FOSS GN09 Event took place parallel to Sakshama**, Engineering College Bikaner's annual technical festival. We had a** vast variety of students coming from all across the country: mostly undergrad engineering students.

Planning

We began a fortnight before the event. Sure it was quickfire! Planning our schedules, talks, sponsorship brochures, T-shirts , goodies from Google, Fedora, OSS Camp , Linux for You and convincing Niyam Bhushan, a prolific speaker which would later act as icing on the cake. We had to coordinate the event within short span of 15 days and put best efforts to reach out as many people as possible. Thanks and thumbs up to Leslie, Ellen from the Google Open Source office who snail mailed us enough swag that we could distribute among the participants. Special thanks to Kinshuk Sunil for helping us manage the event in a short span. We also thank Rahul Sundaram and Sankarshan from RedHat India for sending the Fedora Goodies(Tees, DVDs, CDs, stickers)

To pump up the spirit, three of the GSoC students pooled in some fund and got around 130 T-shirts to be distributed to the coordinators and participants. *The Front of the tee had a cool tagcloud, and back-* *"All Rights **Reversed"***

For talks we had three **GSoC** students and Niyam Bhushan **:** Anirudh Sharma (NUI Group) , Shreekant Bohra (Sahana) , Abhinav Chittora (Xiph) , Manu Dixit and Paras Kuhad for Drupal and Jaideep Khandelwal , a RHCE professional and FOSS enthusiast, SUN SPOT and FOSS by Alok Mishra.

We obtained permissions to use labs at nights, decorated labs, invited Niyam, double checked Internet Connections, and setup Wi-Fi. Being it was the first of its kind event held in Rajasthan- it attracted a large number of students from throughout the state. We scheduled talks in the day and hack fests at night.

3D tux prepared by our art team

computer labs with custom light effects for midnight hackfests

skbohra123 with sahana sunflower

one of the posters at the talks venue

FOSS team involved in some discussions

Team members with the POP tux prepared by the art team

For the Hack Fests and Talks we installed **Fedora 11** over 90 machines in the labs. To add a fun factor wellio of real hackers and coders we depended on our **"Creative** Art**"** Team : Rahul Motiyar, Tej Prakash Jangid, Kavita Singh Panwar, Ritu Choudhary, Priyanka Soni. Their effort added the all important ambiance to work upon and showed us how raw creativity can set up tempo for coding and hacking.

The artwork, the fedora installation, hanging banners for the event

Day 1 – 12:30 PM – 5:00PM

The event received around 250 registrations and around 150 people turned up to the event. Eagerness to know about Open Source gathered huge crowds waiting before the scheduled kick off time.

Registrations for the FOSS hackfest and talks. "We shortlisted the participants for hackfests due to our limited capacity of 100 at a time."

Finally the event started with an introductory talk about Open Source and the spirit of Open Source by Anirudh Sharma

(touchaddict) with people volley there questions to him and our team. The other talks on Sahana, Drupal followed. Amid the talks we had Srishti Sethi asking questions and distributing the goodies we received from Google, Fedora, OSSCube. She came up with a questionnaire round and for the Bingo answers t-shirts and goodies from Google, Fedora, LFY, FOSS GN'09 were
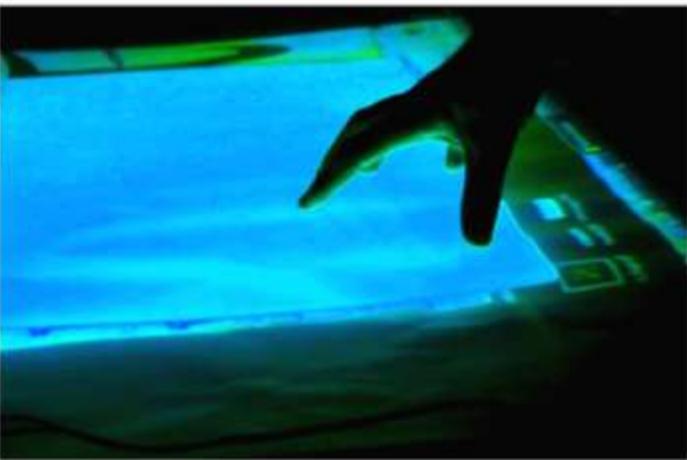
distributed. After the session of HFOSS from Shree we had an introduction from Manu and Paras about Drupal who developed a mind boggling online event on riddles , puzzles for Morse , giving their tips and tricks to use Drupal and, prepare a dynamic website in 10 minutes. They used everything from slides to PDFs and also video clippings too with a live demo during their talk.

Parallel to the talks Jaideep ran an install-fest - we PXEbooted to Fedora-Fy laptops to make sure that newbies no more think that installing Linux is rocket science . The take-away was: **fedora stickers** and a nice Live CD.

Night 1 : 10:30PM- 2:30 AM

After the end of day 1 session we had hack fests for Sahana and MultiTouch/HCI simultaneously with 50 participants each based on their interests. To our surprise more than 100 people turned up for the midnight hack fests. To our surprise upteen number of girls also turned up at the hackfest :-). Don't know how our coordinators could gather so much energy and concentration after a hectic day of talks but, Open Source is the driving force which helped them in answering the queries and talking with the participants. Participants were quickly given individual PCs, were made to setup Sahana , learned how to use IRC, and find answers to doubts

Participants at the multitouch hackfest.

Multi Touch and **HCI session** was being conducted by Anirudh and his team Sparsh (with help from Team Zugard) who have been working over the Multi Touch Hardware as well as Software with their MT table. Although in the November month where winters start in the western part of India , the room was fully heated up with those extra lighting effects from our art team and everyone was sitting on the edges of their seats, listening unperturbed. We talked about FTIR, LLP, hardware hacking, blobs, calibration, iPhones, **Anirudh's** GsoC '09 project: **Google SketchUp** using **Multitouch** gestures.

Hands on multitouch DIY

At regular intervals Srishti and Kunal came up with **quickfire** questions to giveaway Fedora 11 DVD'S , t-shirts , Google pens, pen drives , diaries to keep the adrenaline going.

About **at 3 AM** labs were shut and we moved for coffee and snacks. Participants were then commuted back to their **dormitories and they'd prepare for the talks session the coming day. Pretty Hectic! Eh.**

l Left- helping students setup sahana.   Right- skbohra explains sahana implementation

Day 2

After the successful completion of day one , the momentum was all set and almost double the number of students turned up for the talks.

Abhinav started his talk "The Firefox". He talked about how to create your own Firefox add on explaining about XUL, JavaScript, AJAX with a hack fest scheduled on the following night.

In second talk, Jaideep talked about Unix's evolution from the past 4 decades and finally came with the new features of Fedora 12 (Constantine) and SELINUX and discussed with the participants the role of security in an Operating System. Participants were again introduced the general do's and **don'ts** of using IRC with some guidelines.

Jaideep talks about fedora and selinux

Night 2: 10:30PM- 2:30AM

We were again back for the second mid night hack fest and we were following the same schema we had for the previous ones . Abhinav began with **"How to hack a Firefox add on" and** understand the architecture of Mozilla Firefox , why **fx**, the most popular Web Browser far better than *Microsoft's IE.*

Come 12:30 AM! and Manu and Paras began introducing Drupal at the second. They started unveiling about Drupal and how to make a dynamic web site and program small plugin. To newbies, it appeared pretty cool to be able to make a website in 10 minutes.

Day 3:

The most awaited moment when <u>Niyam Bhushan</u> **arrived to the FOSS GN09 venue.**

Niyam talking to students/faculty about adoption of Open Source in Academia

Niyam's first talk was ***"How to avoid the Axe Effect"*** (It is not about the famous deodorant). It was an eye opener to all of us who have been studying for more than 18 years of their life to get themselves hired some day for a software maintenance job and, then fired very soon. Working for those software coolie companies who steal the copy rights of your brainchild is not why we should study in a college for a degree. The talk was an eye opener!
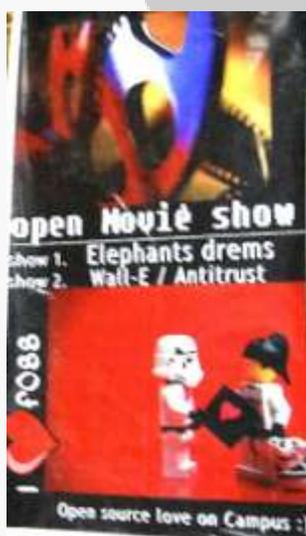

Niyam signs a banner after the talk "How to avoid the Axe effect"

Then came up the Question Answer round which he also could not believe that stretched more than the duration of this talk. The participants came up with the questions that kept Niyam busy and participants mesmerized for an hour.

Install Fest and Recreation

After having the fun filled session from Niyam we were at the **last and final** mid-night session. We happened to give a Fedora Installation experience for those who were not having a laptop or not carrying them. Jaideep, Manu and Paras gave a quick introduction how to install Fedora 11, explaining them everything from the Mount points to extended partitions, to configuring WiFi in Linux. We installed over 100 machines with Fedora 11.
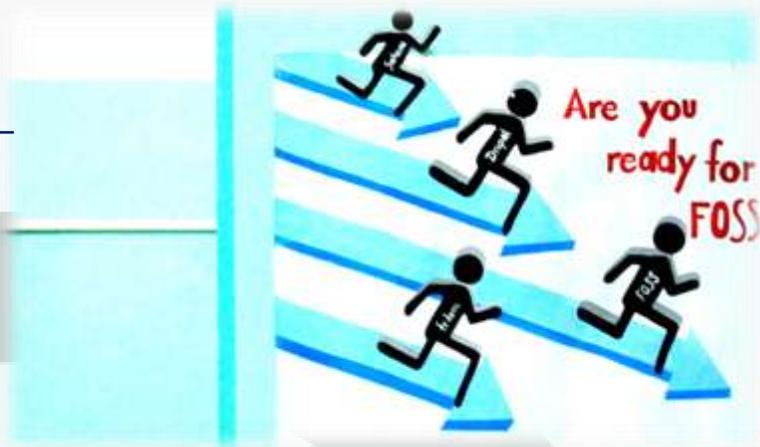

With the successful completion of install fest we moved towards the FOSS movie show **"Elephants Dreams and Antitrust"**

Final Day- Closing

"How to Make a dent in the universe! " :-) That was the title of Niyam's Final talk.

As Steve Jobs says **"Make** a **dent in the Universe"** . Niyam and FOSS Coordinators came up with the idea *"How to make a dent in the Universe? "* so that world remembers you for what you contributed and how your contribution can make a difference in itself. He started with the 3 Google Summer of Code Students from the campus for by

doing GSoC 2009 they didn't just earn those 4500 USD but also how following ones dream turned can stir some entropy in the universe . From Shreekant's Sahana disaster management system to Abhinav's sound streamer for common man and Anirudh's multitouch where the expressions of fingers and gestures can be far better and more friendly then traditional mouse , keyboards. Manu and Paras's video editing skills in modern perspective gave us an idea of how one can broadcast his own channel without any financial backing or infrastructure. Rahul, Ritu and Kavita's interest in creativity can be a gateway to leading Design schools.

There were some names to mention like Larry and Sergey Brin of Google, Blake Ross the co-developer of Firefox , the developer of Wikipedia .

The event concluded a high note where Niyam Bhushan announced of Linux User Group Bikaner (LUG B) and the annual FOSS event hosted by LUGB as RAJASFOSS. This is the way of transferring the torch from one hand to other and enlightening with the Free and Open Source Movement.

Highlights

Setting up of LUG Bikaner by Niyam Bhushan and Open source enthusiasts in front of a crowd of 2000 students on-stage. We lit up candles to spread the open source fire and passed it to all FOSS team members.

- Monthly installfests at all hostels, nearby institutes
- Mini FOSS un-conferences where students would meetup once in two months and talk about their FOSS projects
- Game Fests
- Annual Event "RajasFOSS" will be organized on-campus. *Rajas=Rajasthan*

FOSS Team:

1. **speakers**: abhinav1, touchaddict, skbohra123, pkuhad, jaideep, manud
2. **Art Team**: rahulmots, tp, ritu, kavita, priyanka
3. **Coordinators**: srishti, kunal, vivek, prateek, akshay, rajiv, nitin, sahil, vaibhav, vinay, virendra

Guest: Niyam Bhushan, Senior FOSS evangelist

Thanks to Google Open Source office, Fedora India, Kinshuk, Zugard Team and everyone involved :-)