

TEACHING AND BUILDING HUMANITARIAN OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE

ABSTRACT

This hands-on workshop will introduce participants to the world of free and open source software (FOSS) development and how to incorporate FOSS into undergraduate computing curricula. We will focus on existing humanitarian FOSS projects that the presenters are involved with. Participants will learn how FOSS projects are organized and how to set up a small scale project at their own schools. Introduction will be provided to FOSS development tools, including Eclipse, Subversion, MediaWIKI, and Trac. Participants will install a development environment on their laptops and build a simple module for an existing humanitarian FOSS project. See <http://www.hfoss.org> for further details.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Ralph Morelli is Professor of Computer Science at Trinity College and PI of the NSF CPATH grant “Can humanitarian open source software help revitalize undergraduate computing education?” He has taught undergraduate courses on open source software development and organized and supervised summer humanitarian open source internships for undergraduates.

Trishan R de Lanerolle is Project Director of the NSF CPATH grant and an active contributor to the Sahana Disaster Management System. He is experienced in working with open source technologies in an educational setting and is currently supervising students working on humanitarian open source software projects.

Janardhan Iyengar is Visiting Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Connecticut College. His research is broadly in computer networking. He has contributed to several open source projects over the past few years, and is currently supervising students working on humanitarian open source software projects.

DESCRIPTION

This hands-on workshop will introduce participants to the world of free and open source software (FOSS) development and how to incorporate FOSS into undergraduate computing curricula. We will focus on Sahana, an open source disaster management system, developed in Sri Lanka by a group of IT professionals following the 2004/5 Asian Tsunami. Sahana is a three-tiered web application written on the LAMP platform (Linux, Apache, PHP, and MySQL). Participants will learn how FOSS projects are organized and how to set up a small scale project at their own schools. Participants will learn how to use a variety of open source development tools, including Eclipse, Subversion, MediaWIKI, and Trac. By installing a development environment on their laptops and building a simple module for the Sahana system, participants will gain hands-on experience with the open source development process.

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