



Decentralized Collaboration with Open Source Tools: Technical and Cultural Implementation

Presented by

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Today's Topics

1. Who is Robyn?
2. What on earth is “decentralized collaboration?”
3. And what the heck is “cultural and technical implementation” supposed to mean?
4. Let's find out!

But First!

- We might as put some words into action, right?
- Go here, now!

<http://piratepad.net/scaletalk>

Who's Robyn?

- I'm a Fedora Contributor.
- I'm also a Red Hat employee.

Decentralized Collaboration

About this talk

- This is a recurring Fedora Classroom talk.
- Modularity.
- We're going to be talking about tools that are Free and Open Source software, that also just happen to be great tools for communities.
- The tools are simple – but the magic is in how you apply them, and how you can use them together.

Decentralized Collaboration



- This is the intertoobz age!
- But seriously: Decentralized collaboration is a description for how you can get like-minded folks together to DO STUFF, without having to meet in person, or always meet at the same time – in other words, *synchronous* and *asynchronous* forms of communication.
- These are the tools from which great communities are born.

Technical and Cultural Implementation

Sounds very Marketing-y.

- In simple terms, we're going to talk about these various tools in two ways:
 - What they are and how to use them “technically”
 - AKA: ZOMG, how do I get a etherpad of my own? Where do I find more information?
 - What these tools can do for your project culture.

Culture

- We hear a lot of catch-phrases at conferences like this.

Openness and transparency

Default to Open

- Others, not so much, but the values are there.

With enough eyeballs,
all bugs are shallow.

Pay for learning
with documentation.

What I'm getting at:

- The open-source CODE world has proven ways to hack on code together in decentralized ways, and GET THINGS DONE.
- The same VALUES behind coder methodologies can be easily applied to other communications methods.

This is the Open Source Way.

TOOLS!

- We're going to talk about the fun stuff now.
 - Etherpad. (Where some of you hopefully are RIGHT NOW.)
 - IRC.
 - IRC bots.
 - Mediawiki.
 - Trac.
 - Blog planets.
 - Classrooms.

Etherpad

- A web-based real-time collaborative editor.
- Synchronous text-editing.
- Why use etherpad?
- Culture: Remix in real time.

Etherpad Resources

- How to set up an etherpad server of your own:
 - <http://pauleira.com/13/installing-etherpad/>
- Not interested in heavy lifting?
 - <http://openetherpad.org>
 - <http://piratenpad.de>

Internet Relay Chat

- aka IRC
- Synchronous communication.
- Why IRC?
- Culture: Default to Open.

IRC Resources

- Easiest Start: <http://webchat.freenode.net>
- (Freenode is a place where lots of open-source thinkers hang out.)
- I'm even there! My nick is rbergeron.
- IRC tutorial: <http://www.etni.org.il/virirc1.htm>
- For more advanced usage:
 - Irssi and screen: <http://quadpoint.org/articles/irssi>
- Other tools: Xchat, Pidgin, Colloquy.

IRC Bots

- Supybot, zodbob, meetbot. Lots of bots.
- Synchronous context-bridging.
- What's a bot?
- What would I use this for?
- Culture: Automate the little things.

IRC Bot Resources

- Stories:
http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/How_to_run_a_Fedora_Marketing_meeting
- How to set up a bot of your own:
<http://supybook.fealdia.org/devel/>

Mediawiki

- A free, open-source software server for serving up wikis.
- Asynchronous text editing and documentation.
- Culture: Pay for learning with documentation.

Mediawiki Resources

- The obligatory link:
<http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/MediaWiki>

Trac

- Ticket tracking.
- Asynchronous task-tracking.
- Why use Trac?
- Culture: With enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow.
- Use keywords!

Trac Resources

- Project page: <http://trac.edgewall.org/>
- In action:
 - FUDCon Planning task tracker:
<https://fedorahosted.org/fudcon-planning/report/12>

Blog Planets

- A way to aggregate blog feeds of like-minded folks.
- Asynchronous context-providance.
- Why have a planet?
- Culture: Share the knowledge, grow the knowledge.

Blog Planet Resources



- How to set up Planet:
<http://www.linuxjournal.com/article/8772>
- How to get your blog on an existing planet:
 - http://teachingopensource.org/index.php/Planet_Feed_List#Requirements
 - http://live.gnome.org/PlanetGnome#Being_added_to_Planet_GNOME
- Some examples of a Planet:
 - <http://planet.fedoraproject.org>
 - <http://teachingopensource.org/index.php/Planet>

Classrooms

- Structures for synchronous community teaching.
- Don't think of a classroom as “a classroom.”
 - In-person events
 - Hackathons
 - FUDCon (Fedora Developers and Users Conference)
 - IRC Sessions
- Culture: Ask forgiveness – not permission!

Classroom Resources



- A great IRC session presenting the information YOU JUST HEARD:

<http://blog.melchua.com/2010/09/07/fedora-classroom-tuesday-sep-14-at-1600-utc-working-with-people-who-arent-there-basic-distributed-collaboration-tools/>

Tools are cool.



- Do you have a favorite that's not here? Why does it work well for you?

Questions?



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