PLUME and RELIER

To improve the visibility of software produced by research laboratories

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

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OWF - F/OS Visions, Paris, 30 september 2010
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- The target public

The (French speaking) academic community:

- Universities, “Grandes Écoles”
- CNRS: research laboratories, all scientific domains
- other research entities: CEA, INRA, INRIA, INSERM, ...
- in total: around 10 000 computer science engineers and technicians
- plus researchers, professors, students, ...

Plus satellites: international, industry, ...
- Motivation

What happens in the academic community regarding software?

The reasons to launch PLUME (January 2007):

- a lot of software is used: useful, efficient, free (FLOSS)
- a lot of software is developed within the community
- a lot of experts around: users, developers
- no organization/structure inside the community to share this knowledge
- software developers/users: usually isolated in their labs
- recurrent question:
  how to find the right software to solve my professional needs?
- The project

- PLUME
  Promouvoir les Logiciels Utiles Maîtrisés et Économiques dans l’Enseignement Supérieur et la Recherche
  http://www.projet-plume.org/, plume@urec.cnrs.fr

- PLUME-FEATHER
  Promoting economical, Useful and Maintained software For the Higher Education And THE Research community
  http://www.projet-plume.org/en, plume@urec.cnrs.fr

- RELIER
  Référencer les développements Logiciels Internes de l’Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche
  Reference software within the French higher education and research community
  http://www.projet-plume.org/relier, relier-pilote@services.cnrs.fr
- Four main goals

Four main goals regarding software in 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 set up the PLUME platform:

http://www.projet-plume.org/
- The platform today

Platform open on october 2007, now there are 6 types of software index cards (statistics, sept. 2010):

- oriented to potential users:
  - (293) used and “validated” cards: in production on at least 3 sites
  - (31) “to be validated” cards: in production on 1 or 2 sites
  - (9) “on test” cards

- with informations related to software:
  - (185) resource cards (articles, FAQ, events, ...)

- oriented to research, labs, entities, evaluation, ...:
  - (191) (dév. ESR) cards: developed within research labs
  - (48) (dév. ESR) English cards

11 archives (up-to-date information), +200 cards waiting on the pipeline
1418 members, 617 contributors (write, review),
25 theme managers, 1 chief editor
RELIER - Motivation
What happens with the software produced at research labs?

- some labs and universities produce a lot of software
  - for research: experiments, publications, ...
  - for everyday needs: management, bibliography, ...
- some are FOSS software
- some are distributed sometimes not in the best conditions
- most of them are unknown software
- most of them should be useful for other researchers/labs/projects/industry
- there is no national repository (no stats, ...)
RELIER - The project

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

RELIER produces:

- Dév ESR cards
- PLUME-FEATHER cards
- specific fields:
  - (Scientific) publications
  - Laboratories
  - Head institutions (Universities, CNRS, INRA, ...)
- Pages listing software developpements of laboratories, institutions
  http://www.projet-plume.org/laas
PLUME-RELIER - To help developers

- Documents to study problems related to software development 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
  ▶ Distribute lab’s software: legal and administrative recommendations

- Tutorials, schools, workshops, ...
  ▶ ENVOL, PLUME days, FOSSA, ...

- Academic tool: project to set up a national forge
  ▶ coordination?, management?, complement of existing ones?
  ▶ survey: 300 answers
We think that PLUME is a good tool:

- to share knowledge about FLOSS used in the academic community
- to improve the visibility of software produced by research laboratories

The more PLUME is used, the more PLUME is useful:

- June 2009: 389 published cards - 134 675 page read - 798 members
- June 2010: 725 published cards - 200 026 page read - 1334 members

If you wish to participate:

- [http://www.projet-plume.org/participer](http://www.projet-plume.org/participer)
- plume@urec.cnrs.fr