OSSF: Passionate about the Spirit and Development of Open Source Software

The Open Source Software Foundry (OSSF) was founded in the summer of 2003 by the Ministry of Economic Affairs’ Industrial Development Bureau to help the development of open source software (OSS) and to expand the knowledge and use of such software in Taiwan. What began in a small office in Academia Sinica’s Institute of Information Science (IIS) has grown to a 15-member team in the Research Center of Information Technology Innovation (CITI). The operational budget now comes jointly from National Science Council and CITI.

The OSSF family consists of people who are passionate about the spirit and development of open source software. To achieve their annual goals, they have specific jobs to do; these jobs are divided into three categories: Technical Development, Outreach and Promotion, and License and Legal Consultation. All OSSF members are under the supervision of four principal investigators: Dr. Lee Der-Tsai, Dr. Liu Win-Shih, Dr. Chuang Tyng-Ruey, and Dr. Hsiao Ching-Teng.

The OSSF provides several tools and services for all OSS developers and users via the OpenFoundry website (www.openfoundry.org), a portal site for experience sharing and a platform for relevant OSS components and human resource references. The OSSF also provides five major services: an OSS license and legal (cont’d on page 15)

Open source software technology is continuing to advance.
OSSF (story continued from page 7) advisory service, the OSS biweekly newsletter, the OSS-related resource catalog, OSS learning materials, and the hosting of various OSS-related activities. By making these tools and services easily accessible, the OSSF hopes to help and encourage Taiwanese developers who are interested in the OSS field to develop new open source software.

But those in the OSSF aren’t a bunch of geeks. Their motto is “Work hard, play hard!” So although they are intensely dedicated to their work and sometimes burn the midnight oil (the OSSF snack bar is open every day and always has hot coffee ready), they don’t forget to relax and have fun. Couch Potatoes? No! Jogging, dart games, and many other physical activities and competitions help project members relax, burn calories, and refocus their attention in a way that can spur creative thinking.

Please feel free to visit them in room 402 of the new IIS building. They are happy to share their experiences and knowledge about OSS development with one and all!

OSSF Project website: www.openfoundry.org/
Tel: +886-2-2788-3799 ext. 1469, 1477, 1478.

Workshop

The Rule of the GPL and Its Compliance Engineering - 20-Lecture Series IV

Date: December 2, 2010

Category: Law and Licenses
Location: Conference Room 2, Humanities & Social Sciences Building, Academia Sinica
tel: 2788-3799 ext. 1474 or 0953-366-676

OSSF (Open Source Software Foundry) invited the core members of GPL-Violations.org, Harald Welte and Armijn Hemel, to be the distinguished speakers of this workshop. GPL-Violations.org is an organization focusing on GPL violation cases. Mr. Welte is the founder of the organization and the copyright holder of several well-known GPLed components; in the past few years he has pursued several successful GPL-violation lawsuits in Europe. Mr. Hemel has for many years been in charge of his organization’s technical inspection of GPL violations. Both of them have intensive knowledge of GPL and related technical skills.

For more information, please visit their website at www.openfoundry.org/en/workshop/details/115.

The Workshop on International Standardization of Web and Han Character Technology was held on October 7. Six keynote speakers shared their experience in Unicode. The participants included Dr. Murata Makoto from the W3C XML Working Group and Yamamoto Taro from Adobe.