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ComDev PMC Member

* These slides are from ACNA 2014, they will be updated in with latest statistics.
Overview

- Google Summer of Code - GSoC
  - Goals of the program
  - Timeline, stipends ...
- Why should you participate
- A student’s perspective
  - Guest Speaker – Sachith Withana
- When is the right time to engage students.
- How to attract and identify good students
- Next steps with GSoC 2014 and ASF Process
- Discussions
What is Google Summer of Code?

Google Summer of Code is a program designed to encourage university student participation in open source software development.
What are the goals of the program?

- Inspire young developers to begin participating in open source development
- Provide students in computer science and related fields the opportunity to do work related to their academic pursuits during the summer
- Give students more exposure to real-world software development scenarios (e.g. Mailing list etiquette, distributed development, etc.)
- Get more open source code created and released for the benefit of all
- Help open source projects identify and bring in new developers and committers
How does GSoC work?

- Program genesis: “flip bits, not burgers” during summer holidays
- Exposure to real-world software development
- Students submit project proposals to the organizations, who select student(s) and pair with mentor(s) from the org
- Students must execute milestones laid out in their accepted project proposal
- Program stipend allows students to concentrate on OSS development
Google Summer of Code timeline

- 3 - 14 February, 2014: Google begins accepting applications from open source projects.
- 10 – 21 March, 2014: Student application period.
- 21 April, 2014: Accepted students announced on google-melange.com.
- 19 May, 2014: Students begin coding.
- 27 June, 2014: Mid-term evaluation deadline.
- 22 August, 2014: Final evaluation deadline.
Stipends

- Google will provide a stipend of 6000 USD per accepted student developer, of which 5500 USD goes to the student and 500 USD goes to the mentoring organization.
- Accepted students in good standing with their mentoring organizations will receive 500 USD shortly after coding begins.
- Students who pass their mid-term evaluations will receive 2250 USD shortly after the mid-term evaluations.
- Students who receive passing final evaluations will receive 2750 USD shortly after the final evaluation deadline.
Creates a Win-Win situation

- Organizations gain:
  - New contributors and Code
  - Global Exposure

- What Students gain:
  - Skills
  - Real World Experience
  - Sample Code
  - Contacts
  - Career Building – Recruiters looking for them rather than other way around
GSoC: A Student Perspective

Sachith Withana
University of Moratuwa
Why do we prefer GSoC over summer internships

First hand open source, open community experience

- the transition from theory to the real-world
- recognition as a GSoCer
- code is out there in a real-world project

Explore a preferred field, involve in, learn and contribute to that field

Stipend
Challenges to engage with Apache Projects

- Lack of project-specific knowledge
  - Example: Apache Airavata: Distribution Systems knowledge
- Many projects lack good documentation and introductory resources
- Balancing time in a busy academic schedule
<table>
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<th>Rank</th>
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<th>Country</th>
<th># of Accepted Students in 2013</th>
<th># of Students in 2012</th>
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From Challenges to Solutions

- Lack of documentation?
- add documentation, fix them.
- It’s a HUGE learning phase
- No-time in a busy schedule?
- that’s life, make way for your future
Solutions Contd..

- Domain-specific barrier
  - start few months before the GSoC application submission period
- Interact with the communities, it’s OPEN TO ANYONE
- University of Moratuwa way ..
  - conduct workshops
  - help students conquer the barrier
Further contributions

Final Year project
approx: 8 months long
4 students per group
research-oriented
concrete contributions to project
Questions?

Turning back to Suresh...
What students look for?

- Engage with project itself (not just the mentor).
- Is the project welcoming and appreciative of their contributions?
- Should they invest extra effort or just put in enough to secure the stipend.
  - They need to be motivated to contribute to the project above and beyond GSoC.
Motivate community Aspects

- Provide opportunity to play with other open source tools
- Let them Experiment
- Balance Learn & Engage
Emphasize the need for speaking up early and often
Participating in GSoC for the tenth year in a row (since its inception in 2005)

Number of projects in past 4 years

2010: 44
2011: 40
2012: 41
2013: 51

* Thanks to Ulrich Stärk for these statistics
Apache ComDev
ComDev PMC co-ordinates GSoC engaging all Apache Projects.
ASF is one of the biggest participating orgs in GSoC
~75 mentors from different projects each year

* Thanks to Ulrich Stärk for these statistics
Next Steps in 2014

We are almost finished with proposal ranking. Internally PMC’s are due on April 11\textsuperscript{th}.
Due with Google between April 15 and April 18.
April 21: announcement of accepted projects

* Thanks to Ulrich Stärk for these statistics
Executing the projects
may 19: start of coding
june 27: midterm evaluations
due
august 11/18 suggested/firm pencil down date
august 22: final evaluations
due
august 25: end of gsoc
Key Take Away’s

- Free Pens – speak up now.
- Spend time to create starter tasks.
- Be welcoming to students and encourage them by “rewards”.
- Look for both direct and in-direct benefits.
  - Improved documentation
  - Hire potential students in our day jobs
  - New committers