

## **Notes from the SIGOSSEE Steering Group meeting August 11-12 2004**

*Present: Graham Attwell, Sara Zondergeld, Raymond Elferink, Dai Griffiths and AlexandraTödt.*

### **1. Conferences and events**

#### **a) Join / SIGOSSEE - Köln**

The JOIN project conference, supported by SIGOSSEE is being held in Köln on 13 - 14 September 2004. Alexandra Toedt outlined the programme. The morning of the first day would focus on the issues with OSS in education. The afternoon would focus on OSS products including Eduplone, Moodle, Claroline and ILIAS. On the second day there would be workshops presenting the SIGOSSEE working groups.

A press release and invitation will be sent by email to all the members of the SIG. It was recognized that time to publicize the conference was very short but there were no other dates available in Köln. Therefore it was agreed to use every opportunity to promote the conference.

#### **b) IMAC Duisburg - 13 - 15 September, 2004**

A symposium on OSS and the work of the projects has been accepted by the organizers who require the submission of papers. Due to the clash with the Köln conference it was agreed to ask for the session to be moved to the 15<sup>th</sup>. Dai Griffith would replace Graham Attwell as a speaker.

#### **c) K2 conference Amsterdam - 20 September**

Graham Attwell is a keynote speaker at the conference

#### **d) ECER Crete - 21 - 25 September**

The SIGOSSEE symposium at this conference will be on 25 September (Saturday morning) from 11:00 – 12:30am. It was noted this is a poor timeslot at the end of the conference.

It was agreed to start with an introduction of SIGOSSEE and JOIN. The symposium will be chaired by Graham Attwell.

Graham, Alexandra, Raymond will speak on organisations and management issues, sustainability and support infrastructural needs for OSS and Mikhel Pelv will speak on the Lefo project.

#### **e) e2004 Villach 29 September– 1 October**

Dai Griffith, Raymond, Graham and Alexandra are speakers together with Georg Pleger from Edu-Plone. The organizers have provided free registration for symposium speakers. It was noted that speakers must register and that papers had to be uploaded to the conference web site by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **f) Elearning programme Concertation meeting – Brussels – 4-5 October**

It was agreed that Ray and Alexandra would attend this meeting on behalf of the SIGOSEE and JOIN projects.

## **2. SIGOSEE working groups**

There was a discussion on how to develop more collaboration between members of the working groups. It was noted that collaborative research requires face to face meetings but that there was too little time for this in the project meetings.

Partners had agreed to work together using the Ossite and tools. However, despite the upgrading of discussion tools on the site there was still little activity.

Graham Attwell noted that this was in line with other project experiences – in order for collaboration to take place through the web activities needed to be planned, focused and time-bound.

It was agreed to organise a series of events around the activities and themes of each working group. The group leaders would write a short (four to six pages) introductory paper which would serve as the focus for a three to four week moderated discussion period, the results of the discussion would then be summarized and incorporated into the reports of that group. The group conveners would be responsible for moderating the discussion for their group.

The following time plan was agreed:

October - Organisation and management issues, sustainability and support infrastructural needs for OSS – Dai Griffiths and Raymond Elferink

November/ December - Social, cultural and legal issues in OSS - Joachim Dietrich and Peter Becker,

February - User requirements and usability issues in the development of OSS Tim Hall and George Bekiaridis

March - Standards and architectures for OSS - Mike Malloch and Soren Johanssen

One possible outcome of this work would be an annotated bibliography.

## **3. Basic information**

Graham Attwell noted that when we started out, people were still unsure about open source and our aim was to provide a place where they could find out more. There has been a very quick evolution and rather than requiring basic information about what OSS is people are now wanted more detailed information on how to switch to OSS..

The major need is for a series of briefing publications about different aspects of OSS.

These should follow a common format and design. It was agreed (after long discussion!) to call these Key Issues.

After a brainstorm-session we come up with 13 Key Issues together with volunteers for writing them:

1. What is LMS? (Alexandra)
2. How do I substitute Microsoft Office with OSS (Open Office)? (Dai)

3. How do I run Windows Applications on Linux? (Dai)
4. How do I get OSS in my organisation? (Dai)
5. What is SourceForge and what does it do? (Raymond)
6. What are the OSS security options (like Firewalls)?
7. What are standards and why are they important? (Dai)
8. How do Open Source Software licenses work (GNU)? (Alexandra)
9. How do I get learning content which operates in an OS learning environment? (Graham)
10. What are alternatives to running a LMS? (Graham)
11. What skills and support basis do I need? (Raymond)
12. Is OSS really cheaper than proprietary software? (One time costs as in licenses; consultancy costs; server costs) (Raymond)
13. What about software patents and licenses?

The Key Issues should be published in pdf format on the OSSite with links to the bulletin board for discussion. The aim was to publish the first in November.

There was discussion of the workflow.

Drafts to be circulated with a two-week comment period

Second revised draft two weeks later

Graham Attwell to edit – further two weeks.

Total workflow period – six weeks

Partners and SIG members are to be asked to help in translating into different languages.

It was noted this is not part of the original workplan but is felt crucial to fulfilling the project aims.

#### **4. Barcelona Meeting of SIGOSSEE**

The Barcelona SOGOSSEE workshop will be held on **1 – 2 November 2004**

It will be a joint meeting with JOIN! And UNFOLD.

There was an extended discussion on language. It was agreed the project meeting on 1 November would be in English but the November 2 meeting would be in Spanish with keynote presentations in English.

The proposed programme for the second day is as follows:

Morning – Issues around OSS

1. Standards (Dai)
2. Content (Graham)
3. Organisations and management issues, sustainability and support infrastructural needs for OSS, role user (Raymond)
4. LMS platforms (JOIN Spanish partner)

Afternoon – Issues in implementing OSS

1. English language strand
  - a) ZOPE Strand (one Zope based LMS)
  - b) Cetus Site (Wilbert, Zope Edu list)
  - c) CMS/ learning design
2. Spanish language strand
 

Workshop on implementation including case studies from Spanish school and region.

It was agreed to publish the agenda on the OSSite at the latest by the end of September.

#### **5. Examples of best practice**

It was agreed to invite Ferran to contribute a poster or exhibition session at the Barcelona meeting.

It was also agreed that we should develop Key Issues on:

- a) Best Practices in Europe
- b) Best Practices Outcomes with the aim of providing a guide how to implement OSS in institutions.

Alexandra had developed a template on best practices to parallel the OS LMS directory. Ray agreed to post this on the Ossite.

It was further agreed to explore the idea of a Wiki for a glossary of terms, aimed at the OS world, education world and developers world.

#### **6. Membership List, Product Directory, Database**

There was further discussion on the wording of the questionnaire for OS products with a number of amendments being proposed.

Work was continuing on the project membership list and Ossite.

#### **7. New funding application**

The Leonardo da Vinci programme is on call with a deadline in late September / early October. It was agreed to develop an application to attempt to extend the national and European infrastructure for OSS. Graham Attwell was to write a first draft and Dai would submit the application.