

PLUME

Software used or developed by the
academic community

Jean-Luc Archimbaud CNRS

Director of PLUME project

Jean-Luc.Archimbaud@urec.cnrs.fr

<http://www.projet-plume.org>

July 15, 2010

PLUME - FEATHER - RELIER

- ◆ **PLUME (French speaking web portal)**
 - ❖ Promouvoir les Logiciels Utiles, Maitrisés et Economiques dans l'Enseignement Supérieur et la Recherche (ESR)
- ◆ **PLUME - FEATHER (English speaking web portal)**
 - ❖ Promoting economical, Useful and Maintained software For the higher Education And THE Research community
→ academic community
- ◆ **RELIER (a sub-project of PLUME)**
 - ❖ REferencer les développements Logiciels Internes de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche
 - ❖ Reference software within the French higher education and research community

Reasons to launch PLUME (2007)

- ◆ In the academic community, a lot of software is used : useful, efficient, free (FLOSS)
- ◆ Some is developed within the community
- ◆ A lot of experts around: users, developers
 - ❖ But no organization/structure inside the community to organize these skills
- ◆ Software developers / users : usually isolated in their laboratory
- ◆ Recurrent issue : how to find the right code, software to solve my professional needs ?

Four main goals

Regarding software in the French higher education and research (academic) community

- ◆ **Share competences and value knowledge**
 - → descriptions of software : index cards written by academic experts (engineers, researchers, professors), users of software
- ◆ **Promote software produced by the community**
 - → index cards written by developers
- ◆ **Create and lead a developers' community**
 - → information, tutorials, conferences...
- ◆ **Promote the use of and contribution to free/open source software (FOSS)**

Today : > 750 index cards

The platform (Drupal) has been opened on oct 2007. 7 types of software index cards :

- ◆ 283 used and 'validated software' cards: in production on at least 3 sites
- ◆ 27 'to be validated software' cards in production on 1 or 2 sites
- ◆ 8 'on test' cards
- ◆ 174 resource cards (articles, FAQ, slides of conf...)
- ◆ 178 'dev ESR' cards : software developed at labs : RELIER project
- ◆ 45 'dev ESR ' EN cards : PLUME-FEATHER Web
- ◆ 11 archived cards
- ◆ + 200 cards in the workflow before publication

Publishing process

'validated software' card

- ❖ A PLUME **member** proposes a new software card
 - An experienced user who works in a lab or a university
- ❖ A **theme manager** initiates the card
 - Maths, biology, chemistry, cooperative work, network and system admin,...
 - 25 theme leaders : Jerome Kieffer - chemistry
- ❖ The member -> **contributor** writes the card
- ❖ 2 contributors review (and add information to) the card
- ❖ The theme manager reviews the card
- ❖ The chief editor reviews the card
- ❖ The contributor : OK to publish
- ❖ The chief editor publishes the card

Other publishing procedures

- ◆ 'Dev ESR' card (software from a lab)
 - ❖ The contributor is generally the developer
 - ❖ The 2 contributors review is not mandatory
 - ❖ But the theme manager and the chief editor review the card
- ◆ Resource card
 - ❖ The 2 contributors review is not mandatory
 - ❖ But the theme manager and the chief editor review the card
- ◆ All the text input is online
- ◆ Workflows with email alerts

Organizing the community

Information - tutorials

- ◆ RSS feeds, mailing lists and other communication tools
- ◆ Summer schools (ENVOL 2008, 2010) : development
- ◆ PLUME days
 - ❖ Manage your bibliography, distribute your software, FOSS alternatives in maths, CMS-Wiki-Blog...
- ◆ Resource cards : FAQ...
- ◆ E-learning platform : CMS SPIP courses

Labs developments

- ◆ Labs and universities produce a lot of software
 - ❖ for research (leading to experiences, publications)
 - ❖ for domestic needs (management, bibliography...)
- ◆ Some are FOSS software
- ◆ Some are distributed
 - ❖ Sometimes not in the best conditions (no license...)
- ◆ Most of them are unknown software
- ◆ Most of them should be useful to other researchers/labs/projects/industry
- ◆ → There is no national repository

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

- ❖ → Dev ESR Cards (FR)
- ❖ → PLUME-FEATHER Cards (EN)
- ❖ Specific fields :
 - Publications
 - Laboratories
 - Head Institutions
- ❖ Pages / laboratory, head institution...
 - Showcase of software production

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To help developers

- ◆ Documents – FAQ → resource cards
 - ❖ Licenses, Copyright, Forge...
- ◆ Tutorials – Schools
 - ❖ ENVOL, PLUME days, FOSSA...
- ◆ Tool : project to set up a (or coordinate the) national research forge
 - ❖ Survey (> 300 answers)

Some specific aspects (1)

- ❖ Very good reference by google (enter 'plume')
- ❖ 'Clients' (users) of PLUME platform
 - Computer science engineers, researchers (of all the scientific domains), professors of the academic community and industry R&D : professional
 - Not the end users of domestic software
- ❖ Contributors
 - People from the academic community
 - Who use regularly the software or who have developed it
 - ✓ Not people who have only tested the software
- ❖ The names of contributors, reviewers... (with their lab) are published within the cards
 - PLUME Members may contact them by email
 - Nothing is anonymous

Some specific aspects (2)

- ❖ Each card : a lot of structured information (fields)
 - Validated software : main features, other features, interoperability, usage, limits and difficulties, license, distributions, other equivalent software, origin, community, documentation...
- ❖ All the cards are indexed by several set of keywords
 - Profession-activity : agronomy, biology...developer...
 - IT sector : office, database, security...
 - Features : email, image processing, phone, data modelisation...
 - ...
 - Dev ESR : laboratory and head institution
- ❖ Every publication is reviewed by a theme leader
- ❖ There is a Chef Editor who review everything
- ❖ There is an update process of the cards
 - Too old → archives

Organization

- ❖ Permanent staff : around 3,5 FTP
 - From CNRS
- ❖ Around 25 theme leaders (each 10-15 % FTP)
 - From laboratories of CNRS, INRA... ESRF, universities...
- ❖ 1352 members, 588 contributors (writers or reviewers)
- ❖ 46 official support and partner entities
 - CCIN2P3, LAAS, INIST, ICJ, LJK... (CNRS labs), INSMI, DPI (departments of CNRS), IT division of universities (CSIESR), RENATER, OW2, [System@TIC](#), Framasoft... and Data Analysis Unit of ESRF
- ❖ Technical – steering – strategic committees
- ❖ A more formal structure (GDS, GIS, GIP... ?) is on study right now

Your contribution

- ◆ Visit the web site
 - ❖ <http://www.projet-plume.org/>
- ◆ Please contribute if
 - ❖ You use (free) software that you appreciate
 - ❖ You have developed or you are developing software
 - ❖ Become a PLUME member:
 - 'Devenir membre' menu:
<http://www.projet-plume.org/devenir-membre-plume>
 - ❖ Submit a card proposal:
 - 'Proposez une fiche !' menu:
<http://www.projet-plume.org/fiches/proposer>
- ◆ Jerome Kieffer can be a local contact...