

# PLUME and RELIER

Promoting economical, Useful and Maintained software for the French higher education and research (academic) community

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

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# Plan

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## - Introduction

### PLUME

Promouvoir les **L**ogiciels **U**tiles **M**aîtrisés et **E**conomiques  
dans l'Enseignement Supérieur et la Recherche

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

Main goal: to promote economical, useful and maintained software within the French higher education and research (academic) community

Head: Jean-Luc Archimbaud, UREC (CNRS)

Official partners: around 20 laboratories and research entities

Supporters: 10 other associations and research entities

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



## - Motivation

What happens in the academic community regarding software?

The reasons to launch PLUME (january 2007):

- a lot of software around, free, performant, used, useful
- some is developed within the community
- a lot of experts around: users, developers
- no organization/structure inside the community
- usual isolation of software developers/users within the community
- how to find the information to solve everyday needs?



## Plume - Goals

Now PLUME has four main goals regarding software within 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 step up the PLUME platform:

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



## - Platform (1)

The platform has been open on october 2007 (CMS Drupal).

Now there are 6 types of software index cards (statistics, nov. 2009):

- (225) used and “validated” cards: in production on at least 3 sites
- (25) “to be validated” cards: in production on 1 or 2 sites
- (8) “on test” cards
- (125) resource cards (articles, FAQ, ...)
- (88) developed within research labs’ cards: RELIER (dév. ESR)
- (13) FEATHER (en)
- archives

Please contribute:

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



## - Platform (2)

Publishing procedure:

- a **member** propose a new software card
- a **theme manager** opens the card  
maths, biology, cooperative work, network and system admin,...
- a **contributor** (expert/experienced user): write the card
- 2 or 3 different contributors review the card
- the theme manager validated the card
- final validation and publication by the **chief editor** and author

Some cards have a lighten publishing procedure.

Example of a “validated software card”:

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



## - Platform (3)

The PLUME project is carried by the UREC of the CNRS, with JL. Archimbaud as project manager.

There are different roles (statistics, nov. 2009):

- visitors (around 40 000 per month)
- (906) members (login access)
- (416) contributors: authors and reviewers
- (19) theme managers
- (1) chief editor





## - Organising the community

In order to structure the community, there are:

- RSS feeds, mailing lists and other communication tools
- summer schools (ENVOL 2008, 2010)
- PLUME days  
manage your bibliography, distribute your software, foss alternatives in maths
- news, resource cards, ...

Very easy to incorporate side projects:

- @2L: learning **free/open source software (FOSS)**
- DEVLOG: new project for (academic) developers
- RELIER: focus on the second goal of PLUME:  
promote software produced by the academic community

# RELIER - Motivation

What happens at the research labs and the research institutions?

- some labs and universities produce a lot of software
  - ▶ for research (leading to 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 are **useful** for other researchers/labs/projects/industry

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

## RELIER

**RE**férencer les développements **L**ogiciels **I**nternes  
de l'**E**nseignement supérieur et de la **R**echerche

Reference software within  
the French higher education and research community

<http://www.projet-plume.org/relier>  
[relier-pilote@services.cnrs.fr](mailto:relier-pilote@services.cnrs.fr)

Born: inside the  project

RELIER-pilote: V. Louvet, V. Baudin, T. Gomez-Diaz + JL. Archimbaud

Pilote labs: ICJ (Lyon), LAAS (Toulouse), LIGM (Marne-la-Vallée)

Supporters: Groupe Calcul, INSMI CNRS, DPI CNRS...

# RELIER - Cards and Labs' pages

Goal: to reference all the software produced at research labs, universities or other research institutions to present them in web pages...

RELIER organizes this information with

- ■ software cards: RELIER (dév. ESR)  
<http://www.projet-plume.org/relieur/unitex>
- some have also ■ “validated software” cards  
<http://www.projet-plume.org/fiche/unitex>
- labs' software pages  
<http://www.projet-plume.org/LIGM/>

Authors can be developers of the software project but also persons nominated by the laboratory or the research institution.

# A RELIER card (dév. ESR)

The basic information to properly identify the software:

- name, version, date, web site
- license, status (in development, distributed, ...)
- designer(s), contact information
- laboratory, head institutions
- keywords (search interface)
- general software features
- context in which the software is/has been used
- publications related to software

# PLUME (fr) - FEATHER (en)

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

The first aim of the English version of PLUME is to publish the translation of RELIER (dév. ESR) cards.

Example of a FEATHER “dév. ESR card”:

<http://www.projet-plume.org/en/relier/unitex>

- RELIER

- ▶ First reference cards published september 2008
- ▶ Today: 88 index cards corresponding to 60 labs
- ▶ 24 more coming soon
- ▶ Some have also a “validated software card”

- PLUME-FEATHER

- ▶ First English reference cards published on april 2009
- ▶ 13 published cards
- ▶ 12 coming soon

## Useful documents

An inside RELIER initiative: 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
- more coming soon...

This is an example of the **collaborative work** usual in 