

Google Code-In and FreeBSD

A summary of FreeBSD's participation in the 2011 contest

Benedict Reuschling
bcr@FreeBSD.org

BSDCan DevSummit Track
May 11, 2012

Overview

- 1 What is GCIN?
- 2 Results

Overview

1 What is GCIN?

2 Results

What is Google Code-In?

- Contest run by Google Inc. to engage pre-university students in open source
- Start: November 21, 2011
- End: January 17, 2012
- Supply of fresh tasks by: December 16, 2011
- Students work on many different tasks created by open source projects and gain points for completing them
- Top 10 students with the highest score win a trip to Google HQ in Mountain View, California
- T-Shirts for mentors and participants

How does it compare to Google Summer of Code?

| | Summer of Code | Code-In |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Age of students: | 18+ | 13 - 17 |
| Assignment: | One big project | Many small tasks |
| Mentors: | 1 - 2 | many |
| Turnaround time: | slower | <= 36 hours |
| Criteria for success: | project finished | highest overall score |
| Task type: | programming/software development only | Code, Documentation, Outreach, Quality Assurance, Research, Training, Translation, User Interface |

Participating in both programs has equal benefits for FreeBSD!

Participating as an Open Source Project

Preparations

- Create a list of 40 high quality tasks for students to work on
- Give points depending on difficulty and required time
- Assign mentors for these tasks

Participating as an Open Source Project

Preparations

- Create a list of 40 high quality tasks for students to work on
- Give points depending on difficulty and required time
- Assign mentors for these tasks

During the contest

- Answer claims from students to work on a task
- Give feedback and help, answer questions
- Check whether submitted work meets your requirements
- Provide another 40 tasks during contest half time

Our experiences for running a successful contest

Increase the chances that tasks get worked on

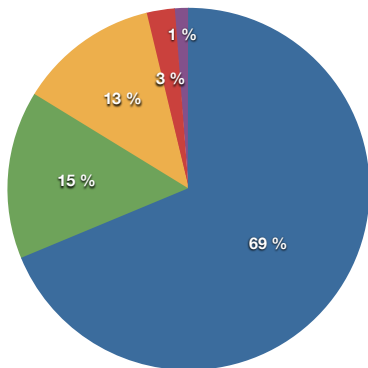
- Remember: most students have little or no experience in Open Source work
 - Explain even the simplest things in great detail
 - Make tasks as easy and granular as possible
 - Split bigger tasks into many smaller ones for parallel work
-
- Don't be afraid to reopen a task to get results from different students like artwork
 - As a mentor: provide feedback as quickly as possible
 - provide feedback (good *and* bad), don't expect perfectness

Overview

- 1 What is GCIN?
- 2 Results

Overview of task status after the contest

Range of time to completion: 8 hours - 10 days



Highlights - Outreach category

- 2 FreeBSD wallpapers
- cheat sheets: ports/packages and Getting started with FreeBSD
- Proposed new www.freebsd.org front page graphics layout
- FreeBSD promotional video:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5ACECzcxNs>
- Poster templates for future GCIN and GSoC contests
- A screencast of the new FreeBSD 9 installer

Discussion is ongoing about integration into our official docs

Highlights - Documentation category

Many FreeBSD wiki pages SGMLized:

- ✓ **Developer's handbook:** Info on the source tinderbox
- ✓ **Porter's handbook:** Notes on Linuxisms, meta variables, license infrastructure, and the MOVED file

FreeBSD handbook updates in the following chapters:

- ✓ **Electronic Mail:** Screenshots and version info updated for alpine
- ✓ **Virtualization :** updated VirtualBox instructions
- ✓ **Filesystems:** Quota and reservation description for ZFS, mention support for ext2fs, reiserfs and xfs
- ✓ **Multimedia:** Whole new section on setting up MythTV

Outstanding documentation patches from GCIN

- FreeBSD handbook
 - Updates to DTrace chapter
 - Section on WINE and QEmu for Virtualization chapter
 - Using sSMTP for sending mail
- Developer's handbook
 - Debugging the kernel with DCons
 - Subversion Primer
- Articles
 - FreeBSD on MacBooks article
 - AppserverJailsHowto (Tomcat) article

Summary & Outlook

- Good result for our first time
- New committer in our ranks as a direct result: Isabell Long
- Will try to participate again next year
 - Collecting tasks in the meantime
 - More tasks over all categories
 - Find enough mentors
 - Prioritize work items
- Try to attract students to become contributors/committers after the contest

Thanks and acknowledgements

- Wojciech A. Koszek
 - overall organization with core@ blessing
 - motivating to participate
 - recruiting mentors
 - providing VM images to get students started with a basic system
- Gavin Atkinson for creating additional virtual machines
- Thanks to all mentors for adopting tasks and helping students
- And of course the biggest thanks goes to all students who worked on our tasks!

The end?

Questions?