

BarCamp taken by storm

Betsy Strobel
Staff Writer

Six OSU students and one professor from the CS department attended BarCamp Portland May 11-12, where many of them promoted the OLPC project to the Portland tech and open-source community.

The BarCamp event, a gathering of the tech community to create a non-traditional conference with a spontaneous agenda, had more than 250 people in attendance, of which only 175 had registered. A wall with a grid of times and room locations held the schedule, and the events were written on Post-it notes and stuck onto the squares when people thought of topics to discuss or present.

“One of the most successful things was bringing up the OLPC laptops,” said one of the attending students from the OSEL, Brandon Philips. “We set up in the lunch room, which was perfect because there was so much foot traffic.

“Mike Burns spent most of the time talking to people about the project. We didn’t actually spend much time in the sessions because there was always someone at the OLPC spot to talk to.”

The students, especially Michael Burns and Justin Gallardo, talked to fellow BarCampers about the media player that they had developed for OLPC, and played the Pakistani version of Sesame Street, which is one of the test footages for the OLPC Real Player.

“It was great,” Philips said. “People brought their kids, we had families playing on the laptops and testing the media player. Of course, the games were the most popular, like Checkers and Block Party.”

There was a constant crowd around the OLPC table, and Philips said he thought people were very impressed with the media-player software the OSU students had developed.

“People really started to appreciate the work that OSU students were doing,” Philips said, “especially with regard to open-source projects.”



LENNON DAY-REYNOLDS

The OLPC children’s laptops proved a popular attraction at BarCamp Portland, attended by more than 250 people.

Learn more:
barcamp.org

Office suite developer speaks

Betsy Strobel
Staff Writer

Michael Leibowitz, a developer for OpenOffice.org, recently spoke at OSU.

His own entrance into the Linux community was in 1996, when “the nerds across the hall” in his dorm introduced him to Linux.

Leibowitz told the class, “The developer community needs your help” and went on to describe the importance of the role of the hacker.

He finished up by urging, “The unwritten rule ... is that we need to change, and I’m relying on you guys to change things.”

Students work with the OSL

North Krimsly
Contributing Writer

Instead of just working for the Open Source Lab, four senior computer science students collaborated with the OSL on their year-long senior projects. On Friday, May 11, they got to show off the goods. Each team of two students created posters describing their projects and answered questions in their booths at the fair in Kelley Engineering Center on campus.

The senior capstone experience helps students integrate their classroom learning and apply it to real-world software engineering projects. Seniors Ed Lim and Sean Moran showed their import facility for Maintain. Maintain is OSU’s open-source application used by Network Services to manage the University’s campus-wide network. For their poster, Eric Jorgenson and Jordan Jones showed off project RAIV (Rack And Inventory Viewer)—a flexible tool for server room inventory management and monitoring.

The Open Source Lab helped by providing technical and project mentoring to the students throughout their experience. The students got a great real-world taste of what it is like to engineer large-scale software systems, and the OSL student-mentors got great leadership practice and mentoring experience. Finally the Maintain and RAIV projects moved forward because of the seniors’ efforts. This collaboration shows how students can benefit through the partnership between EECS academics and the Open Source Lab. Next year the Open Source Lab will continue participating by mentoring a new crop of EECS seniors.

Learn more:
maintainproject.osuosl.org
raivproject.osuosl.org

OSS@OSU Hacking a picture program

Michael W. Goodman
Contributing Writer

When I finally made the switch over to Linux on my home computer, I was immediately confronted with the headaches of data migration. In particular, I was unable to import the hundreds of photos I took with my digital camera into the directory structure I wanted.

I was using F-Spot, an open-source photo manager akin to Apple's iPhoto and Google's Picasa. F-Spot has some great features—easy uploading to online



Michael W. Goodman

photo galleries (such as Flickr), minor editing capabilities, tagging of photos, etc.—but I did not want to sacrifice the directory structure that made sense to me, so I decided to code up a solution to this problem. Like many other open-source contributors, I started by “scratching my own itch,” or fixing the thing that bothered me the most.

The first step was to get involved

in the F-Spot community. I spent a little while just listening to discussions on the IRC chat channel and asking some questions on the mailing list, as well as perusing the source code. My first actual contribution was helping another new user to compile and install the latest version of F-Spot, since I had the same problem earlier.

During the next school term, I took professor Timothy Budd's class on open-source software. Part of the class involved submitting improvements to some software projects. For the first submittal, I worked with Alex Polvi to

add video-importing support to F-Spot. It was great finally being able to incorporate my hobbies directly into my class work.

Through this, I found open source development and communities to be very fun and addictive. I also realized that working for these projects is more than just coding, but also interacting with the community.

Learn more:
f-spot.org

Want to get paid for your passion for open source?



The Open Source Education Lab is devoted to helping students become involved in contributing their time and talents to open-source projects. At the heart of the organization are two or more paid student “open source evangelists.” These students plan meetings, design programs, give presentations, and help maintain the OSEL infrastructure. If you are an OSU student, have an outgoing personality, like to speak to groups, are well organized, and are passionate about the open source movement, then contact Professor Budd (budd@eecs.oregonstate.edu).

The OSU Open Source Lab seeks an Infrastructure Manager to help support the global open source movement. This is a full-time professional faculty position that develops and directs all hosting and development infrastructure in the OSEL. Minimum Salary of \$60K. Electronic application available at <http://oregonstate.edu/jobs> (Posting #0000693). Please apply by 6/01/07. For additional information please contact: Melissa Maloney, 541-737-4632 E-mail: Melissa.Maloney@oregonstate.edu. OSU is an AA/EOE.



Questions or comments?

You can get in touch with us via our e-mail address, which is osel@lists.oregonstate.edu. The newsletter is brought to you by:

Editor:

Donnie Berkholtz

Staff Writer:

Betsy Strobel

Contributing Writers:

Michael W. Goodman
North Krimsly

This newsletter is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license and created with free software.

What is the OSEL?

The **Open Source Education Lab** has a simple mission: help to get students at OSU involved in free and open-source software.

It's about:

- community
- student-student interaction
- skill building

The Open Source Education Lab was created in partnership with the OSU Linux Users Group, the OSU Open Source Lab and the OSU College of Engineering.

To help the OSEL, contact osel@lists.oregonstate.edu.

What is the OSL?

The **Open Source Lab** facilitates open-source communities as well as the development and distribution of open-source software. It accomplishes this through hosting projects and developing software.

The Open Source Lab is a global, world-class facility and data center for open-source software knowledge, hosting, infrastructure, development and collaboration.

To help the Open Source Lab, contact donations@osuosl.org or getinvolved@osuosl.org to contribute to a project.

What is the LUG?

The **Linux Users Group** is a highly active, self-organizing group dedicated to advocating Free and Open-Source Software on campus.

The LUG supports Linux, increases awareness about FOSS and jointly creates events with other groups.

Google provides the pizza and the LUG provides the fun each Tuesday night. The LUG hosts a hacking social at 6 p.m. Tuesdays in Dearborn 401, the Penguin's Nest.

Visit lug.oregonstate.edu for more information.