Google Code-In and FreeBSD
A summary of FreeBSD’s participation in the 2011 contest

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BSDCan DevSummit Track
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Overview

1. What is GCIN?

2. Results
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Summer of Code</th>
<th>Code-In</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age of students:</strong></td>
<td>18+</td>
<td>13 - 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignment:</strong></td>
<td>One big project</td>
<td>Many small tasks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mentors:</strong></td>
<td>1 - 2</td>
<td>many</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turnaround time:</strong></td>
<td>slower</td>
<td>&lt;= 36 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criteria for success:</strong></td>
<td>project finished</td>
<td>highest overall score</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>programming/software development only</td>
<td>Code, Documentation,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Outreach, Quality Assurance,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Research, Training,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Translation, User Interface</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participating in both programs has equal benefits for FreeBSD!
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
What is GCIN?

Results

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
1  What is GCIN?

2  Results
What is GCIN?

Results

Overview of task status after the contest

Range of time to completion: 8 hours - 10 days

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FreeBSD GCIN2011 Summary
What is GCIN?
Results

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
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!
Questions?