GSoC 2015 summary + GSoC mentor summit trip report

Sandro Wenzel, Lorenzo Moneta



GSoC 2015 summary

GSoC = remote student summer projects on open source software funded by Google

PH/SFT applied as mentoring organization for the 5th time

Obtained and mentored 14 projects in the area of

- ROOT (R-interface, T-Formula, Visualization, IO, PyROOT)
- Simulation (Differential equation solvers in Geant; Sixtrack)
- Libraries (GPU support of Vc vectorization library)
- HTTP/2 support in CERNVM-FS
- Tool development (static analysis (SAS), binary code browser)

GSoC 2015 summary

projects successfully completed

- students gave final project presentations on 1.9.2015
 - o https://indico.cern.ch/event/442270

- summary article in current PH newsletter
 - $\circ \quad \underline{http://ph-news.web.cern.ch/content/sft-participates-fifth-year-googles-summer-code-programme}$

GSoC mentor summit

2 day reunion at Google headquarters (7.11. + 8.11.2015)

inviting representatives/delegates of participating organizations

- 137 organizations (estimated ~200 participants)
 - from big: Apache Foundation, Python Foundation, KDE,GNOME, ...
 - to small: subsurface (diving software?)
- https://www.google-melange.com/gsoc/projects/list/google/gsoc2015

"Our mission for the weekend: Make the program even better, have fun and make new friends"



GSoC mentor summit (2)

- Program self organized ("unconference")
- Main topics
 - o discussions about the program
 - o feedback to the organizers
 - exchange of experience concerning all aspects of student handling
 - how to select; how to motivate; how to bind, how not to lose ...
 - Google tech talks
 - BigQuery; Project Tango; Google Kubernetes; ...
 - spontaneous presentations and hacking sessions (very parallel)



Personal highlights

- Summit is a fantastic occasion to meet many new people and to learn about interesting projects
- Particular interesting things (personal selection)
 - Saros project
 - http://www.saros-project.org/
 - real time collaborative editing and coding in Eclipse (xmpp based)
 - will definitely try this out
 - Sage online math platform:
 - collaborative editing / online learning / interactive notebooks
 - these guys already have a basic ROOT integration
 - could provide some interesting ideas for "ROOT as a service"
 - https://cloud.sagemath.com
 - o discussions about HPX distributed computing; SIMD libraries; C++ IO with HPC developers from the Ste||ar group

Main message on future GSoC sessions

- GSoC 2016 will take place
 - no details about number of projects supported
- no change in program dates (which are in line with US university schedule)
 - some European projects asked for more flexible scheme (start working within time window and finish it within a time window)
- new web portal to handle student applications process
 - o new design and improved functionality
 - improved conflict resolution for student allocation process
- selection of participating organization might be moved earlier
 - to allow for better student application process

Impressions from the Google visitor centre







GSoC 2016

- GSoC 2016 is announced
- Organization selection will be in February 2016
- We should start now thinking of possible topics ...
- In which form do we want to apply: PH/SFT? CERN? ...