Diplom-Arbeit/Master-Thesis

(Diese Arbeit kann auch als Studien/Bachelor-Arbeit vergeben werden oder als studienbegleitendes Projekt.)

Open Source Collaboration Codified

Technology	Software Process	Legal/Law	Business/Economics

The thesis can be written in either English or German. Description last revised 31.01.2010.

Summary

When using mailing lists and forums, (open source) software developers are following various usage patterns. This thesis work analyses these patterns, codifies them, and implements them on top of existing open source software.

Problem

Mailing lists and forums are an important tool for software developers. Discussions are led, elections are performed, decisions are cast. In particular for open source developers, mailing lists and forums serve as an archive of record for the project under development. Unfortunately, today's mailing lists etc. are generic and not specifically tuned to support open source software development. This thesis work analyses common usage patterns of open source software development, codifies these as best practices, and implements support for these practices on top of existing open source software.

Thesis Details

The thesis work will be performed as an analysis of current developer behavior and practices, followed by one or more exploration and implementation iterations. The work includes:

- Analysis and codification of current open source best practices on mailing lists and forums
- Implementation of these codified practices on top of existing mailing list and forum software

A simple way of doing this is to introduce an annotation scheme for emails that flags an email as a vote, decision, etc. In a mailing list archive, this can be visually called upon.

A possible extension of this work could be an event-based view of open source software development, in which development is viewed as a stream of events that needs to be brought to the attention of a software developer (and in accordance with his or her filters).

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