

Educational layout for Plasma

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Summary

KDE4 lacks a desktop layout for primary schools. This means simplified panel containment which contains basic launchers and feedback for the student, a widget which allows teacher to provide context-specific sets of applications and files to the student and a widget which provides some basic communication channel between student and teacher. There could also be widget for informing what the current assignment is, how long the student has been logged in, etc. Optionally it could include some connectivity with KDE education applications.

Project

I would start with implementing widgets for Plasma using Python. Python is good for prototyping, later programs could be converted to C++ programs. I will implement communication between student and teacher, lesson context switching by teacher, current assignment information, student status. There probably will be more great ideas coming up while writing this kind of application. For example the timetable could be connected to the system so the context switching would happen automatically.

Projected timeline:

Study period:

5/09-5/23: I will overview some already existing Plasmoids. Take in-depth look at Plasma API, refresh my network programming skills and start experimenting with some code. Generate more some interesting ideas to include in the final application.

Work period:

5/23-6/06: Create Plasmoid for communication, both student and teacher side.

6/06-6/20: Implement context changes for applications and files.

6/20-7/04: Implement other missing features.

7/04-7/11: Submit midterm evaluations

7/11-7/25: Implement connectivity with other KDE educational applications.

7/25-8/08: Finish coding. Write documentation.

8/08-8/15: Finish documentation.

8/15-8/22: Submit final evaluations.

8/22-8/29: Submit code and documentation.

Background

I am Lauri Võsandi from Estonia. I am second year student in Estonian IT College. I specialize in IT systems development.

I have been using Estobuntu, Ubuntu, Debian and Gentoo GNU/Linux systems exclusively for last four years because I am a Free Software activist. I have organized Estonian Linux user group meetings and I also organize similar events in our university. I am one of the team members of Estobuntu – a flavour of Kubuntu with out-of-box Estonian ID-card support and Estonian as default language. I have also developed a patch for GNU/Linux SmartCard system so it would be able to use ID-cards on Estobuntu terminal-server solutions and this kind of terminal-server solution is currently sold by AS Tigma in Estonia.

In high school I participated on Olympiads of Informatics. I am quite good at Java, C#, PHP, Python, C, C++ and shell scripting. I have theoretical understanding of memory management on different platforms, sorting algorithms, graph algorithms etc. If there is no known answer for something - I will find it. UTFG and RTFM are your best friends.

I am interested in working on KDE4 because I think it's great collection of software. I would be very happy if I could participate in writing KDE software since I am using it, but I haven't given anything back by now. Next Estobuntu will also be KDE4 based, given that KDE4 has reached reasonable maturity level by then. Estobuntu is used in many schools in Estonia, so this work is also important to our team. I am hoping that I could get this job so I could do something that I would enjoy and that would be ethically right. Other reason is that I am hoping to start my own company after summer and this kind of money would be very helpful. There are basically no Open Source and/or Free Software companies in Estonia at all, I am hoping that I could change that. Third reason is that I have a special girl in Greece and I would like to visit her as often as possible ;)

I have to apologize about not being very active on the KDE GSoC community because I am having five exams in April and I want to have good results. I suggest reading also my CV, there are all the links to work, documentation and screenshots about the stuff I have done.

<http://v6sa.itcollege.ee/shared/cv.html>