Gujarat Technological University
Open Source Technologies Club (OSTC)

GTU OSTC
Open Source Technologies Club

Minutes of an Open Discussion Meeting held on 8th January 2015 at GTU, Chandkheda Campus

Open source has shown considerable benefits in a number of application areas. Open source methodologies have a lot to offer in the world of education. Gujarat Technological University has been working to establish an Open Source Technologies Club (OSTC), as a part of the GTU Innovation Club at every one of its affiliated Colleges. GTU organized an Open Discussion Meeting on 8th Jan 2015 to discuss how to strengthen the Open Source movement and to encourage faculties/students to be a part of it.

Meeting started with a welcome address by Ms. Toral Vandara. OSTC Nodal Centers Coordinators of Ahmedabad-1, Ahmedabad-2, Ahmedabad-3, Chhatral as well as Kutch Sankul were present in this meeting. Around 30 faculty members and OSTC Co-Ordinators of various colleges (given below in the table) participated actively in this meeting.

HJD Inst of Tech Education & Research, Kera-Kutch	AYDTI, Kosamba-Surat	Grow More Faculty of Engg, Himatnagar
Sardar Patel College of Engg,V V Nagar	Shree Swaminarayan Inst of Technology, Gandhinagar	Smt. S R Patel Engg College,Unjha
Sigma Institute of Engg,Baroda	GIT,Gandhinagar	AIT, Ahmedabad
S.P.B Patel Engg College Saffrony,Mehsana	NSIT,Jetalpur	SVIT,Vasad
Sankalchand Patel College of Engineering, Visnagar	Venus International College of Technology,Gandhinagar	Sal Inst of Tech & Engg Research, Ahmedabad
Silver Oak College of Engg & Tech, Ahmedabad		

The First session started with the introduction of Open Source by **Prof.Utkarsh Patel** (SOCET,Ahmedabad). He described about the various benefits of Open Source. He emphasized to use not only Open Softwares but Open Hardwares also, as GTU's CiC3 provides the required Open Hardwares to students.

He encouraged all the participants to work actively with other local Open Source Communities to strengthen each OSTC Nodal Centre and College's own Open Source Technologies Club. He also gave brief about various initiative taken by MIT as well as various open source projects released by Google. Faculties should be part of various groups like Phython etc. Prof. Patel also discussed about helping the students to do their mini projects using Open Source and college to convert their regular labs into Open lab using Linux, Ubuntu etc and make them aware of various open source competition like Google Summer Code etc .

GTU is going to organize Zonal Techfest-2015 from 2nd week of February at GTU's Five Zones. Kindly visit (http://www.gtu.ac.in/circulars/15Jan/23012015_04.pdf). In this meeting, it was decided to organize an *open ended open source software design competition* under OSTC's banner. In this competition participants have to submit their projects/softwares develop in Open Source. Each College's OSTC has to play an important role to make this competition a great success and to encourage all the students to take part in the competiotion at GTU's Techfest. Besides this special competition, it was also decided to organize various events on Open Source.

In the second session **Ms.Madhukriti Srivastva**-(Training Coordinator-Spoken Tutorial Project Gujarat, Tripura and Jammu & Kashmir) from IIT Bombay Spoken Tutorial was with us to share the initiative of Spoken Tutorial Project which is about teaching and learning a particular FOSS (Free and Open Source Software) like Linux, Scilab, LaTeX, PHP & MySQL, Java, C/C++, LibreOffice etc. via an easy Video tool - Spoken Tutorial.

She also praised the efforts of Nodal Centre Co-Ordinators and OSTC Co-Ordinators as Gujarat is leading to fulfil our Prime Minister's Skill India Mission. Ms.Madhukriti also explained about various different softwares which the particular departments of colleges can use and Libre Office which can be used by all the departments as well as administrative staff. She emphasised that from each college, all the departments need to start the program and empower their students with valuable Software skills and Certificates provided by IITB.

Department wise syllabus Mapping Training Calendar for Jan 2015 – June 2015 was also distributed by her to all faculty members, which should be submitted by OSTC Co-Ordinator.

After the session, all participants were given some time to prepare the Calendar and three month plan of activities to be conducted by college under OSTC. OSTC Coordinators from GIT, GrowMore, HJD and Venus college represented their unique ideas, like:

➢ Many Colleges are conducting spoken tutorial during the lab hours and FDPs on Saturday.
➢ Coordinators have created WhatsApp group also to inform the students/faculties.
➢ One college is conducting 2hrs workshop on every Saturday and in the next Friday during lunch break, they are conducting only test.
➢ Many Colleges are using various Open Source softwares to perform regular task rather than doing it manually.
➢ Some OSTCs have converted their regular Lab into Open Source Lab.

<u>Suggestions/Activities to be perform:</u>

✓ GTU will create Open Discussion Forum/Chat/Blog for OSTC.

✓ If possible each College's OSTC has to create a separate website, which should be like OSTC.CollegeName.ac.in or any other domain.

✓ GTU will organize Exhibition for Open Hardwares-Softwares.

✓ It was also suggested that each OSTC Co-Ordinators has to motivate students to do mini projects using open source.

✓ Students can prepare their Final Year Project Report using Latex and Faculties can also submit their thesis using Latex.

✓ For the Day to day regular tasks, if possible each college should use Libre Office and other open tools.

✓ It was also suggested by some faculty members that GTU may include one Elective subject on Open Source.

✓ GTU Celebrates Sankul day on every 14th Feb, in which Pedagogic Innovation Awards and Innovative Students' Co-Creation Awards for Leadership and Excellence are given. This year also OSTC Co-Ordinators can nominate at http://awards.gtu.ac.in

✓ If any OSTC Co-Ordinator has been changed or any new college wants to establish club, OSTC Co-Ordinator has to inform the same to GTU by sending latest data at
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1dPSuHaZf9CoV-D56ejzssAj-_vrzERjF7gr6V5glqTo/viewform

✓ Since April-2014, GTU has established OSTC Nodal Centres all across the state. Each Nodal Centre's Co-Ordinator has to send activities report at
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10kFMwUjpXyRR5HsL8k7oeIsOkKqOVcj_I0yVadI0A20/viewform at the end of every month. If authority feels that Nodal Centre has not succeed to achieve the target than we may change the Nodal Centre in every 3 Months.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Shri Naresh Jadeja(Deputy Director-GTU). He thanked all the participants and informed that GTU will provide all possible help, whatever needed for the institute, to strengthen the open source movement.