Subject: code4libcon planning

Date: Friday, November 11, 2005 at 4:41:20 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Frumkin, Jeremy

To: Dan Chudnov, Roy Tennant, arhyno@uwindsor.edu, Ross Singer, Ed Summers

Hi Folks –

The first thing is, I've probably left some people off of this email, so if you can spot who else should be included in this conversation, please forward this to them, and let me know so that I make sure to get them on follow-up messages.

The context to this email is probably familiar to everyone, but just to sum up: There has been a lot of conversation over the last year or so of having another hackfest-like event, sometime in the early Spring. Lately, spurred on by Art, I believe, there has been some very concrete discussion on #code4lib. Based on that discussion, I have done some research on what it would take to hold such an event, both in terms of location, logistics, and costs. Here is what I have come up with:

We can hold the event here in Corvallis. OSU has good facilities, and a nice hotel which is located practically next door to our conference facilities. Both the conference facilities and the hotel have free wireless. Hotel rooms (Hilton Garden Inn) run $84 plus tax, which seems reasonable. The conference facilities will give us an auditorium-style room (fits 200), plus 4 breakout rooms. In addition, if we need to, we can use various rooms and areas in the Library, which is a 5 minute walk from the conference building.

The Open Source Lab guys are very interested in helping support, and in participating, in our event. At a minimum, I believe they will set up all the servers and server support we need. They are extremely good at this sort of thing.

The initial cost estimate, in order to break even (actually, we'll come up about $1000 ahead if all the numbers hit) has us needing to charge $185 (early bird), or $225 at the door per attendee. This includes 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 1 dinner, plus snacks, program materials, etc. It also makes an assumption that we provide 5 free places.

It is quite possible (probable, even) that we can lower the attendee cost. The total estimate expense is around $16,000. My boss is willing to contribute some funds, and she believes central IT here at OSU will contribute some funds. At a minimum, then, we may be able to reduce that $16,000 to about $10,000, and I'm hoping less. If that's the case, the registration fee will go down significantly (or, alternatively, we can provide "scholarships" for a few folks to attend, or some combination of both).

Oh, the dates that work best here are holding the even from Wed., Feb. 15 through Friday, Feb. 17.

So, we can do this, if we think we can easily get around 80 people to attend on those dates, in Corvallis. Most people going to Corvallis fly into Portland (PDX), and there is a shuttle to Corvallis, or different options for rental cars (we can also arrange for specific transportation through our conference services – I am checking on the details with that). In Corvallis, restaurants, bars, and everything else will be in walking distance to the hotel and the conference center.

So, what do people think about the above details? If we move forward on this, we'll need a planning committee to work out the details of the hackfest/conference/event itself (details apart from the logistics mentioned above, mostly), and we'll need a good plan to market this quickly so that folks can make travel arrangements and such. On this end, we can move this forward quite quickly, but I want to make sure we're all bought-in and that we have at least a small group of people overseeing the event.

So, please reply to this when you can (make sure to reply-all).

Thanks!

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" Without ambition one starts nothing. Without work one finishes nothing. " - Emerson