



Kaizen.org

Textbooks, the Free Software way

FSCONS, 2010-11-06



Salve J. Nilsen

"Primus Motor"



Sveinn Sandvik Svendsen

"Secundus Motor"



Good helpers:

Tomas Doran (Catalyst/Moose/Bicycles)

Ben Cawkwell (JS/jQuery/Dreads)

Stig Sandbeck Mathisen (Sysadmin/Pimp)

Eskild Jacobsen (Sexy Voice)

Marius Kjekreit (Reverse Engineer)


David Bowdley (Knows English)

NUUG Foundation

Mozilla Foundation

Runbox AS

Redpill Linpro AS



Three "actors"



1. Students



2. Authors



3. Activists



1. Students

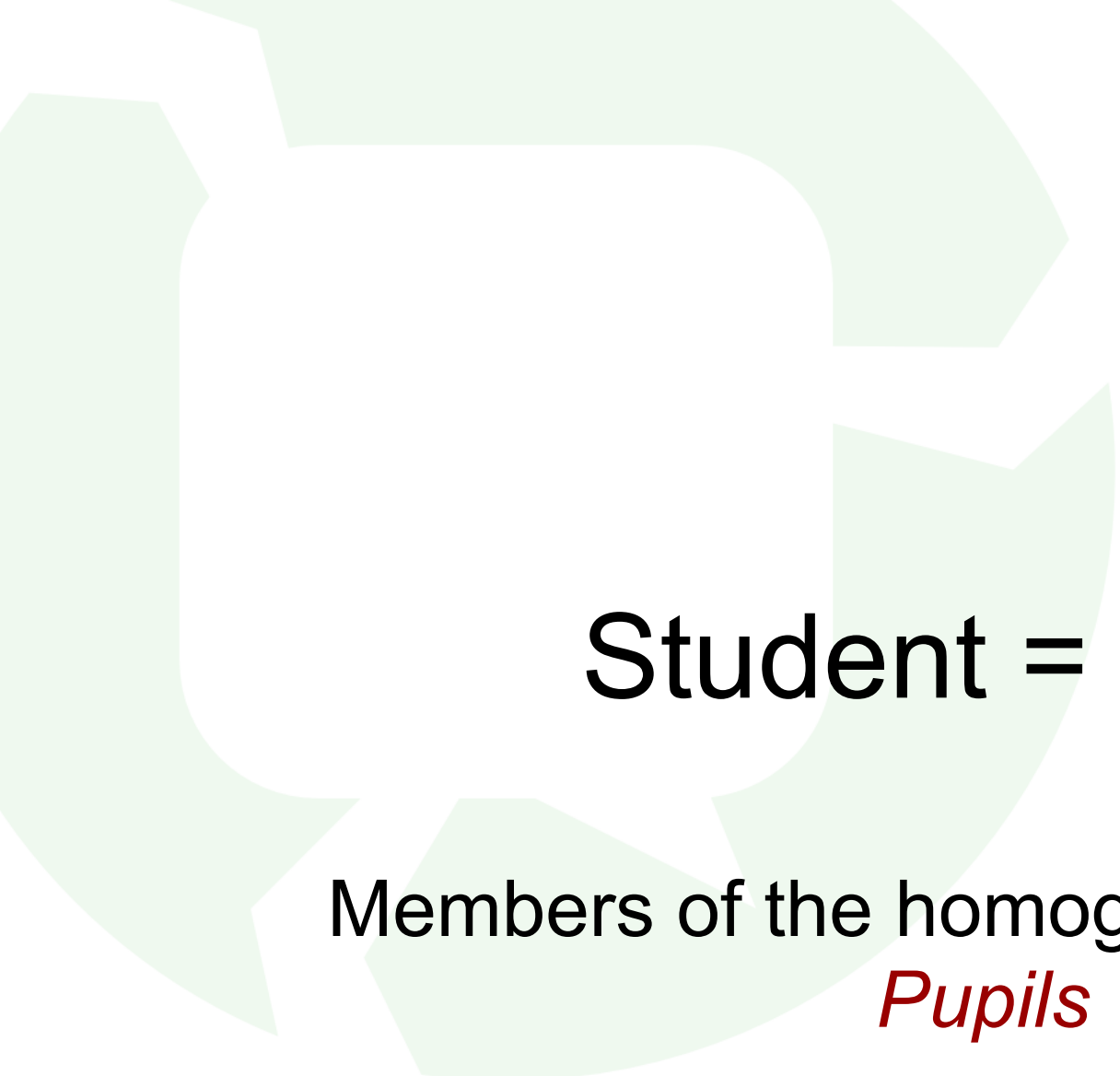


Catalyst:ScriptRunner

Summer of 2009 brought some great things, and one of these things was my being accepted into the Google Summer of Code! My project was to refactor the Catalyst:Helper API and Catalyst:DevKit package into something a little less hateful. And I accomplished this, more or less.

Application skeleton files are now in a sharedir

The application skeleton files are now stored in a sharedir, making it much easier to patch the content of generated applications.



Student = Pupil

Members of the homogeneous group,
Pupils



Textbooks are for *pupils*



**But what if the pupil has a
special need?**



Teacher: "Sure, I can give you
some attention"



Teacher's attention is limited

30 kids per class
24 hours per day



Kids still need attention



Let's improve it



Let's make
Customizable textbooks



If you have a special need,
let the textbook help



How?



One book

With one narrative, one story



Multiple ways of telling the same story

"Aspects"



Keywords: Aspects with a
coherent narrative

Good stories, just for you



2. Authors



Writing is difficult

Lots to think about

- Facts, which ones to tell, and which ones to hint about
- Narrative, storyline, how to tell the facts
- Language, simple/verbose vs. precise/terse
- Illustrations and pictures, how they support text
- Scannability, skimmability, readability, typography
- Pedagogic methods the text supports
- Ortography, spelling mistakes
- Design and layout
- Homework assignments, and how they're used
- Marketing and publicity
- Time constraints of the reader and teacher
- Physical constraints of the medium
- Curriculum requirements from government
- ...



That's why authors need help

Editors, copywriters



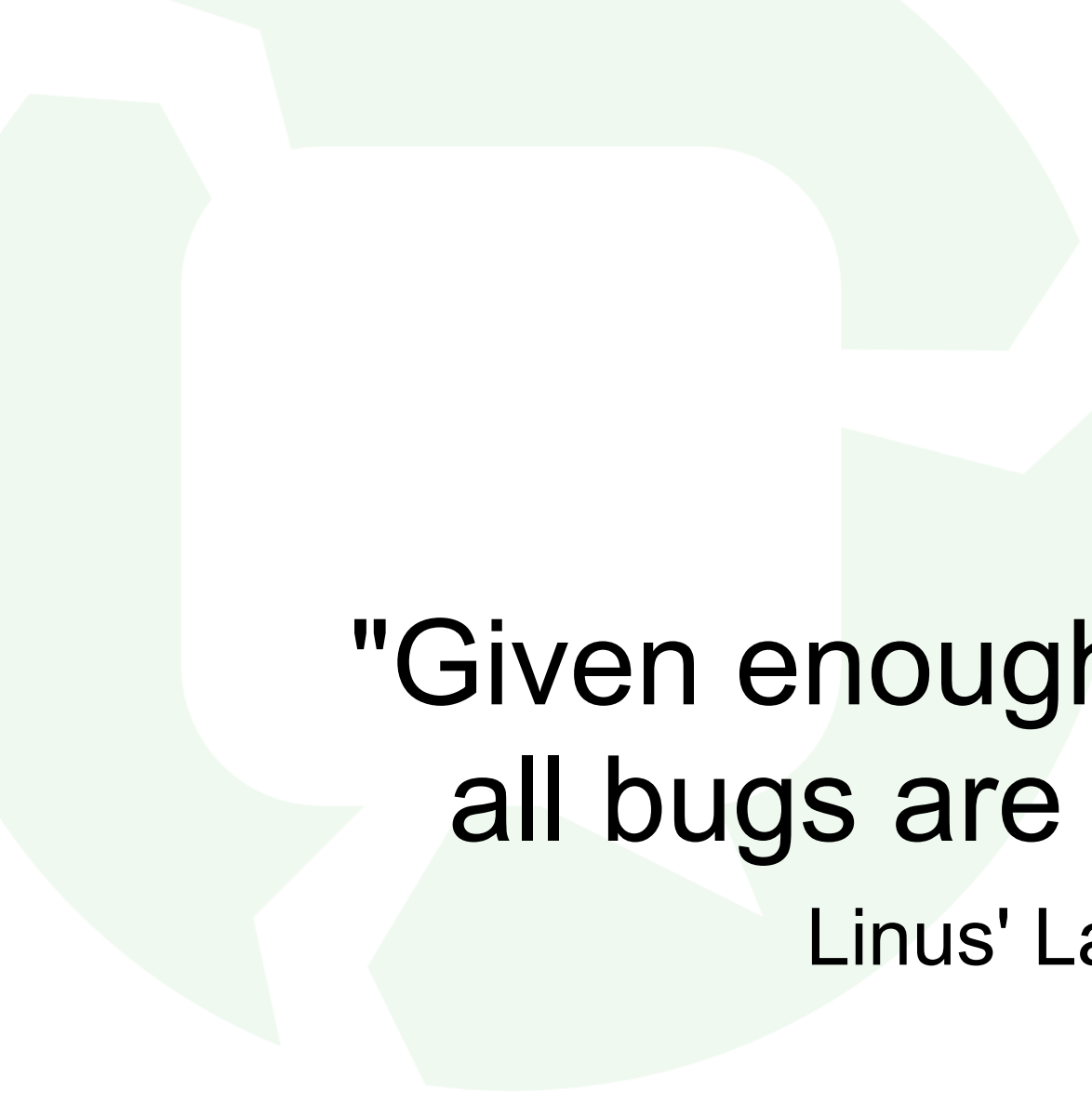
Still...



**Even with help,
errors creep in**



Let's improve it



**"Given enough eyeballs,
all bugs are shallow"**

Linus' Law



Make it easy to give feedback

Publicly, in context



Context-specific feedback



Annotation heatmaps

More discussion ➡ More color



Select context, then comment

Showing comments in file 'gplv3-draft-3' [\[rss\]](#) [\[list\]](#)
(found 649: click highlights to show.) [search](#)

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You may not convey a covered work if you are a party to an arrangement with a third party that is in the business of distributing software, under which you make payment to the third party based on the extent of your activity of conveying the work, and under which the third party grants, to any of the parties who would receive the covered work from you, a patent license (a) in connection with copies of the covered work conveyed by you, and/or copies made from those, or (b) primarily for and in connection with specific products or compilations that contain the covered work, which license does not cover, prohibits the exercise of, or is conditioned on the non-exercise of any of the rights that are specifically granted to recipients of the covered work under this license, unless you entered into that arrangement, or that patent license was granted, prior to March 28, 2007].

Nothing in this License shall be construed as excluding or limiting any implied license or other defenses to infringement that may otherwise be available to you under applicable patent law.

12.[7] No Surrender of Others' Freedom.

If conditions are imposed on you (whether by court order, agreement or

Loading comments on this text...


- jag:* I know this is a legal document and all, but one of the beauties of GPLv2 was that a normal person could read it and understand it. I'm a pretty smart guy and I don't have the first clue what the ...[\[+\]](#)
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Marriage Proposals Comparison Exercise

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Text Versions (2)

37 discussions, browse by: location 7/37 



Marriage Proposal #1

"My reasons for marrying are, first, that I think it a right thing for every clergyman in easy circumstances (like myself) to set the example of matrimony in his parish. Secondly, that I am convinced it will add very greatly to my happiness; and thirdly—which perhaps I ought to have mentioned earlier, that it is the particular advice and recommendation of the very noble lady whom I have the honour of calling patroness. Twice has she condescended to give me her opinion (unasked too!) on this subject; and it was but the very Saturday night before I left Hunsford—between our pools at quadrille, while Mrs. Jenkinson was arranging Miss de Bourgh's foot-stool, that she said, 'Mr. Collins, you must marry. A clergyman like you must marry.—Choose properly, choose a gentlewoman for my sake; and for your own, let her be an active, useful sort of person, not brought up high, but able to make a small income go a good way. This is my advice. Find such a woman as soon as you can, bring her to Hunsford, and I will visit her.' Allow me, by the way, to observe, my fair cousin, that I do not reckon the notice and kindness of Lady Catherine de Bourgh as among the least of the advantages in my power to offer. You will find her manners beyond any thing I can describe; and your wit and vivacity I think must be acceptable to her, especially when tempered with the silence and respect which her rank will inevitably excite."

—Jane Austin (1813)

Marriage Proposal #2

"You know what I am going to say. I love you. What other men may mean when they use that expression, I cannot tell; what I mean is that I am under the influence of some tremendous attraction which I have resisted in vain and which overmasters me. You could draw me to fire, you could draw me to water, you could draw me to the gallows, you could draw me to my death, you could draw me to anything I have most avoided, you could draw me to any exposure and disgrace. This and the confusion of my thoughts, so that I am fit for nothing, is what I mean by your being the ruin of me. But if you would return a favourable answer to my offer of myself in marriage, you could draw me to any good—every good—with equal force. My circumstances are quite easy, and you would want for nothing. My reputation stands quite high, and would be a shield for yours. If you saw me at my work, able to do it well and respected in it, you

Mary

by mary d., created on 2010-07-28 15:58

He is only referring to his own happiness, not hers. How is this effectively persuasive?

reply

Helke

by helke, created on 2010-07-28 16:00

tags: personal, reasons

Here the proposer is focusing solely on the benefits of marriage to him and talks not at all about how the bride would benefit.

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What a pompous pig!

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Numbering

by lori, created on 2010-07-28 16:02

His strategy here is to enumerate his reasons— a very logical



Keywords: Contextual
discussions with heatmaps

See what the current discussion is



3. Activists



Actually, it's more like...



3. Activists, Lawyers, Lobbyists, Politicians



**Anyone who is writing texts for
the public**



Texts that must be good



...because *many people* are
interested in the result



Public hearings



Contracts



Press releases



How to write these?



Incrementally



Google docs?



Wikis?



Yes, they help, but...



Keywords: Incremental
improvement

Timelines, comparison, diffs



Three groups



Three issues



Each with similarities



The keywords:

Aspects w/coherent narrative
that are
improved incrementally
by allowing
contextual discussions
w/heatmaps



Kaizen.org

Textbooks, the Free Software way



Treat textbooks as
Free Software projects

Free software has...

- Tight feedback loops
 - Bugtracker
 - Mailing list / Forum – with searchable archives
 - IRC / IM
 - Unit tests, Continuous Integration tools
- Revision control
 - A core, with commit rights
 - Time lines, Changelogs, stable/dev releases
 - Anyone can contribute ("Patches are welcome")
- Release early, release often / Many eyeballs / etc.
- OSI approved license
- Four freedoms
- Ability to fork projects when necessary



**We want to make these tools
available to authors**

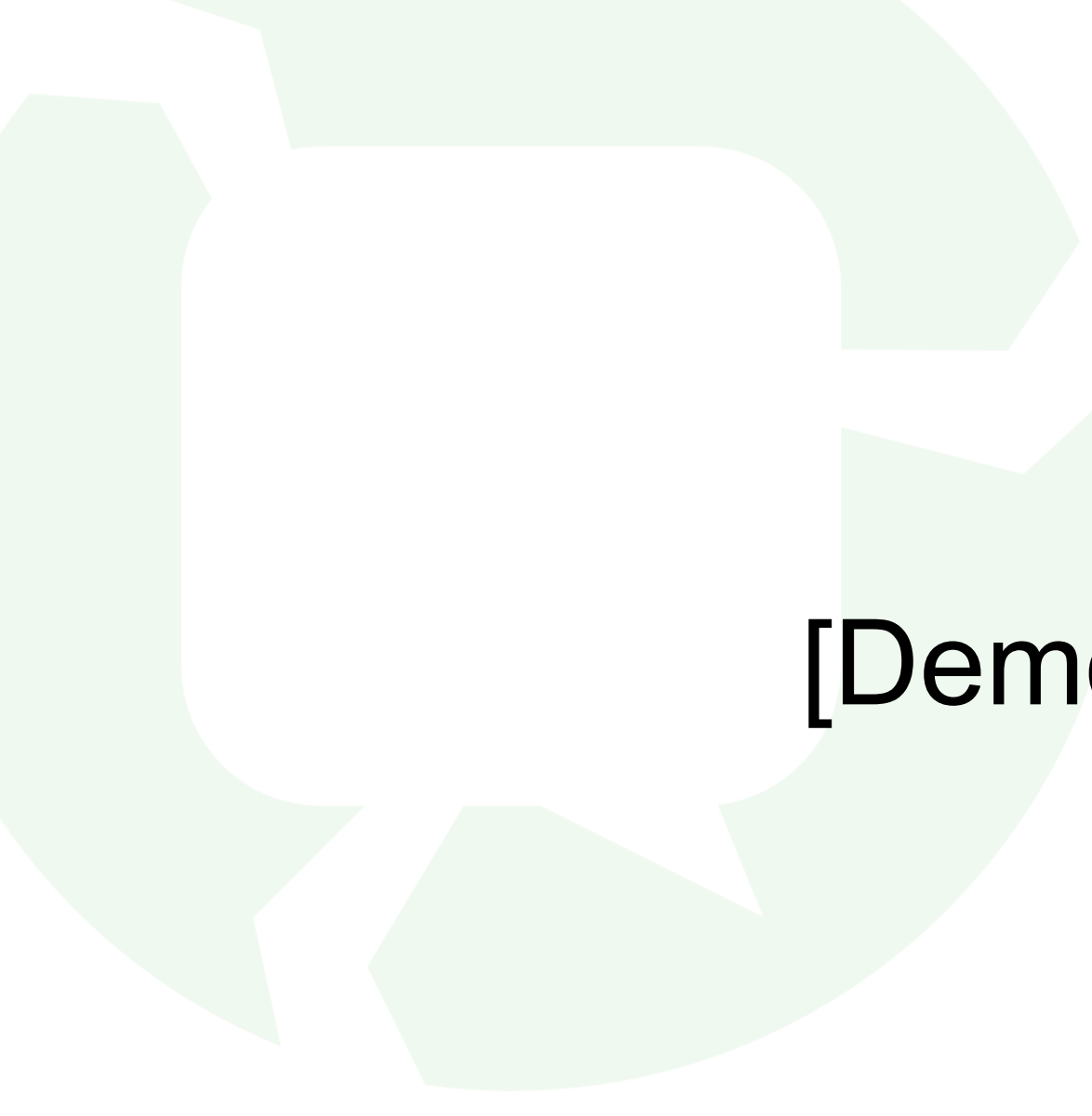
And their communities



Wanna help? :)



What do we have now?



[Demo]



<http://github.com/sjn/Kaizendo>

Fork it now!



irc://irc.freenode.net/kaizendo

#kaizendo on Freenode



<http://talk.kaizendo.org/>

Tech mailing list: [Kaizendoers](#)



Inspiration

COMT and stet

About

- The software behind the <http://co-ment.net/> annotation service
- Django-based, with custom annotation frontend
- Inspired by *stet* - FSF's tool used for the GPLv3 commenting process
- Project website: <http://co-ment.org/>



stet

<http://code.softwarefreedom.org/projects/stet>

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(found 649: click highlights to show.) [search](#)

This license has been released; no further comments are being accepted.

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[X]

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Other drafts for comment: [LGPL](#) | [GFDL](#) | [GSFDL](#)

Click on highlighted phrases to see the comments that have been made about them.
Phrases that are subject to more comments are highlighted more intensely:

few comments many comments

[select some text and then type "c" to submit comments.](#)

Other license drafts: [LGPL](#) | [GFDL](#) | [GSFDL](#) | [Previous GPLv3 Draft](#)
[more documentation](#)

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Discussion Draft 3 of Version 3, 28 March 2007

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Write a text



Upload a text



Recent public texts

Hello

1 version, 3 comments, last modified 19 hours, 1 minute ago

Concept-reactie op Internetconsultatie ACTA

7 versions, 18 comments, last modified 15 hours, 10 minutes ago

Concept-brief aan Hirsch Ballin over concept-wetsvoorstel computercriminaliteit

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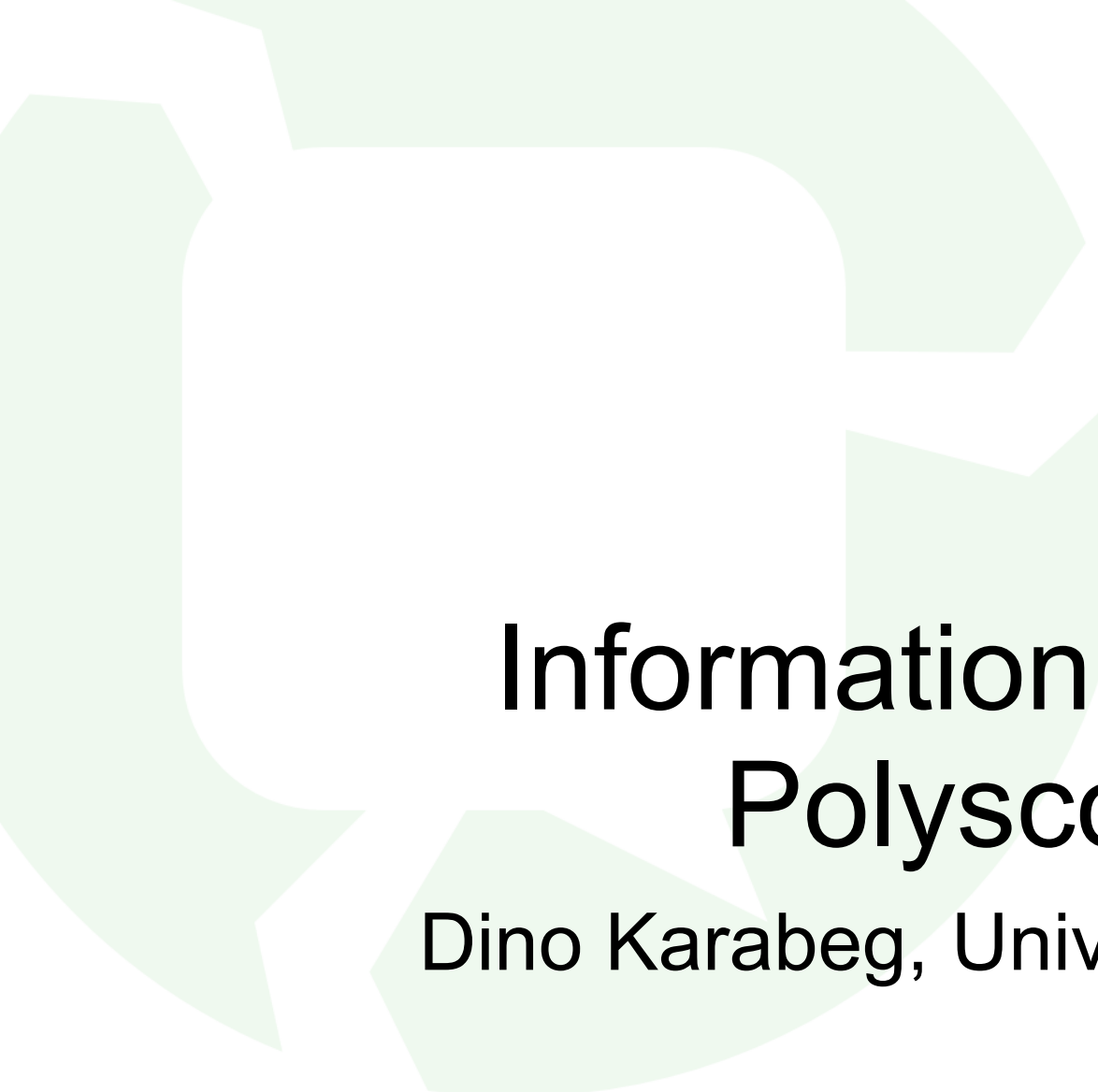


Discussion heatmaps++

We want them!



Inspiration II



Information Design Polyscopy

Dino Karabeg, University of Oslo



Code

We've started on the prototype!



It's a Catalyst app

App::Kaizendo



Backend: KiokuDB

Just to get things up and running



Moose goodness



REST API goodness

(or madness)



JavaScript heavy front-end

Blueprint, jQuery, (Aloha editor?)



Content: HTML5

KISS



Future?



Plenty of goodness
to play with!

-Ofun



Git backend!



Textbook project forking

```
git clone http://kaizen.do/history1.git
```



Discussion synchronization

Salmon+Atom




Bug tracker backend for discussions?

stet used RT



Presentation options

PDF, different eBook formats,
Audio



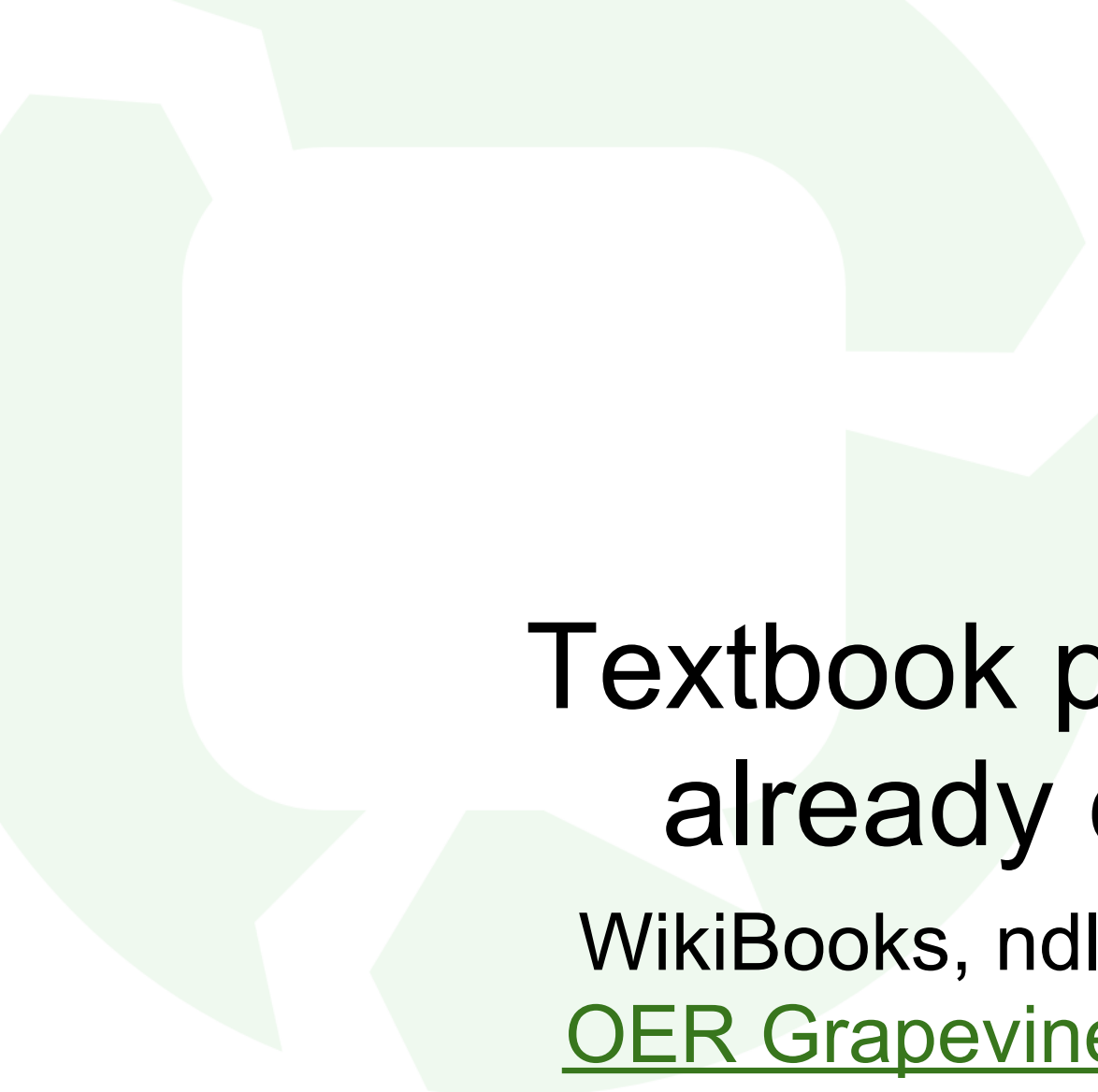
Plenty of fun to have!



Content?



**We need textbook
project "seeds" too
"Bootstrapping projects"**



Textbook projects already exist

WikiBooks, ndla.no, CC,
[OER Grapevine](#), etc. etc.



S.1714: Open College Textbook Act of 2009

Introduced to Congress 2009-
09-24,

Currently in committee



There'll be enough textbooks

We "just" need the tool, and to
build the communities



License?



GNU Affero GPLv3

"the Business GPL"



Kaizen.org

Textbooks, the Free Software way



Questions?



Kaizendo.org

Textbooks, the Free Software way

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facebook.com/sjoshuan