



ALERT

ALERT BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY

ALERT NEWSLETTER n° 1 BE ON ALERT – WHAT'S GOING ON?

New n° 1 – Launching ALERT project! We want to answer what we are doing in this Project.

Active Support and Real Time Coordination based on Event processing in Open Source Software Development, aka "ALERT" project, is a two and half years project granted by the FP7 program of European Commission (EC) under Software & Services Unit. ALERT kicked off in October 2011 with an EC funding of 2.9€ and the total costs of 4M €.

ALERT is an open source project that aims to improve the overall process of bug resolution in collaborative environments of Open Source developers. Thus, the goal is to develop methods and tools for improving the coordination among developers in Open Source communities. These will take into account notifications depending on the context, the even-driven processing and real-time interactions.

The idea is to solve certain problems of developers in FLOSS communities' such as the detection of duplicate bugs. The novelty of the project is that the use cases will be tested on-line and in real scenarios. Therefore we have chosen to apply our results in the three communities: OW2, KDE and Morfeo. The addressed technologies are ontologies, event processing, and information extraction.

As a matter of example, let's imagine the following situation: there are various developers working in a community. One developer suddenly detects one bug in a code he is using. And he starts to fix such bug, but at the same time somewhere on earth another developer is also working to solve the same bug. These two developers communicate their findings and problems through emails, chat or forums. They discuss and exchange a lot of information about how they can solve the bug, they exchange a lot of emails and this process results in very time-consuming until they agree on a solution to solve the bug. If this situation is multiplied by thousands of times per day or even per hour, considering developers all over the world who are working on bugs resolution without knowing that another person is already doing the same work. ALERT will help in this sense to shorten this process and to provide tools for better coordinating this described process. So, we will work on ALERT and you will not have to worry!

In order to achieve this, we will have a sort of interaction highway that will enable active, timely and personalized inter-action and coordination between all relevant artifacts and developers; in particular applying such an interaction highway in reducing the negative distance effects on collaboration in bug resolution.

New n° 2 – ALERT has participated in the Internet of Services Collaboration meeting in October 2010.

Last year, during 19–20 October 2010, in Brussels at the European Commission, DG Information Society, "Software & Service Architectures and Infrastructures" Unit organized, together with the projects Deploy and Reservoir, the Internet of Services Collaboration meeting. ALERT was represented there, attending to the Semantics and Use Cases working groups' sessions. We presented in the Semantics session how the project is using the semantic technology for project's goal; and we also sent a

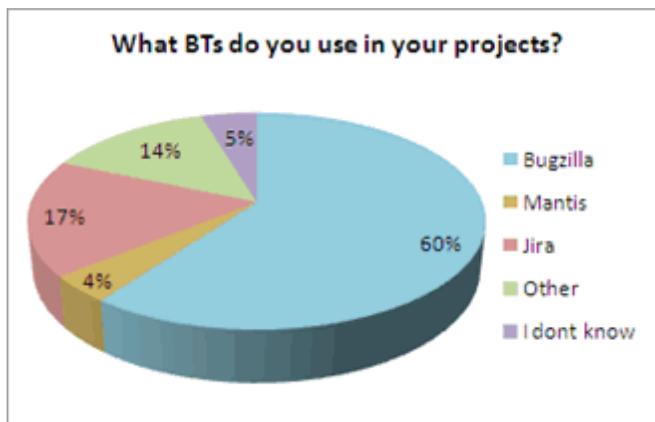
presentation to the Use Cases working group in which the one of the project's use cases was detailed following the S-Cube methodology for use cases description. Besides one of our project members was the chair of the Best Practices in FLOSS session at the event. ALERT took this opportunity to set the ground floor to contribute to the Use Cases Working Group and to the Semantics Working Group. .

The objectives of the meeting were:

- To consolidate the collaboration activities among the projects in order to build an even stronger community; to include the newly started projects in Collaboration Working Groups,
- Give the newly starting projects the opportunity to understand key results of the already running projects/collaboration working groups in order to facilitate reuse of these results.
- Give the already running projects/collaboration working groups the opportunity to exploit their results better by finding synergies with the newly started projects,
- To achieve a better understanding of the results of the FP6 & FP7 projects in the "Internet of Services" area.

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ssai/ios/index_en.htm

New n° 3 – ALERT Survey on bug resolution practices in FLOSS communities



What bug tracker system do you use in your projects? ALERT project has developed a survey to know how FLOSS communities manage bug resolution issues. The survey has been published November 26, 2010 until February 28, 2011. Target contributors from this survey were FLOSS communities such as KDE, Morfeo, OW2, Bugzilla and Mantis; that have widely contributed sending more than

350 answers.

The goal of this survey is to help us to identify the main aspects that can affect the quality and the efficiency in the bug resolution process. These aspects will be used to identify the project's use cases and thus have a more realistic view of problems that user have when working in FLOSS projects.

Within the ALERT's scope, one of the most important results obtained is the range of tools used to report bugs inside a community: Bug tracker (48%), Forums (21%), Email (25%), Customer Service (2%), Other (3%) and No idea (1%); other important.

Among the participants of this survey the project raffled two Tablets PC with Android 2.1!

New n° 4 – Key ALERT requirements

As a preliminary step of building the architecture of the proposed solution by ALERT for solving the efficient management of bugs in FLOSS communities, the project has produced a list of key requirements to be satisfied.

The functional requirements try to go from dreaming to realizing.

The *dreaming*: Lots of ideas coming from researchers that are creative persons. Give them a topic and they will generate hundred of ideas. There was a brainstorming meeting in Karlsruhe at the beginning of the project where the project researchers expressed their concerns, experiences and ideas in relation to bug resolution issue: help for solving bugs, eradicate duplicates, help people work together, and it was not only about bugs, it was much more.

The *goaling*: Where we really want to go after a first step cleaning ideas, and adapt them so they are all understandable, we called the ideas requirements; those requirements were put in categories. So we did put all the requirements on the web, and ask for partners to vote for them. There were some debates and discussions, and we could finally keep a list of elected requirements.

During discussions (before and after the vote, online and around a table in another meeting), a few numbers of problems to resolve emerged: "Take ages to actually start working on a bug", "Losing time on duplicates" "Developers receive too many emails".

And for each problem, a few scenarios were defined to help solving it. And each scenario did satisfy several requirements.

The *realizing*: Where we really can go? While some partners started to write detailed scenarios, other partners started thinking how to make the software, and who would do it. This was the conceptual architecture, and this added a new problem: realism.

Now all is almost ready. We know what we want, and who will do it. The next and biggest step can start: Going from realizing to reality. .

New nº 5 – ALERT in CSMR 2011

On March 1–4, 2011, ALERT project attended the 15th European Conference on Software Maintenance and Reengineering (CSMR) in Oldenburg, Germany. The project presented the paper "ALERT: Active support and real-time coordination based on Event pRocessing in open source software developmenT". It was written by Ljiljana Stojanovic (FZI), José Felipe Ortega, Santiago Dueñas and Luis Cañas Díaz (URJC).

The conference is the premier European conference on the theory and practice of maintenance, reengineering and evolution of software systems, promotes discussion and interaction among researchers and practitioners about the development of maintainable systems, and the evolution, migration and reengineering of existing ones. For more information please visit: <http://www.se.uni-oldenburg.de/csmr2011>

This is the abstract of the paper: *ALERT is two and half year FP7 project started in October 2010. The overall goal of ALERT is to develop methods and tools that improve coordination in FLOSS development projects by maintaining awareness of community activities through real-time, personalized, context-aware notification. In this paper we summarize its objectives, the proposed way to achieve them and the expected contributions.*

Keywords–component: FLOSS, event processing, knowledge extraction, software development, semantics.

New nº 6 –ALERT blogs online

We want to announce our blog functionality. Visit it now at www.alert-project.eu! Our blog has the key and hot topics about Open Source. Take a look at the current topic, we invite you to make comments and actively participate!

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