

International Master Programme on Free Software



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www.uoc.edu

1. Introducing the UOC
2. Precedents, motivation and objectives
3. Academical programme
4. Final remarks

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Introducing the UOC

- University degrees, distance learning (e-learning) based on the Internet (virtual campus)
- First semester: Fall 1995
- 18 officially approved degrees, an unofficial (own) degree, several postgraduate courses, master degrees and a PhD programme
- More than 25000 students
- Computing and Multimedia Department: 3 officially approved degrees (2 Technical Computer Engineering degrees and Computer Engineering) with approximately 5000 students
- Postgraduate students (master degrees, postgraduate degrees and specialization degrees) and an unofficial degree (Multimedia graduate)
- Students profile: adult, employed, with a family and with little time available to study

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Precedents of the Master programme

- Platform GNU/Linux used in the practical activities of Operating Systems and Networking subjects, from 1997.
- Virtual tutored lab to support the students (installation problems, modem set up, etc.)
- Usage of free software products in several subjects of the official degrees:
 - ◆ Dev-C++ (programming)
 - ◆ MySQL, TOAD (databases)
 - ◆ GnuPG (security)
 - ◆ Eclipse (software engineering)
 - ◆ Apache, Tomcat (computer networks, e-commerce)
 - ◆ OpenOffice (document exchange)
- A FS CD and a GNU/Linux CD (Knoppix) are distributed to the students.
- Postgraduate programme on GNU/Linux from November 2001.

Other initiatives

- Adaptation of the virtual campus, web portal of the UOC, virtual library, and other services to free browsers (e.g. Mozilla).
- Usage of multi-platform formats (PDF, HTML, RTF, plain text) for document exchange.
- Development of a metadistribution of GNU/Linux adapted to the UOC students (within the Hispalinux metadistros project).
- Search for free alternatives to proprietary programmes currently on use in the official degrees.

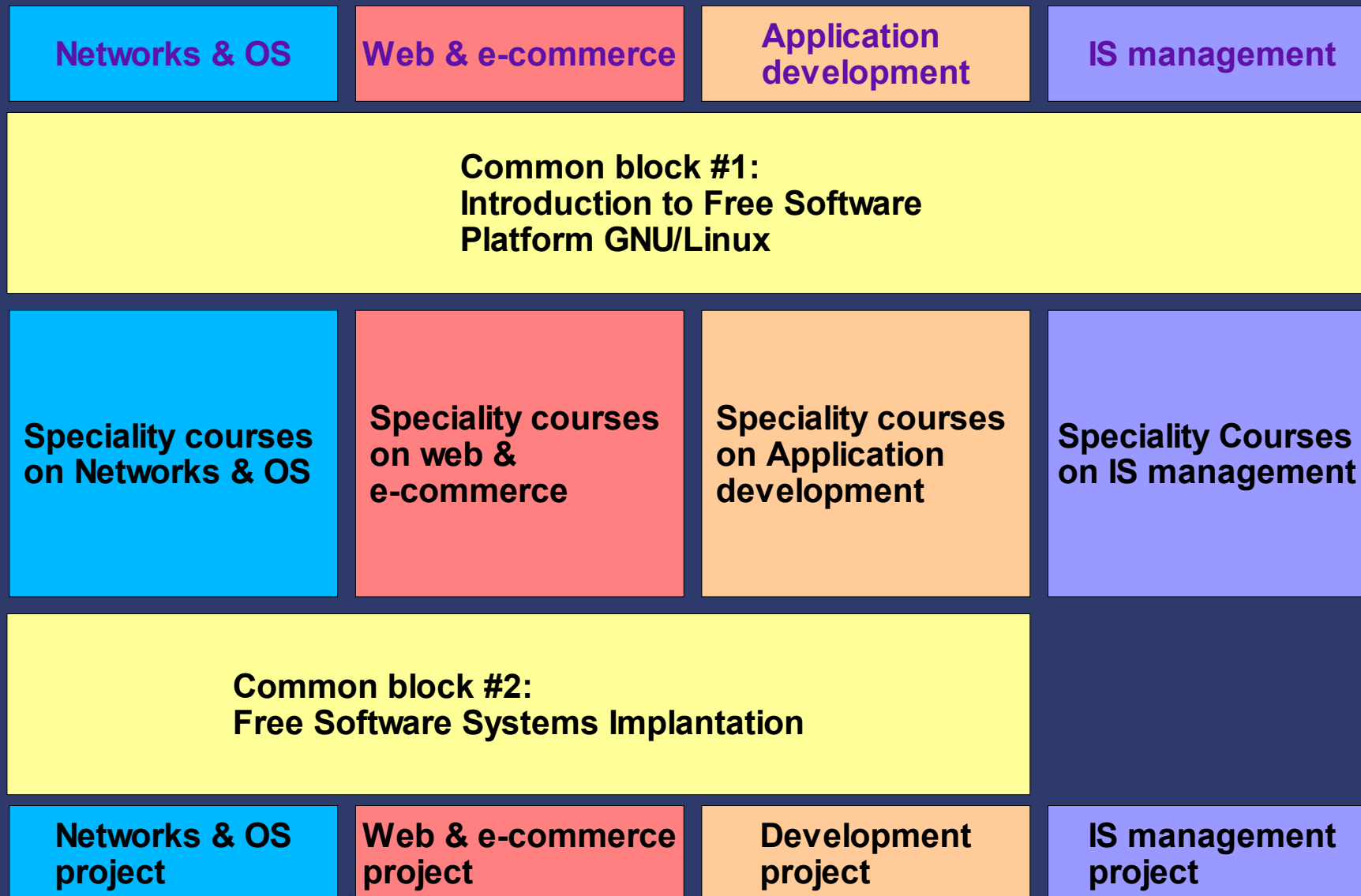
Why a Master degree on FS?

- Increasing request for qualified professionals in FS technologies.
- Our students (who are employed) feel quite satisfied with the use of GNU/Linux and other FS products in the official degrees.
- Several lecturers in the Computing and Multimedia Department believe in FS and encourage its promotion and diffusion.
- IT professionals do not usually have enough time to become self-taught in FS technologies (sites, forums, papers, books, etc.)
- This master offers guided/tutored teaching, materials written by experts and different itineraries according to the students needs or preferences.
- The students of the Master can help promote and diffuse FS.

Programme design

- Different itineraries according to professional profiles:
 - ◆ Networks and Operating Systems administrator
 - ◆ Web and e-commerce administrator
 - ◆ Applications developer
 - ◆ Information Systems management in a free software environment

Programme design



Scientific advising council

- A scientific council integrated by recognised experts of different fields has been constituted in order to:
 - ◆ Watch over the quality of the Master's contents and design.
 - ◆ Take into account sound opinions of different members of the FS community.
 - ◆ Contribute to the promotion, diffusion and development of FS projects.
 - ◆ Take into account viewpoints coming from different cultures and environments.
 - ◆ Make the Master programme internationally known to gather students from various origins.

Scientific advising council

- Members:

- ◆ Manuel Castells, president (UOC)
- ◆ Vinton Cerf (WorldCom)
- ◆ Marcelo D'Elia Branco (software livre project, Brazil)
- ◆ Juantomás García (Hispalinux)
- ◆ Jesús M. González Barahona (Univ. Rey Juan Carlos)
- ◆ Pekka Himanen (University of California at Berkeley)
- ◆ Miguel de Icaza (Ximian/Novell)
- ◆ Òscar del Pozo (Softcatalà)
- ◆ Pam Samuelson (University of California at Berkeley)

- ◆ Rafael Macau, secretariat (UOC)
- ◆ Jordi Mas, secretariat (UOC)
- ◆ David Megías, secretariat (UOC)

Return to the FS community

- A great part of the didactic materials will be freed (under the GFDL) so that they can be widely used, modified, extended, edited, etc.
- A bibliographic corpus on FS is being created.
- The final projects and developments carried out within this programme will be free.

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Programme courses

International Master on Free Software

Itinerary #1 **540 h**

Itinerary #2 **585 h**

Itinerary #3 **675 h**

Itinerary #4 **360 h**

**Networks and
Operating Systems
Administrator**

**Web and
E-commerce
Administrator**

**Application
Developer**

**Information
Systems
Management**



Introduction to Free Software

Basic Operating System GNU/Linux

Advanced Administration
of the OS GNU/Linux

Advanced Administration
of the OS GNU/Linux

Advanced Administration
of the OS GNU/Linux

**Legal Aspects
and Exploitation**

Computer Networks

Web Development

Introduction to
Software Development

Utilities and Tools

Advanced Networking:
Security Issues

Database Systems

Advanced Aspects of
Software Development

Free Software
Engineering

Implantation

**Networks and OS
Project**

**Web
Project**

**Development
Project**

**IS Management
Project**

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Final remarks

- 91 students registered for the first edition of the master (started on November the 17th).
- Four virtual classrooms, two for each course: “Introduction to Free Software” and “Basic Operating System GNU/Linux”, with about 45 students per classroom.
- A tutor for each classroom supporting the learning process and programs evaluation activities.
- The didactic materials of these two courses are published under the GFDL and will shortly be available in the portal www.uoc.edu.

Presentation written using:

