

TX20
Memory

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Subject: Contributions to the Education project, OpenOffice.org



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Introduction:

Today, computers applications are present everywhere; sometimes it is a good choice, sometimes not. Therefore it is essential to have bases of computer sciences. This training should start since the young age. However, computer tools were designed for adults and are so difficult of use by children.

OOo4kids was born from this idea; adapt office automation software for children. The development following the model of free of the office automation software OpenOffice, permitted an adaptation of this software for the children. Indeed free software allows redistribution and modification of these sources.

OOo4kids belongs at Education project. This is more global and wants to provide computer tools based on OpenOffice.org to facilitate the task of the professors.

Presentation of context

a) OpenOffice, a free software

OpenOffice is an office automation software. It has several tools: A text editor, a spreadsheet, a drawing tool, a tool of presentation, a basic tool of data, a tool of edition of mathematical formulas.

It is a free software. These sources, lines of codes necessary to create the program, are available to all. We can re-use them, to modify them to create a derivative of open-office. Moreover it is a freeware

Indeed it is not because a software is open source that it is a freeware and conversely a freeware is not in general open source. The character "open source" of a software is so not a characteristic of the end product but how it is developed.

b) EducOOo

EduCOOo is an association. It is above all a community which wants to gather the world of education and that of OpenOffice.org.

These three goals:

- Provide a reflector space for OpenOffice.org's users, in context of teaching: discussions about how to adapt OpenOffice.org to pedagogy, the needs for the professors. (all levels of education system are concerned);
- Provide and promote tools adapted to pedagogy and teaching, with the OpenOffice.org software;
- Write code with the students, to sharing the knowledge already acquired. To bring a help to the professors who want integrate the programming on OpenOffice.org in their courses, TD or student's projects.

c) Ooo4kids

Ooo4kids is an office automation software for 7-12 years. Derived from the sources of OpenOffice.org software, it is simplified and modified to be appropriate to the children. The goal is to contribute in return to OpenOffice.org Project, via Education project, and projects of students.

d) OLPC: XO

The OLPC (One Laptop per Child) is intended for children. This laptop has several characteristics which make it a particular computer. First order, it is conceived to cost less than 100 dollars; this price was finally approximately 150-180 dollars. This consumption is lower than 5 Watts. It is so intended to children of developing country.

II) Beta-testers

Description of the spot

- To set up one (or few) protocol of test for:
 - To test Oo4kids with children
 - To collect the opinion of children
 - To collect the opinion of professors
- Conditions
 - About questionnaire:
 - Pleasant to answer
 - Easily comprehensible
 - Usable at large scale
 - About results:
 - Interesting for the developers
 - Permit to make promotion
 - Possibility to use the results simply

a) Preliminary stages, protocol of test

Various types of test:

- application tests with children
- application tests with professors (and with parents)

Development of the protocol of test for the children:

- Tests should be executed in quiet moment of the day. Everything's like to come back tired from a training of foot or a near meal can deteriorate the results. It's better to consider several shorts tests than only one, long, which would reduce their attention.

Goal of the protocol: Evaluate accessibility of Oo4kids for a child between 7 and 12 years.

Details to be brought concerning the child

- His age
- His sex
- School level
- Is he already familiar with an office automation software?

- Then, which?
- Where does he use it (at the house, at the school)

List spots which the child will must to execute:

At the beginning, the protocol will be global. It will be modified after each public release of a new version. Another protocol must be more specific to test new modifications. We divide the protocol in different parts about the utilization of OOo4kids.

In first, for each part, it is necessary to define useful functions that we want easily accessible.

1. About the windows of reception
 - Facility of comprehension of the various icons:
 - Writer
 - Draw
 - Impress
 - Calc
 - Open a document
2. About Writer
 - Assistant of creation:
 - Comprehension of this
 - Accessibility of this (colors, forms)
 - Global aspect:
 - position/size of the tool bars
 - Start to write a text
 - Various functions of the tool bar
 - Insert an image
 - Record the document
 - Print the document
 - Create a new document
 - Font size
 - Type of font
 - Position of the text (left, centered...)
 - Copy and paste
3. Draw
 - Various functions of the tool bar drawing
4. Impress
 - The assistant of creation:
 - Comprehension of this one
 - Accessibility of this one (colors, forms)

5. Calc

- To write a basic function (addition, subtraction, multiplication etc...)

Collect results:

The module "conduct a survey" of "Campus Libre" (web site pertaining to EducOOo) permit to collect results. It appears simple and it is possible to have instantaneously statics.

This first option was abandoned because it was too rigid, it was not possible to easily apply a personalized graphics and it can be distributed only to registered user.

Various managements systems of contents (CMS) permit easily to do that. (Joomla for example). Other web sites offer to set up forms to collect opinions but those are in general quite limited and paying.

If a out-line mode is needed, a worksheet on OO4kids should be appropriate. Once the form is deployed, best would be to integrate in OOo4kids a link to this on.

Results should be collected in a database that will facilitate the process of those. Publication of results on the wiki will be done each week (according to the number of returns).

b) Advance

About tests with the end users, I have elaborated a firstdraft of a protocol of test with children.

For the reflection about the mode to collect results; I concluded that it would depend of number of contributions. As long as this number is small, the wiki will be a good tool but if this number becomes too high, contributions will not be manageable on a wiki and it will be necessary to choose another mode to collect results.

So, I gave priority to work on wiki and this beginning of reflection is available for a continuation of this work.

III) The wiki

It is a means of communication by Internet. We can say that it is a collaborative web site. Everyone can participate in the project to write and modify pages. The most famous wiki is "wikipedia".

However Education project's wiki has a broader objective, not only a share of knowledge; we must be able to find all the useful information about EducOOo.

a) EducOOo's wiki current

This wiki, contains several pages, builds itself progressively at the same time as the projection of the project.

We have several very long pages without sufficiently clear structure, so it is a problem (See appendix 1). Organization between the pages is bad and it is not easy to find what we search.

However the goal of wiki is succeed to simplifying the communication between the various actors of the project as well as the users. We understand the need for reorganizing it.

b) Specifications

The main idea: "to improve the wiki"

Here is main points to be respected:

- pleasant to read
- easy to understand
- well organized
- writing in French and English
- using the wiki
- also being appropriate for the international community
- keeping all the information

c) Tools used: wiki + HTML + IRC

- Wiki language

The wiki is characterized by its own language, the "wiki". I work on a wiki which accept certain parts of language HTML. It is so possible to have pages with a better presentation.

For writing pages we use a simplified language. We can so speak about "syntax". I had to learn the bases of this language to work. Indeed I use of the page of assistance on the syntax of wikipedia: <http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aide:Syntaxe>

- HTML language

HTML language is used as standard for Internet pages. When we write in the wiki, this one will interpret what we wrote in language HTML. This language is more complex and powerful than syntax wiki. If we can write directly in HTML then it permit to design pages with additional elements witch give a better final presentation.

- IRC

IRC is a communication tool similar to the instant messaging. We can say, that is a "professional" version of this one. We discuss with other users on channels. The French channel dedicated to the Education project is #EducOO. The number of connected users can be very important. It is also possible to control members of the channel, to safeguard the logs, to protect discussion of outside.

d) Methodology

1. Preliminary stage: read the wiki

I read the wiki to have a total impression.

I concluded that three pages have priority:

<http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Fr-EDUCATION>

http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Education_Project/Bienvenue_fr

http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Education_Project/Effort

2. Analyze complex principal pages

This task includes to try to gather information by types (bond, explanation and table) and by topic to create new pages. I summarized this work in a diagram (See appendix 2).

3. To gather information in coherent approaches

The same work as precedent is applied to the other pages. If we have the same information, then it consists in integrating some pages inside others. On contrary, when there is not enough relationship between various paragraphs, it is necessary to

create new pages to separate these information.

List current pages and what they become

Current pages	Short description of their contents	Future pages
Education_Project Fr-EDUCATION Bienvenue_fr		- > divided on several pages: Welcome, To contribute
Education_Project/Effort	<i>current spots list</i>	- > divided on several pages by spot
Education Project/TEAM	<i>Project members list</i>	- > unchanged -> gathered in the category "communication"
ProjectMailingListList	<i>different "mail-lists" project</i>	- > unchanged -> category "communication"
Education_Courses		- > gathered in Education_ClassRoom
Education_ClassRoom	<i>Online ClassRoom</i>	- > unchanged -> in "Development"
Education_Project/Events_2009	<i>Events where EducOOo represented in 2009</i>	- > transformed into "Events" page
Education_Project/Events_2008	<i>Events where EducOOo was represented in 2008</i>	- > unchanged -> Accessible from "Events" page
Education_Project/Effort/Seneca	<i>vacuum for the moment, then implication of the school in the project</i>	- > unchanged - > gathered in a page "Schools_Participating"

4. Organize various pages

Right, pages are defined. We have to format, to reorganize, to clarify them and to add missing information.

(Some examples of pages)

Bienvenue/Welcome

Taking as model the homepage of OOo4kids, that has a well organization, it will contain:

- A short presentation of Education project
- A direct link for donation
- Many links to different pages and information. Those will be divided in several columns according to fields.
 - They will have explicit titles to easily identify pages contain.
 - Icons

Works in progress

We use the general model of OpenOffice

<http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Efforts>

1. Fast description of Effort's page.
 2. Link towards various works in progress
 - Those links will be gathered like the wiki reception page of OpenOffice.org
- http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Main_Page

Every work pages

People creating pages will choose organization. Nevertheless one or more models should be proposed.

- The table in paragraph "task" from page "Revise_OOo_Multi-Threading" is an good idea http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Effort/Revise_OOo_Multi-Threading

Cards to learn "Education_Courses"

- Reorganize page to be more readable
- Incite people to share their knowledge

5. Translate English/French pages

- Correct existing pages and reorganize them like the preceding model
- Translate missing pages and yet essential

Whole of work is available on the wiki:

- <http://wiki.ooo4kids.org/index.php/User:Matt1/Work1>

IV) Main problems encountered

a) An "international" aspect

I had envisaged putting flags before each language, to bright the page but we signaled me that Indians don't like flags presence. That's why I removed them.

b) Languages management

The wiki hasn't the only vocation to be French (or English), everybody can translate pages into his language. This increases communication and develops local communities for each country.

However it is necessary to establish certain logic in the creation of translated versions of each page.

Let us take an example: Education page

There is a rule on the wiki, page address must be in English by defect:

".../Education"

And so, there is a question: what becomes this address when we translate page in French:

"FR... /Education" or "... /FR/Education" or "... /Education/fr"

I chose last form witch appeared simpler. This last form is employed in OOO4kids wiki and a model is already used to have a simplified language management.

This one is composed of two pages "Template": "LanguagesEduc" and

"LanguagesEduco/lang". Templates are pages which make it possible to simplify the writing other pages. Indeed it is enough to call this template to format the text which we wrote, or then to post automatically some information.

In our case, the function of "LanguagesEduco/Lang" indexes the various languages as well as the structure of the management of the languages.

"LanguagesEduc" contains algorithm which will search various languages available and will post links towards those.

I adapted little these pages to this specific wiki. To use this script, we only write: `{{LanguagesEduc|page_name}}`.

For example, in the main page "Education_Project" we write: `{{LanguagesEduc|Education_Project}}` and it returns this:

[Languages](#):

[English](#) · [Deutsch](#) · [French](#) · [Italiano](#) · [中文](#)

However, I have to give up this model: "... /Education/fr" because it differs of from the general models on OpenOffice.org wiki: "FR... /Education". One person in charge required of me the respect of this model. So, I modified whole of pages.

Regards of the rights (licenses, copyright)

This problem appeared when I wanted put some illustrations to have a Wiki more attractive.

I found icons which corresponded to my waiting. However these icons are under license GNU Lesser General License Public. But did I have the rights to put them on Wiki? Although OpenOffice is free software also published under license LGPL, Wiki is under copyright.

I have studied Authors' rights in France, Copyright and license LGPL.

Authors' rights

The law, in France, described the author as any natural person who creates a work of the spirit. It is necessary of course that it is material. So in France this law applies without need for achievement of formalities (deposit or recording). Thus all that is written, published; images, photographs, on Internet are protected by defect by this authors' rights.

We can distinguish two rights, patrimonial right which is exerted during all the life of the author, which is transmissible to his heirs 70 years following, and moral right which recognizes the paternity of a work to its author without limit of time.

Patrimonial right is the exclusive right of exploitation given to the author. He can give, by contract, representation's rights and reproduction's rights.

Representation's rights are to authorize or not the public diffusion of work and reproduction's rights are to authorize or not the reproduction of work.

However there are some exceptions when work is revealed, the author cannot be opposed to:

- Private and free representation in family ;
- Copy with reproductions reserved for a strictly private use of the copyist;
- Publication of a quotation or an analysis of work if this one is short and justified by a critical character, polemical, teaching, scientific;
- Parody and caricature.

Copyright

Copyright is an equivalent of authors' rights in American's law. However a deposit is necessary in the United States, to have this protection. This term have no value in France and it is only informative value for the public; the law authors' rights applying in all cases.

License GNU

This license corresponds to a contract that each person is free to accept or not. It does not remove and so does not replace authors' rights. But if it is accepted, it gives additional rights (about patrimonial right). Of course there are rules to respect.

Four fundamental freedoms are:

1. Freedom to execute the software, for any use;
2. Freedom to study a program and to adapt it to its needs, so to have access to source codes;
3. Freedom to redistribute copies;
4. Freedom to improve the program and obligation to make public modifications so the whole of the community profits from it.

As we can see, LGPL is conceived for computer programs but it can be applied to images, writings...

There are some rules to respect. On the one hand, if there are modifications it is necessary to provide the source code of the modified version. Any redistribution must to be under the terms of the LGPL.

In my case I cannot so use directly these icons under LGPL because their use would be under copyrights which do not authorize redistribution.

I found a solution to this problem by traversing Wiki: a page (Authors licensing declaration) where each author registered, declares that it publishes under various free licenses (of which GNU GPL).

However it is LGPL license which is applied to these icons. The main difference with license LPG is that it does not constrain to redistribute works with same license (here LGPL). We can use resources under license LGPL to make a software owner. So for me, I did not need to publish my work under free license. I keep it because that corresponds better of "free".

Final advance

I have realized the main part of my work, to have a wiki's homepage more pleasant (see appendix 3) and which might be encourage people to invest in the project. It was possible by a revision of current pages. There is still lot of work, especially to reorganize Classroom and Effort pages.

Conclusion

I had to understand how the project functioned, the various link between the different identities (EducOO, Ooo4kids, OpenOffice.org, Education project). I also familiarized with different communications means. I met contributors already implicate. I improve my knowledge on "authors' rights" and the contents of some licenses.

I'm involving in a concrete project, which I appreciate particularly. I discovered the progress of a free project, with spontaneity and personal initiatives. Some aspects are new for students like me, who come from school world where we used to have a defined working framework.

The "free" permit to everybody, to express and suggest new ideas. So if you have competences and would to undertake a great project, the community of free (in particular Education project) get you a very pleasant welcome.

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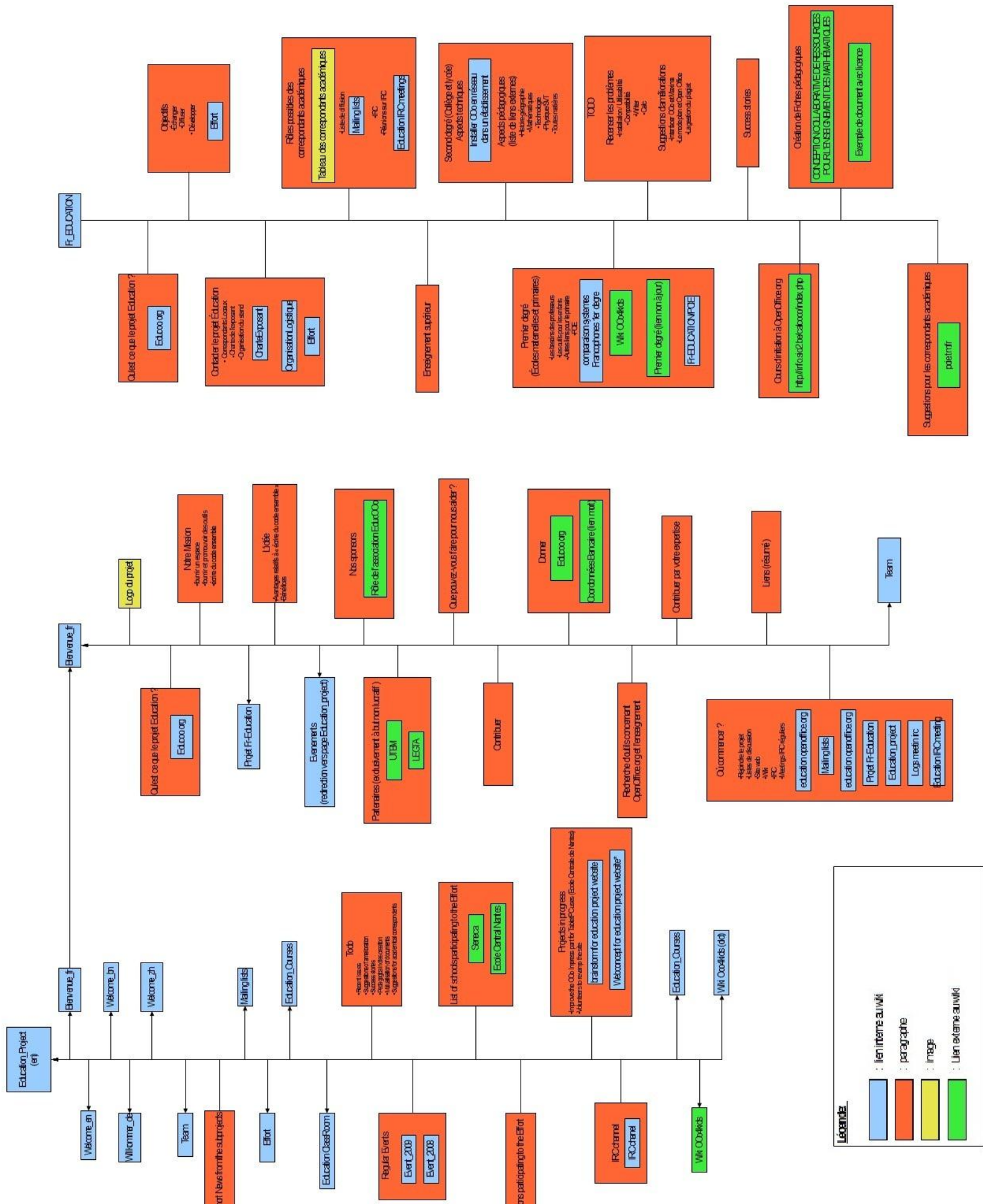
http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Education_Project (12/22/2010)

APPENDICES

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Education project ?

g, everything is project. And all websites starts using the rule : [http://\\$\(project\).OpenOffice.org](http://$(project).OpenOffice.org)

ation.openoffice.org

me, this is an incubator project. This means that we have just begun and there is a lot more to do before attaining the status of a Project.

!

in 3 points :

ce for OpenOffice.org users, in Education context: discuss about adapt OpenOffice.org to your pedagogy, your needs ,etc (all levels of Education are concerned)

romote tools adapted to pedagogical use, around OpenOffice.org

gether : we can teach you everything about OpenOffice.org code and how add your: just go ahead

e

or professors:

wards resources (fr)

form free Campus of the Education project

interests us:

ve you needs? Express!

d Suggestions of improvements

our experience (feedbacks)

for Kids ([OOo4kids](#))

Next meeting : [soon](#)

[More details here](#)

 Version actuelle (non relue)

Donate, Thanks

Logo of Education Project



Contribute

- How contribute (fr)
- Works in progress
- Works on standby of your contribution

▪ to learn:

- Cards to learn (en)
- Real courses on line (en)

▪ Current contributors

▪ Donate



Communicate

▪ News

▪ Intern

▪ IRC, simple means to communicate

▪ Subscribe to mailing lists

▪ External

▪ Represent us (fr)

▪ Promote Open the Education project office (stands) (fr)

▪ Events

This report presents a contribution to Education project for OpenOffice.org.
There is a reflection about installation of a procedure for tests with children. The main part is to improvement Education project's wiki. This is a reorganization of pages with modifications on appearance to improve legibility.
It is also an explication of "authors' rights" and License GNU LPG which is generally used in the free software.

Key words: Wiki OpenOffice Education project OOo4kids Beta-tester