GUADEC 2007 in Lyon

A candidature presented by:

CPE Lyon

ALDIL

GNOME-FR

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Summary

Key arguments of the candidature

First, Lyon itself is young, vibrant, beautiful, and well placed in Europe with lots of commodities for organizing this kind of event. Second, as shown in this dossier, the GNOME and free software communities are particularly active in the region. Thirdly, CPE Lyon, the host university, knows the free software community, has fantastic facilities and will help to get support from local authorities. It is the ideal location for this kind of event.

Location

France, Lyon, CPE Lyon

Proposed date

To be defined, preferably early July 2007

Main contact person

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Introduction

This document presents the candidature of Lyon, France, and more precisely CPE Lyon, as host for GUADEC 2007.

The idea of proposing Lyon as host city came to a number of GNOME community members around the time of GUADEC 2005 in Stuttgart. After the Summer, we started discussions with CPE Lyon, a local university, about the idea of hosting the conference.

Lyon is a great city for this conference for a number of reasons. First, the city itself is young, vibrant, beautiful, and well placed in Europe. Second, the GNOME and free software communities are particularly active in the region. Thirdly, CPE Lyon, the host university, knows the free software community, and has fantastic facilities. It is the ideal location for this kind of event.

The dates of the conference could be any time from the end of June. We would like to propose the start of July 2007 in preference. This period gives a number of advantages:
- The students on the university domain at la Doua, and the students of CPE Lyon, will have finished their exams,
- Since most people take their Summer holidays in August, the month of July is more appropriate for a larger local attendance.

Lyon

Lyon[lyon.fr][LTO] is the second largest city in France. At the confluence of two major rivers, the Rhône and the Saône, the city was built on two hills and the surrounding plains. Its varied environs and rich history have created a magnificent city of a thousand surprises.

The city of Lyon itself has 450,000 inhabitants, and 1.3 million people live in the agglomeration known as "Greater Lyon" (which regroups 55 smaller towns).

Lyon is a city of the digital age. 40% of the French production of video games, and the French headquarters of two of the biggest names in the industry, Infogrames/Atari and Electronic Arts, are situated in Lyon. Besides these two companies, around 50 development houses are in operation in the city and develop their business at the international level[GC].

Recently, the French government has put in place a system of financing which allows certain cities to reinforce their domains of excellence : "the Centers of Competitiveness". Lyon has been named a center of excellence in the chemical industry and the digital entertainment industries.

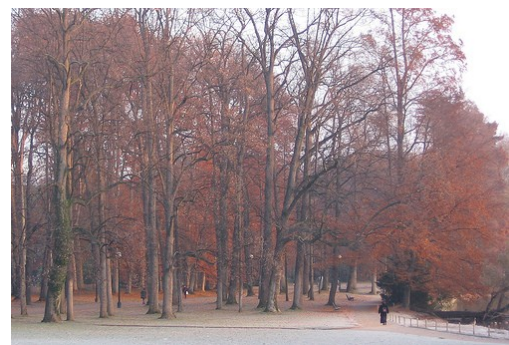Lyon has three large university campuses and tens of "Grandes Écoles"[AGERA]. It is a student city with over 100,000 students, who bring their energy to the local cultural scene.

Lyon, a welcoming city

Situated in the center of Western Europe, Lyon is easily accessible by a number of means of travel :
- **Two large national train stations** (Part Dieu and Perrache), with TGV lines from Paris, Marseille, and more.

- Lyon St. Exupéry **international airport** [LYS], with regular daily flights from all over Europe
- **Several motorways** meet at Lyon, from the South, East center and North of France

Lyon is a very attractive city for tourists. It is classed by UNESCO as a **world heritage city**[WHC] and is the site of the first modern motion pictures, made by the Lumière brothers in 1891[ILum].

Lyon, a green city

The "Parc de la Tête d'Or" is one of the largest urban parks in France, with 105 hectares of greenery and open spaces, in the heart of the city. The park, which contains trees over 100 years old, an attractive lake, large open spaces and tens of kilometers of paths for walkers and joggers, is open all year round. With its magnificent botanical gardens, 19th century greenhouses and a large rose garden, it is breathtaking.

In 2007, the park will celebrate its 150th anniversary, and will be at its best.

Public transport

Lyon has a very well developed public transport system[TCL], with two tram lines, and a third opening before the end of 2006, 4 underground train lines, 2 cable cars, and over 100 bus routes. With very regular service and a good number of dedicated bus lanes, getting around the city is easy and fast.

For the more adventurous, Lyon has piloted a new public transport system since the middle of last year - Velo'v[Velov]. You can take a bike from one of the many bike stations around the city, cycle to where you're going, and return it when you arrive. With the first 30 minutes free, Lyon has taken to the bikes with gusto, and the number of subscriptions to the system in the first 2 months was more than expectations for the first year! There are now 3000 bikes in service, spread over 173 stations, with more being put into service every week.

Free Software in Lyon

GNOME-FR

GNOME-FR [GFR] is a non-profit organization created in 2005 with the goal of encouraging the development of GNOME in the French-speaking world. The association is well represented in the region, with its president, Vincent Untz, Dave Neary, a board member of the GNOME Foundation, and Daniel Veillard all living in the region.

The association has existed for a short time, but the group of people who make it up have been working together for many years. The association has a regular presence at a number of events, including Solutions Linux and Libr'East in Paris, FOSDEM in Brussels, "Journée Méditerranéenne des Logiciels Libres" in Nice, the Libre Software Meeting in Dijon, "Journées du Libre" in Montpellier and "Journées des Logiciels Libres" in Lyon.

Between them, the group includes several Debian and GNOME package maintainers, GUADEC organizers and 3 current or past GNOME Foundation board members.

ALDIL

ALDIL[ALDIL] is the local Lyon free software user group. ALDIL means "the Lyon association for the development of free computing", and is as such much more than a LUG.

Founded in 1998 on the campus of la Doua, ALDIL's goal is to promote all free software, including software available on systems other than Linux (even proprietary systems).

Since 2000, the association has organized an annual conference in the city, which has been held in CPE Lyon for the past 3 years. This conference typically brings together **150 to 200 people**, and in the past speakers have included Tristan Nitot from the Mozilla project, and the Interior Ministry, who presented their deployment of 50,000 copies of OpenOffice.org in 2004.

In addition, the association regularly assists with local organizations in computer training courses, and hosts a number of install parties throughout the year.

The association has over 100 fully paid up members, including around 30 active volunteers.

Free software conferences

Libre Graphics Meeting

In March 2006, the first edition of the Libre Graphics Meeting[LGM] was hosted in CPE Lyon. Organized by Dave Neary and David Odin in association with CPE Lyon and ALDIL, the conference brought together developers, artists and contributors from a dozen different free software graphics projects like the GIMP, Inkscape and Scribus, but also from smaller groups like the Open Font Licence project, littleCMS and Cairo. During the conference Xara made their first public release of the source code to their free software drawing application, Xara LX.

With **over 200 attendees**, and a post-conference collaboration frenzy involving several of the projects present, the conference was a resounding success.

OOoConf

This year, the OpenOffice.org community will also be gathering in Lyon for their annual conference. The conference will be held from September 11th to 13th in INSA Lyon.

CPE Lyon

Presentation

CPE Lyon[CPE] is a university awarding 300 students a year: 150 in the chemical field and 150 in electronics, networks and computing. The CPE developing strategy is around research, enterprise and international.

Enterprise

With the backing from founding members that are Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Lyon (Trade and Industry Chamber) and the Scientific Foundation of Lyon and Sud-Est (also creators of Biovision World Life Sciences Forum[Biovis]) and through 6000 former students, professional

trainings, development programs with entrepreneurs and continuous training subsidiaries, the school has close links with more than 800 partner companies. Very close links have been established with companies such as Dow Chemical in the chemical field or **HP** in the computer field.

Research

A great school is first a great research focused place.

The school has 24 000 m² for teaching and research, 11 laboratories associated with CPE Lyon, Claude Bernard Lyon 1 University and/or CNRS. It has 400 lecturers and researchers, around 150 PhD students a year, 500 publications, 30 patents and 50 theses a year and a 3,37 M€ sales turnover made of industrial contracts with 148 partners for the year 2004.

CPE Lyon also has two Nobel prizes in Chemistry : Victor Grignard in 1912 and more recently Yves Chauvin in 2005 who graduated from CPE Lyon in 1954 and still works in one of the school laboratories.

International

CPE Lyon is an important regional actor but also keeps a look towards international.

Two thirds of CPE Lyon graduates have spent a year abroad either in one of the 90 partner Universities in 20 different countries or in a foreign company. Indeed all the internship periods can take place abroad. Students can take advantage of such periods to get a 2nd diploma, to open themselves to a new culture and to benefit from interactions with foreign students and teachers as well as to master an additional language. 20% of CPE Lyon graduates start their career in a foreign

country.

Each year, CPE Lyon welcomes international students as well : this year they are 43 coming from 15 different countries from all continents. Some spend one semester at the school (SOCRATES-ERASMUS program), and 28 of them follow the full 6-semester program. German students from Wurzburg and spanish students from Madrid will get two diplomas : one from CPE Lyon and one from their university and one from CPE Lyon.

Facilities

Everyday over 700 students come to CPE Lyon. The school offers all the necessary commodities you would expect from a modern university building : a 500 seats amphitheater equipped with audio and video, two smaller amphitheaters of 150 and 120 seats, various smaller classrooms from 20 up to 100 seats.

Most of the building is covered by a WiFi G wireless network and Ethernet is available almost everywhere with even some freely accessible outlets. This network is usually open for conferences and events. The school is connected to the Internet at 100Mb/s full/duplex.

CPE Lyon has a strong experience at hosting conferences and international events. In June 2005, CPE Lyon hosted the BAGECO 8 Symposium on Bacterial Genetics and Ecology which brought together around 450 attendees. In September 2006, the four Nobel Prize laureates Yves Chauvin, Robert H. Grubbs, Richard R. Schrock and Jean-Marie Lehn will honor CPE Lyon of their presence for a public conference where several hundred attendees are expected.

CPE Lyon and Libre Software

CPE Lyon strongly supports the usage, the development and the promotion of libre software at various levels. Thus all the computers in the student laboratories run Debian Linux or are installed with dual boot. Software like Firefox, OpenOffice.org and Thunderbird are systematically installed and promoted.

All the information system architecture dedicated to students is built around libre software : Debian Linux, OpenLDAP, Postfix, PostgreSQL and MySQL, Apache. The school has also developed a state-of-the-art student portal called "e-Campus CPE Lyon" which runs on Zope.

Support of CPE Lyon for libre software also shows among teachers and researchers. Some of them are well-known contributors to free software projects :

- David Odin is a Gimp developer and also contributes to various other projects
- Pierre Chifflier, is a Debian Developer and is the author of the wzdftpd ftp server
- Oscar Figueiredo has been an Emacs and XEmacs developer for several years and is the author of some smaller free software projects

Finally CPE Lyon also helps promoting libre software by hosting conferences like the "Journées du Libre" or more recently the "Libre Graphics Meeting".

Support for candidature

This candidature is signed and presented by:
- For **GNOME-fr** :
  - Vincent Untz, president
  - Dave Neary
  - Dodji Seketeli
  - Sebastien Tricaud
- For **ALDIL** :
  - Loïs Taulelle, president
  - Jean Picard
  - Yves Badel
  - Fabrice Flore-Thebault
  - Isabelle Vermès
  - Michel Laurent
- For **CPE Lyon** :
  - Gérard Pignault, director
  - Christine Legrand, director of communication
  - Oscar Figueiredo, director of the Departement Electronique-Télécoms-Informatique
  - David Odin, lecturer/researcher
  - Pierre Chifflier, network and security engineer

Support from institutions

The Trade and Industry Chamber of Lyon (Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Lyon) supports this candidature as stated in the letter accompanying this dossier.

Contacts have also been taken with the Mayor's Office and Regional authorities and we have every reason to believe they will also support the event.

References

[lyon.fr]   **The official website of the City of Lyon** http://www.lyon.fr/vdl/sections/en/

[LTO]   **Lyon Tourism Office** http://www.en.lyon-france.com/

[GC]   **Game Connection** http://www.game-connection.com/

[AGERA]   **Alliance des Grandes Écoles Rhône-Alpes** http://www.agera.asso.fr/index_us.htm

[LYS]   **Lyon St Exupery International Airport** http://www.lyonairport.com/

[WHC]   **Lyon: a Wolrd Heritage City** http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/872

[ILum]   **The Lumière Institute** http://www.institut-lumiere.org/english/frames.html

[TCL]   **Lyon Public Transports** http://www.tcl.fr/

[Velov]   **Velov official site (french)** http://www.velov.grandlyon.com/

[GFR]   **GNOME-FR** http://www.gnomefr.org/association/

[ALDIL]   **ALDIL** http://www.aldil.org/

[LGM]   **Libre Graphics Meeting** http://www.libregraphicsmeeting.org/

[CPE]   **CPE Lyon** http://www.cpe.fr/fr2/gb/default_gb.asp

[Biovis]   **Biovision** http://www.biovision.org/

Appendix A : Support Letter from the Trade and Industry Chamber

CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE ET D'INDUSTRIE DE LYON

Lyon, le 6 avril 2006

LE PRÉSIDENT

La Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Lyon soutient la candidature de Lyon et du CPE en particulier, pour l'organisation du GUADEC 2007. Lyon est aujourd'hui la seconde métropole économique française ; l'industrie informatique, et en particulier celle liée à l'imagerie, que ce soit dans le domaine médical ou le jeu vidéo, y est très présente.

CPE Lyon, école créée et soutenue par la Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Lyon, s'implique depuis longtemps dans la formation d'ingénieurs compétents, dans la promotion du développement des logiciels libres, et dans l'organisation d'évènements visant à développer l'activité économique issue des dernières technologies.
Le GUADEC organisé par CPE Lyon, soutenu par la CCIL, sera sans nul doute un succès.

Jean-Paul MAUDUY

CHAMBRE
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