

Brainstorm Trends in Functional Programming
In Education wiki

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June 15, 2012

This is brief report of a brainstorm discussion held during TFP in St. Andrews University on wednesday june 13th 2012. This is not a chronological rendering of the discussion. Instead, the ideas and opinions are phrased as statements, with added comments.

1. *We need to have a central ‘front’ that serves as a portal of the functional programming in education community.*
 - There is a FP in education community, but it is isn’t organized by means of a well-visible internet-entity.
 - When people think of functional programming, they should think of this site to turn their attention to.
 - The site should provide an infrastructure to convey ideas, discussions, announcements, status, and resources on functional programming in education.
 - The site should be a show-case of functional programming in as many as possible application areas.
 - The site should serve all FP languages and systems out there.
2. *The current TFPIE wiki can serve as a starting point for this web-site.*
 - The current experience should be enhanced significantly: it is pretty much bare-bones now. For instance, accessing the current TFPIE 2012 meeting documents requires too many clicks.
 - A skilled web-designer should improve on the ‘looks’ of the wiki. It was suggested to organize competitions like done for the Haskell logo to involve the community and get good designs. There must be lots of talented designers with FP enthusiasm out there.
 - It is a good idea to register the domain name `tfpie.edu`, or something similar.
 - The wiki runs on the server in Nijmegen currently. This can probably continue without problems.
3. *The policies of the web site should be as open as possible.*
 - The site needs to be moderated. Currently it is wide open, but that is probably counter-productive at some point when it is sufficiently large, and nobody has sufficient insight when things are updated. Moderator duties will cycle through periods, the length of which needs to be decided upon (half a year, one year, two years?). Philip Hölzenspies volunteers to be the first moderator.
 - A licensing policy needs to be created for the site, in order for contributors to know what to expect when uploading and downloading material.
 - The site could serve to create a network of excellence.

4. *Contributions.*

- A structure should be agreed upon. One format is that each contribution has a single starting page, summarizing what its about, who it is intended for, and what you can find if you continue browsing.
- People who are looking for teaching material, sources, information, share experiences should visit this site.
- A particular group to address is industry. This is profitable in two ways: the site can provide courses targeted to an industry audience, but it can also make the demand visible that industry needs functional programming, thus aiding in curriculum-development of functional programming.
- `github` is suggested as a medium that is particularly suited for industry for people to share resources that require some means of version management. In this way, from a single source material, new versions can be created by parties. This can also reflect positively on the original contributor of the material.

5. *There should be activities to attract people's attention to FP in education and the site and hold them there.*

- One way to attract attention is to do something similar to the *Project Euler* pages (<http://projecteuler.net/>). Of course, suggested problems should not be limited to these more mathematically oriented problems, but instead cover the entire opportunities that can be exploited by software.
- The site could pose a weekly / monthly programming challenge to keep peoples attention to the site.