

Project : Plone-Belgium

Document title : Summary – First Plone Belgium Meeting (November 16th 2004)

Date : 18.11.2004

Author : Fabien Nkunda.

The First Plone Belgium meeting was held on November 16th at the Royal Museum for Central Africa. This was an informal meeting called on the initiative of Godefroid Chapelle and Fabien Nkundabagenzi. By all account, it can be considered a success. About 30 people representing more than 15 institutions attended the meeting. The agenda included four presentations and a discussion.

1. Agenda

- **13h00** - Welcome
- **13h15** - Presentation : introduction to CMFBibliographyAT (D. Convent and L. Wannijn)
- **14h30** - Break
- **14h45** - Presentation : Alternative solution to LinguaPlone architecture (J. Baltus)
- **15h15** - Presentation : Current status of Zope Europe, projects and challenges facing ZEA (Xavier Heymans)
- **15h45** - Presentation & Demo : “Plone Enterprise” (Paul Everitt)
- **16h30** - Discussion : On the Future of Plone Belgium
- **18h30** – End

2. Summary of presentations and discussions

The first presentation was given by David Convent and Louis Wannijn on the CMFBibliographyAT product, initially developed by Raphael Ritz. Working on the MARS project (Multimedia Archaeological Research System) at the Royal Museum for Natural sciences, David and Louis needed to develop a product for managing bibliographical references. Naturally, they joined the effort to improve the CMFBibliographyAT product, and developed a product (ATBiblioList) for generating custom lists of bibliographical reference. The demo they presented

showed the versatility of the product (import of Bibtex reference, custom presentation of bibliographical list ...).

Next, Jean Baltus gave a presentation on "Alternative solution to LinguaPlone". Working on his own product for managing web pages for the CMS of the Royal Museum for Central Africa last year, Jean developed a product which allowed users to manage multilingual content in web pages. The product is based on Localizer and isn't "Archetype compatible". The major issues raised in this presentation were: the fact that in LinguaPlone different language content were contained in different objects, the way ids were generated, object deletion, the "magic" in LinguaPlone's UI and the fact that it was only for Archetypes. On the plus side, LinguaPlone works out of the box, it is now the de facto standard for Plone2, it's compatible with different Protocols and it's easy to use.

Xavier Heymans gave a presentation of the current state and challenges facing zope Europe. He emphasised the need to organize a Zope and Plone "network of excellence", to be able to tackle big projects and give business a credible "open source" alternative for their content management needs. On a more practical note, the participants will try to assist the Association by (1) helping establish a list of zope/Plone users in Belgium, (2) participate, when and if needed, in presentations given by the association, and (3) finishing the dutch translation of the Plone site (Louis Wanijn and Robert Herzog).

Finally, Paul Everitt gave a demo of "Plone Enterprise", the code name for the results of a major NGO project that produced multisite, multilingual, versioning, and other large CMS features. For those how have been using Plone for months, this is basically "all you ever dreamed Plone could do ... but never dared to ask !".

We ended with an open discussion on the future of Plone Belgium: When, how and where should we meet and what shape should these meeting take.

There was an agreement that we could organise either (1) *informal meetings* (to exchange ideas and keep in touch with each other), (2) *presentations* (more "formal") or (3) *workshops* (i18nArchetypes development, hands-on introductions to specific features in Plone, organising training or Q&A sessions at the ULB in charleroi or the university of Namur for new users ...). These meetings can be organised at the initiative of any Plone Belgium user. For Informal meetings, the venue can be any place (bar, restaurant ...). The "formal" meetings and workshops will have to be held in places with adequate infrastructure (PC's, beamers ...). At least one "formal" gathering should be organized every 4 month (next in March/April).

David Convent and Jean Baltus suggested holding a workshop (or sprit) on the development of i18nArchetypes.