Plone Conference 2010 in Bristol

Dear Community Members,

Netsight Internet Solutions (http://www.netsight.co.uk/) would like to present a proposal to organise the 2010 Plone conference in Bristol, United Kingdom.

Bristol is an excellent location for the conference, it is a cosmopolitan, thriving modern city that boasts a great location within the UK.

In Bristol there is always plenty to do, the arts flourish, with opera, film, ballet, museums, galleries and music of every kind. There is never a dull moment in Bristol as it offers something for everyone, from serious retail therapy in the new multi-million pound Cabot Circus shopping centre, discovering Brunel's greatest engineering achievements to exploring the vibrant café culture and nightlife.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The venue is located in the city centre at the four star luxury Grand Thistle Hotel. It is a quiet haven in the heart of buzzing Bristol and centrally located it is an ideal location for both a business and pleasure offering.

The four star luxury Grand Hotel (formerly known as Thistle Bristol) dates from the Victorian age, when local hero IK Brunel reshaped Bristol - and the world - with engineering feats like the Clifton Suspension Bridge and SS Great Britain.

The Grand Hotel, Bristol is one of the prime locations for conferences and business meetings in and around Bristol. Conveniently located in the centre of the city and close to both the railway station, coach station and Bristol Airport. The hotel has ten meeting rooms for business meetings and boasts an array of conference facilities. The largest room, the Wessex Suite, seats up to 600 theatre style. There are nine smaller rooms, plus break-out areas.

CONFERENCE DATE

The planned conference dates will be from the 27th - 29th October 2010. These will be finalised in the next couple of months. These are the only free dates available in the desired conference venue, we aim to confirm these dates if we are elected to host the conference.

We will also be arranging for training before and sprints after the event. We also plan for an analyst day prior to the main conference.

25th Oct	Training
26th Oct	Training / Analyst Day
27th Oct	Conference
28th Oct	Conference
29th Oct	Conference
30th Oct	Sprint
31st Oct	Sprint

REGISTRATION FEES

We aim to have a registration fee of no more than £300. There will be a reduction on the registration fee for early birds that register before September 1st.

We will be paying the cost for the venue and other expenses up front ourselves. We will ensure that payment for registration is made as simple as possible and organised in such a way that there will be no confusion.

MEALS

Breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks will be provided on each of the days of the conference. We will also provide a list of recommended restaurants & cafe's in the vicinity of the hotel.

POTENTIAL CONFERENCE CONFLICTS

The dates proposed for the conference do not conflict with any religious holidays.

CONFERENCE VISION AND GOALS

Bristol is an ideal location to host the annual Plone Conference 2010 both for those coming from Europe and also from further afield such as the USA. Bristol Airport is a hub for EasyJet and Ryanair, and KLM and Air France operate flights connecting to Amsterdam and Paris, and Continental fly direct from Newark, NJ. For further flexibility there is also the London airports, which are about 2-3 hours from Bristol by train or bus.

We plan to invest time heavily into marketing the UK Plone conference. Within Bristol we hope to drum up publicity from the local media as well as aiming to promote Plone to Local Government's and other contacts within organisations that we have. We will be encouraging other UK Plone development companies to invite along clients using Plone and potential clients wishing to learn more about Plone.

Netsight hopes that if the Plone conference is held in the UK it will strengthen the UK Plone community and encourage more developers to join, also we hope to reinforce to many organisations why Open Source and in particular Plone is the best solution for many web based projects.

The main goals and objectives for hosting the conference in Bristol are:
  • To promote Plone & Open Source in the UK & Bristol and use the conference as a marketing opportunity to reach out to organisations.
  • To promote python in the UK and encourage more developers into the community and Plone.
  • To put Bristol on the map in terms of Plone development.

NETWORK ACCESS

We know how important the wifi access is at the Plone conference. This year the wifi access for the event will be provided by Wyn Williams, who ran the very successful conference wifi network in Budapest for Plone Conf 2009. This will be in conjunction with Bristol Wireless (www.bristolwireless.net), a community wifi provider; and the Bristol Media Exchange (BMEX – www.bmex.net), a high speed fibre optic network in the city.

VIDEOGRAPHY

We plan to partner with local film post-production and equipment hire company, Films@59 to provide video recording equipment and staff to record all of the talks during the event.

ORGANISERS

The following people will be involved in the organisation of the conference:

  • Matt Hamilton from Netsight Internet Solutions. He is on the board of the Plone Foundation and has attended all but the first Plone Conference, and spoken at almost all of them. In 2009 Matt was the chair of the Programme Committee and was responsible for organising the talks and timetable for the Plone Conference 2009, he also coordinated the Open Spaces day. He knows all community members and having attended nearly every conference knows what works and what doesn't.
  • Chris Green from Netsight Internet Solutions. Chris is the Operations Director of Netsight Internet Solutions and will be in charge of all of the finances associated with the organisation of the conference.
  • Astra Fowden from Netsight Internet Solutions. Astra is the Business Development Manager

at Netsight, she will be devoting the majority of her time to organising and coordinating the conference, including social events in the evenings. She has organised a number of events in the past including Bristols World Plone day 2009.

- Vik Hamilton from Netsight. Vik is in charge of the organisation of all administration and some financial aspects at Netsight. She will also be devoting the majority of her time to the organisation of the conference to ensure the smooth running of every aspect of the event.

During the preparation period we will be seeking help from other local UK Plone Development companies. We will consider any suggestions from other Plone companies or from members of the Plone foundation.

PRE-CONFERENCE COURSE AND POST-CONFERENCE SPRINT

We will be providing a venue for the pre-conference training and also post-conference sprint. This is likely to be The Watershed, a local media arts venue with room for up to 200 people.

ANALYST / CUSTOMER ('SUITS') DAY

Historically, the Plone Conference has been a great event for the community as a whole, but we'd like to also try and market Plone to the wider business community. We are planning on having a one-day 'mini-conference' before the main conference starts that will be aimed specifically at getting industry analysts and customers (from any company) to come along and find out more about Plone. We hope to run a single track with case studies and business talks for speakers specifically invited from the community who have delivered talks previously.

ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION

Netsight will seek to take special care to ensure the environment is affected as little as possible by this conference. We will endeavour to recycle any waste where possible and promote environmentally healthy ways of commuting in and around the city.

PLONE COMMUNITY PARTY

We will be organising a party for the conference attendees, the price of which will be included in the registration fee. The planning for this event is currently in the early stages, however we hope to hire a unique venue with a buffet and band.

BRISTOL

Bristol is one of a group of English core cities and the most popular city in the South West of England. Bristol is ranked amongst the top three English cities after London. It is the largest centre of culture, employment and education in the region. There is so much to see, do and experience in Bristol and the city accommodates for all tastes and preferences.

LANGUAGE

The language spoken in Bristol is ~~Bristolian~~ English.

If you are greeted by someone saying 'Alright, me luvver' do not be scared, they are just saying 'Hi'.

NIGHTLIFE

Bristol is well known for its friendly and buzzing nightlife, it is a hugely popular night spot and one of the top UK cities for a night out. Bristol boasts a lively waterfront laden with bars and places to eat. For a slightly more sophisticated evening, there is the option to take in a show at the Bristol Hippodrome or enjoy a live performance at Colston Hall.

The conference venue is right in the heart of Bristol surrounded by bars, restaurants, theatres and music venues.

RESTAURANTS

There are numerous restaurants and cafe's in Bristol from fine dining through to fast food and buffet style eateries. The prices of food and drink in restaurants does vary considerably, however the average cost of a main course is about £10. The typical price for a beer in a pub is £2-3, with the average cost of a large glass of house wine ranging between £2.50 - £5.

GETTING HERE

Bristol is easily accessible by Air, Train, Car and Coach. The airport is 15 minutes away from the venue by road and busses run into the centre on a regular basis. Bristol has two major railway stations – Bristol Parkway and Bristol Temple Meads, Temple Meads is a 4 minute drive from the venue and the Coach station is a 2 minute drive from the venue.

TRAVEL TO BRISTOL VIA AIR

There are over 60 separate airlines flying in and out of Bristol International Airport, including: Virgin Atlantic, United Airlines, Swissair, Spainair, Lufthansa, KLM, Flybe, Emirates, BA, Atlantic Airways, Air France, to name but a few!

The airport is 8 miles from the centre of Bristol and there are always taxi's and busses running into the city. The average cost of a bus ticket into the centre from the airport is £7 for a single £9 return.

For further flexibility you can also fly in to one of the London airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton) and travel by train or bus to Bristol (about 1.5 - 3 hours)

TRAVEL TO BRISTOL BY TRAIN AND CAR

The alternatives to flying to the UK include the easy, quick and comfortable Eurostar and also the Ferry.

Note: Citizens of non-European Economic Area countries will need to complete a landing card before arriving at Eurostar check-in.

WEATHER IN OCTOBER

Britain is an island country and the surrounding sea gives England a varied climate. We never know what the weather will be like from one day to the other. It can be sunny one day and rainy the next. As we have such a variable climate changing from from day to day, it is difficult to predict the weather. The average temperature in the UK in October is 10 degrees.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation prices in Bristol vary greatly depending on where you choose to stay. We will be negotiating with a number of hotels in the vicinity to provide a conference rate at a variety of price levels. The conference venue itself can offer us 60 rooms at the higher end of £90/night. We expect to be able to get additional hotels at a rate of approx £50-60/night.

CURRENCY

The currency in the United Kingdom is the Pound. Credit Cards are accepted everywhere. Most ATMs are free of charge to withdraw money although some do charge.

VISA

The following persons need a visa for the United Kingdom:

(a) Nationals or citizens of the following countries or territorial entities:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape , Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, People's Republic of China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic, Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (North), Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Rwanda, Sao Tome e Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Surinam, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, The territories formerly comprising the socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

(b) Persons who hold passports or travel documents issued by the former Soviet Union or by the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

(c) Stateless persons.

(d) Persons who hold non-national documents.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Expenses   **Income**

Fixed costs
Other rooms	£5,850		percent of early birds	50%
Conf ents	£3,000		early bird rate	£250
Internet	£2,000		regular rate	£300
Office supplies	£400			
Nametags	£300	Platinum sponsors	1	£4,000	£4,000
A/V rental	£6,000	Gold sponsors	6	£2,000	£12,000
Videography	£5,000	Silver sponsors	2	£1,000	£2,000
Banners/printing	£100	Bronse Sponsor	6	£500	£3,000

Total fixed costs   **£22,650**   **Total sponsorship**   **£21,000**

Per person costs
Delegate rate/lunch (thistle hotel)	£40
Conf dinner rate	£35
T-shirt / person	£15
total per person costs	90

People		Registration income	Income	Expense	PF Fee	Surplus
	250	£68,750	£21,000	£45,150	3	£34,288
	300	£82,500	£21,000	£49,650	5	£41,475
	350	£96,250	£21,000	£54,150	8	£48,663
	400	£110,000	£21,000	£58,650	0	£55,850
	450	£123,750	£21,000	£63,150	3	£63,038

CLOSURE
This proposal was submitted to the Plone foundation on 15/1/2010 by Matt Hamilton from Netsight Internet Solutions.