CapiTainS

Challenges for the generalization and adoption of open source software

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Plan

1. Introduction
2. What’s CapiTainS?
3. Expanding the user base from a software point of view
4. What’s documentation?
5. Organizing Workshops: for whom and for what?
6. Conclusion
What’s Capitains ?

● = Software Suite + Guidelines
● Not specific to any institution
  ○ But built thanks to them !
● Partial and separate answers to
  ○ Editing
  ○ Serving
  ○ Curating
  ○ Reading
● Bootstrapping development of project
● Born in the context of
  ○ Perseus
  ○ Perseids
  ○ Humboldt Chair of Digital Humanities
What’s Capitains

- **Guidelines**
  - Metadata + TEI or Epidoc

- **Sparrow**
  - Javascript
  - Old and needs to be rebuilt to have better quality software

- **MyCapytain**
  - = “Standard” library for CapiTainS
  - = Kind of lego set for Capitains

- **HookTest**
  - Testing corpora (locally or decentralized)

- **Nemo**
  - Reading Interface Skeleton

- **Nautilus**
  - API Generator
Expanding the user base from a software point of view

- What can we do to support a wider variety of textual data?
- What are our limitations?
CTS and its limitation as an API and a data model

- Identifiers and metadata scheme
- Amount of texts
- Reliability of responses across implementations
How we actually repeated our errors

- MyCapytain 1.0.0 > 2.0.0
  - Data model = Distributed Text Services
  - Underlying hardcoded models
  - Remainings of CTS dependency

- MyCapytain 2.0.0 > 3.0.0
  - Data model ~ DTS
  - Open Public Discussions (Issue 165)
What’s documentation ? What we did wrong

- Focused on developer documentation
- Some technical explanations about the why
- Still, difficulties to catch up :
  a. Code base starting to be large
     ■ Naming convention can be as efficient as difficult
  b. Focusing on tutorials and python notebooks would have been better ?

Legend : Which Capitains software should I use again ?
What’s documentation? What we should have done

- Priorities: making the most useful packages easier to pick up
- Tutorials
  - [https://github.com/Capitains/tutorial-nemo](https://github.com/Capitains/tutorial-nemo)
- Nemo Template App
  - [https://github.com/capitains/nemo-template-app](https://github.com/capitains/nemo-template-app)
Organizing workshops: Whom for? What for?

- Lot of workshops held in Europe + USA
- User base = Original Institutions + New Institutions of former members of the original institutions
- So what did we do wrong?

Capitains trainer facing the results of years of workshops
Organizing workshops: Past Results

- Focused mainly on data production
- But what's the point if you do not have a website?

Munich, Antikensammlungen J 1493, d'après LIMC, s. v. Sisyphos n° 6.
http://books.openedition.org/pupo/1834
Organizing workshops: Target software?

- Hooktest?
- MyCapytain?
- Nemo / Nautilus?
Organizing workshops: Nemo

- Make using Nemo simpler
- Reduce or take into account skills required before your own software
  - Reevaluate after each training!
- Think about the technical needs
  - We all hate windows but some users will have it. Try to prevent being surprised.
- Train to hack, not to know.

Title: Our Wake Up Call
(Capitains does not promote violence against fellow open source programmers)
https://imgflip.com/i/2bt3or
Organizing Workshops : The future

- People should leave with real knowledge
- Workshops
  - Intensive and in person
  - 6/8 trainees per trainer
- Try to have a simpler version of Nemo, the simplest possible

It should be as simple and as complex as this. It’s not a perfect plane, but it still is one.
Conclusion

- Regular call for feedback
  - For code
  - For improving accessibility
  - [https://github.com/Capitains/MyCapytain/issues/149](https://github.com/Capitains/MyCapytain/issues/149)

- Limit the concentration of power and knowledge
  - Build a real community of discoverers, users and developers knowing that there is a large spectrum in between these categories
  - Make things clearer!
Thanks!

Capitains.org
GitHub.com/Capitains