

OPENFOAM Porting and Help for New Users

June 9, 2007

Outline

① Porting

② User participation

The current status

What is missing

③ This session

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The status

- **OPENFOAM is very portable**
 - As long as it is LINUX™
 - You use the latest g++
- **OPENFOAM is easy to install**
 - if only one user wants to use the installation
 - who happens to be yourself
- **OPENFOAM is easy to use**
 - If you like command lines

The reality

- People have non-LINUX™ machines
 - Sometimes even (shudder) WINDOWS™
- Not everybody is allowed to install software on his machine
- More than one person may use an installation
- Some admins want more sophisticated packaging than tar
- Not everyone develops his code by himself
 - Wants a reliable, non-bleeding-edge version

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The Message Board

`http://openfoam.cfd-online.com/cgi-bin/forum/show.cgi`

- Active since ? (postings from 2002 found)
- Quite active
 - approximately 50 messages per day
- Quality of the answers is quite good
 - provided the question is well asked
- Answering questions is easy
 - Just pick a question that
 - ① was difficult for you 3 months ago
 - ② is trivial to you now
- It is not always clear whether the information is current

The Wiki

`http://openfoamwiki.net/`

- Active since June 2005
- Not very active
 - Approximately 7-10 edits per week
- The idea was to have a site where information from the message board can be collected in an up-to-date fashion
 - And distribute software that you're proud of
- Contributing to the Wiki is easy
 - Even poorly written pages get response (look at the Mac-Port-page)
 - Even non-perfect code gets responses (look at the icoLagrangianFoam-solver)

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Things we know from other OpenSource-projects

- A structured way for users to
 - Contribute code
 - Get up-to-date, bug-fixed versions
- A structured way to keep track of problems
 - Bug-reporting on the Message Board is unstructured

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What is in it

Porting

- **Bernhard Gschaider** - OPENFOAM on MAC OS X
- **Petr Vita** - OPENFOAM on WINDOWS™

Source contribution

- **Martin Beaudoin** - Public Access Development Repository

What could have been

- Packaging
- Support for multi-user environments
- Usability

But that seems to be covered in the afternoon session