

The WPI CS Department and the CCC are happy to announce the availability of the SourceForge collaborative development environment for the WPI community, thanks to a generous grant from VA Software.

SourceForge is a centralized and secure set of tools for the management of software development projects. SourceForge supports collaboration within and between project groups and teams, whether centrally located or geographically remote from one another. SourceForge includes tools for maintaining and tracking multiple versions and revisions of source code and documentation, the ability to create and track software release packages, and tracking tasks and assignments within project groups.

SourceForge also has extensive discussion group capabilities, including mailing list gateways and the ability to monitor those discussion groups.

In addition, SourceForge provides tools for browsing and managing a source code repository which can be accessed through any development tool capable of using a CVS repository, including Eclipse, WinCVS, and the UNIX command-line CVS tools. Interface plug-ins are also available for Microsoft Office 2003 and Office XP and Microsoft Project 2002 and 2003.

SourceForge is an ideal tool for coordinating student projects and software development for coursework, IQPs, and MQPs. Since any user with a web browser and internet access, can use SourceForge, it can assist collaborative work with researchers or student groups at other institutions.

SourceForge is also ideal for tracking projects for courses or for student organizations.

General information about SourceForge can be found at <http://www.vasoftware.com>. WPI's own SourceForge system is located at <http://sourceforge.wpi.edu>. Extensive on-line documentation is available within the application itself, and a support and discussion forum has been created for users of WPI's SourceForge system.

Terms of use

SourceForge has been donated to WPI by VA Software. According to the agreement, SourceForge may be used by any member of the WPI community for academic, non-commercial use. Specifically the agreement states that it can be used:

“(i) for academic coursework purposes (no rights to use the Software for any commercial, paid research, internal university IT development or other unauthorized purpose are granted under this Order; and (ii) in conjunction with the coordination efforts of the Administrator(s) designated above. Notwithstanding the prior sentence, Customer may use the Software for the following non-commercial use:

- a. Software projects that are part of campus organizations and clubs, such as the WPI Games Development Club, Student chapter of the ACM, and the various research and technology groups.
- b. Projects that are part of students Major Qualifying Projects and Interactive Qualifying Projects, as well as graduate students for their research projects, leading to their advanced degrees.
- c. Intellectual collaboration between faculty and students and faculty and students at other academic institutions.”

You should also be mindful of any WPI regulations about intellectual property. Information may be found at <http://www.wpi.edu/Pubs/Policies/Judicial/sect13.html>.

Obtaining an account

To use SourceForge, you must create an account. You can do this as follows:

- click on Create an Account
- Fill out the account creation screen.
 - You MUST use your WPI user name (e.g., gpollice)
 - Use your WPI e-mail address
- Submit the form. Once it is approved, you will receive an e-mail message that will give you a link to a page for you to activate your account. You must do this in order for your account to become active.

You will be made a restricted user of the system. This allows you to create projects and join other public projects.

Outside collaborators

If you are collaborating on a project with someone outside of WPI and you want them to be able to work on a project with you, you should have them request an account on the WPI SourceForge system and indicate in their request, what project they are working on, and provide your name so we can verify their participation with you before allowing them access.

Projects

You may create projects on SourceForge. There are public and private projects. Public projects are encouraged for any work that is open source software, or work that you might like other people to know about, either as a viewer or as a potential project member. If your project is one that will be restricted to a specific group of people, you should make it a private project.

Requesting a project creation

After you log into SourceForge, you request a project as follows:

- Go to My Workspace > Projects.
- Click *Create Project*.
- Fill out the request form. If your project is a public project, use the *Public Project Template*. If your project is one that should not be visible to all users, use the *Project Template*.
- Submit the form. Once it is approved, you will receive an e-mail notification.

Repositories

If you need to have a version control repository, you can go to your project's *Source Code* page and click *Create Repository*. Fill out the request form and specify a unique directory name, like *myproject01* or something that will not collide with other repositories. Submit the form and you will receive an e-mail notification that the repository is available. You can then check documents, code, or other artifacts into the repository for version control.

Making a project template

Professors are encouraged to create project templates that most fit their needs and their students' needs. Information on how to create a project template is contained in the SourceForge on-line help. If you create a project template and want others to be able to use it, notify the SourceForge administrator.

Getting Help

SourceForge has a good on-line manual and help section. If you have specific questions, you can address them to the SourceForge administrators. You should Join the WPI SourceForge project for information about SourceForge and to view questions and answers that have been posted by the community and administrators.

Training

We are working on putting together training sessions for the WPI community and will keep you posted.