

EiffelRSS

Experience Report

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Abstract

The experience report describes the teamwork, things learned, difficulties, etc. from each project members' point of view.

1 Michael Käser

I learned quite a lot of new things during the work, mainly in terms of teamwork. I haven't really programmed in a team before this project and always thought that it must be quite troublesome, but Thomas had a lot of experience and knew some very good tools which made everything very easy, for example the Wiki, Subversion and his great L^AT_EX templates. We also could divide the work quite good in three parts.

This project was also the first time that I actually thought a lot about the design of my classes before writing them. This wasn't a problem for me, but I had a lot of difficulties with the EiffelNet library, because it is so poorly documented and implemented. Without any examples you have to read all the code to understand how it actually works.

In the end I'm really happy with the result of this project. The design is fine and the library is useful. The project was a good experience and definitively the most interesting thing at ETH until now.

2 Martin Luder

During the work on this project, I've learned a lot: Newsreader was my first GUI that really does something. I've never worked with Subversion (or any similar tool) before. Because of Subversion, the teamwork worked flawless, and when there were any questions about the library, I'd just post it to the Wiki and would get an answer quickly.

I didn't really have many difficulties, because the biggest part of the work was with EiffelVision, which is quite simple to handle (although it didn't support all the things I wanted to do, like GIF support). But some issues in EiffelNet and other parts of the Eiffel library annoyed me nonetheless, because Newsreader just wouldn't load some feeds and it took some time until Michael and Thomas worked around them.

Overall, this project was the best thing during the whole term. It was a lot of fun actually doing something concrete after all the theory!

3 Thomas Weibel

To work on this project was really exciting and I learned a lot, especially about Eiffel programming, teamwork and syndication standards or better the lack of standards.

The teamwork was excellent. We discussed most design issues in the Wiki and had a weekly project meeting. The Wiki helped a lot to coordinate our work. To manage our source code, we used Subversion which is an extremely good tool for such a quick evolving project like EiffelRSS. Subversion allowed us to

easily restructure our clusters and classes without losing the whole revision history.

Most problems I encountered had to do with ISE Eiffel. I really enjoyed programming with Eiffel but the Eiffel library of ISE is very cumbersome:

- No real stream concept, e.g. input and output are no files
- No sortable data structures to implement sorting by different criterias, e.g. sort a list of addresses according to requirements by name, phone or city.
- Only very meagre network support, e.g. no HTTP 1.1 client/server implementation

Fortunately ISE delivers Gobo with EiffelStudio.

In conclusion, I think we have every reason to be proud of what we have achieved especially by considering the limited time we had available.