

# *The Edukalibre Project*

*EdukaLibre*

Edukalibre: a tool for collaborative creation of  
educational material

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*EdukaLibre*

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# *Basics of Libre Software developing models*

- Libre: free, open source
- Collaboration by groups of people
- Sporadic contributions (bug, patches) by anybody
- Heavily dependent on software (CVS, SourceForge, bug tracking systems, mail lists, etc.)
- Asynchronous, geographically distributed
- Frequent releases, feedback quickly considered
- Many actors in the distribution chain

# *Differences when translating to education*

- Materials are usually the product of few authors working together
- Not many contributions from people other than authors
- Basic software usage (and experience)
- Infrequent releases, feedback only seldom considered
- Distribution dependent on publishers

## *However...*

- Education is a cooperative process by nature
- Students and other teachers have similar needs
- Curricula is similar for the same studies
- Education is more and more supported by web-based systems
- Use in many places is rewarding enough
- Some seminar experiences (MIT OpenCourseWare)

# *Main barriers*

- Philosophical
  - shared authorship vs. “my toy”
  - others (even students) can contribute
- Legal
  - New Licenses (GNU FDL, Creative Commons, Open Documentation License, etc.)
- Practical
  - Software support with small learning curve is needed

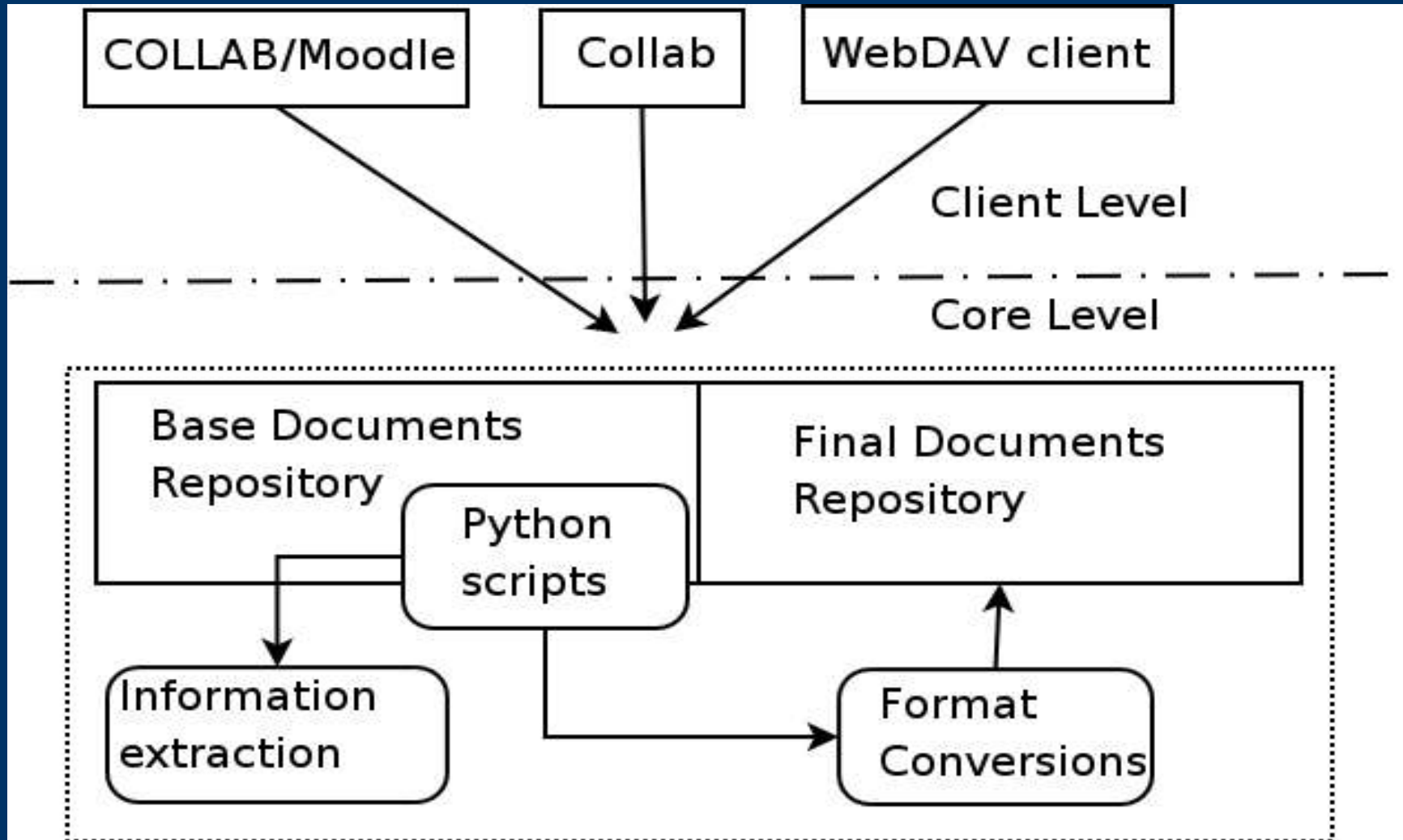
# *Edukalibre project*

- Building and testing a software system for collaborative production of educational materials (books, manuals, tutorials, etc.)
- Simple to use environment, common to educators
- Built with free software (mainly by glue-scripting)
- In one sentence: “combine the good of wiki, cvs and structured markup with common word processors and groupware tools”

# *Edukalibre system: Features*

- Repository based on Subversion (version control system)
- Access:
  - Direct, via WebDAV
  - Web based (standalone PHP application)
  - Moodle based (from a Moodle module)
- Automatic format conversion
- Main supported format: DocBook/XML
  - Edited using: DocBook editors, OpenOffice
  - Generated formats: PDF, HTML, OpenOffice, text (others in the work)
- Other formats: LaTeX, OpenOffice

# Edukalibre System: Architecture



## *Collab: standalone web interface*

- Focused in interfacing to all the capabilities of the repository
- Several views for documents (in different formats)
- Access to all versions of the documents
- Automated conversion of documents to all formats
- Easy interface to edit documents

<http://edukalibre.org/software/collab-0.8.tgz>

# *Repository Manager*

- Based on Subversion
- Integrates automatic format conversions
- Provides version control
- Provides concurrency control
- Provides basic authentication (by now)

<http://edukalibre.org/software/repository-manager-0.8.tgz>

# *Conversion Tools*

- Based on various free applications
- Used by the Repository Manager
- Can be used out of the Edukalibre System
- Formats
  - Base formats, editable like OpenOffice, DocBook and LaTeX
  - Printable like PDF or Postscript
  - Versatile like HTML

<http://edukalibre.org/software/conversion-tools-0.8.tgz>

## *Edukalibre: usual way of working*

- Create a document (or select an existing one) in a repository
- Access it through one or several interfaces (Moodle, Collab, editor)
- Upload new versions, all formats are generated
- Access the history of versions
- Casual readers can also send modifications to the authors
- Anyone can install a repository
- Interfaces can access documents in any repository

# *Current development (testing branch)*

- Better support for OpenOffice DocBook style
- Support for more base formats
- Tree-like structure of versions (using svn branches)
- Improvements in the access control methods
- Conversions from/to wiki formats
- More usability
- More simple to install

# *Conclusions*

Come and give Edukalibre a try!

We have public releases available!

And we have available space in our stable repository for you

# References

- Main site  
<http://edukalibre.org>
- Mailing list  
[edukalibre-dev@edukalibre.org](mailto:edukalibre-dev@edukalibre.org)
- Source code  
<http://edukalibre.org:8080/edukalibre-dev>
- Packed software  
<http://edukalibre.org/software>