St. Francis - Lutece

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What is St. Francis?

- Community center in Baltimore City
- Long waitlists for the programs
- Rapidly expanding
- Can't handle sign-ups manually anymore

Lutece

- Framework developed by a team in Paris, France
  - http://www.lutece.paris.fr/
  - Websites built for cities
  - Plugins such as appointments, forms, newsletters
- Powers the websites of several major cities such as Paris and Leon

Our Goals

- User friendly UI, so that even people without much technical knowledge can use our website
- Appointment/Enrollment plugins
- Manual for Christi and the rest of staff to explain the Back Office

The Process

Our Website

- http://stfrancis-dev.sis.jhu.edu/lutece/
- Allows for online scheduling for the St. Francis Community Center
- Easy to use
  - Responsive design - works on mobile devices
- Seperate from the St. Francis website
- Makes scheduling easier, more efficient
  - St. Francis employees can dedicate time to other things

Features

- Appointment Sign Ups: Yoga, Narcotics Anonymous
- Enrollment Sign Ups: Youth Development Programs, Volunteering
- Back Office allows St. Francis staff to change the contents and view who has signed up
- DEMO TIME!
- Manual:

  https://docs.google.com/document/d/11cQWkXUIWWTPVLs5gAGWOhgAf_JS1ShWs9rMyL71fng/edit?usp=sharing

Challenges We Faced

- Installing Lutece
- Losing a team member
- Integrating the plugins we needed
- Creating our own plugin
    - Getting familiar with the code base
    - Working off of the appointment plugin code

The Big Picture

Pros of Lutece

- Over 500 plugins available
  - http://dev.lutece.paris.fr/nexus/content/groups/snapshot_repository/fr/paris/lutece/plugins/
- Built specifically for cities and city management projects
  - No need to rebuild basic functionalities needed
  - Can create new plugins if the plugin needed does not exist
- Lutece team was very approachable
  - Willing to expand Lutece to other cities
- Code has many templates and patterns
  - Very structured organization of files
- Use of the Back Office is straightforward

Cons of Lutece

- Translating from French
  - Both web portal and documentation
- Limited documentation
  - Takes a while to learn the structure
- Simple tasks require a lot of coding in order to fit in with the structure
  - Makes it difficult for St Francis' staff to continue developing the portal further i.e. front office
- Small bugs that the developers can fix quickly

Overall Analysis of Lutece

- Powerful tool
  - More useful than Wordpress
  - No need to code everything from scratch
- With better documentation and full translation to English would make Lutece valuable for cities
- Steep learning curve BUT once you overcome it, there are many possibilities to enhance the web portal
- OVERALL: Needs time and investment but has a lot of potential