

demexp

*The demexp software
for
the Democratic Experience project*

demexp development team

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www.demexp.org

Democratic Experience project

- ◆ Representative democracy is not democratic enough
 - ◆ Democratic Experience project (www.demexp.org)
 - ◆ Everybody can ask a question
Is software patentable?
 - ◆ Everybody can propose an answer
Yes / No / Yes for 2 years / Yes for 5 years / Wrong question
 - ◆ Everybody can vote
⇒ extract from votes the whole group position
- ⇒ Needs for a ***specific*** Voting Software

What is the demexp software?

- ◆ Data base of Questions ⇒ Position base
- ◆ A Classification system
each question is tagged with keywords (e.g. “patents”)
- ◆ A Delegation system
I can delegate “patents” category to Bruce Perens, Brandon
Robinson, Debian, ...
- ◆ Condorcet voting
Choose the best consensus (used in the Debian project)
- ◆ Free software: GNU GPL license

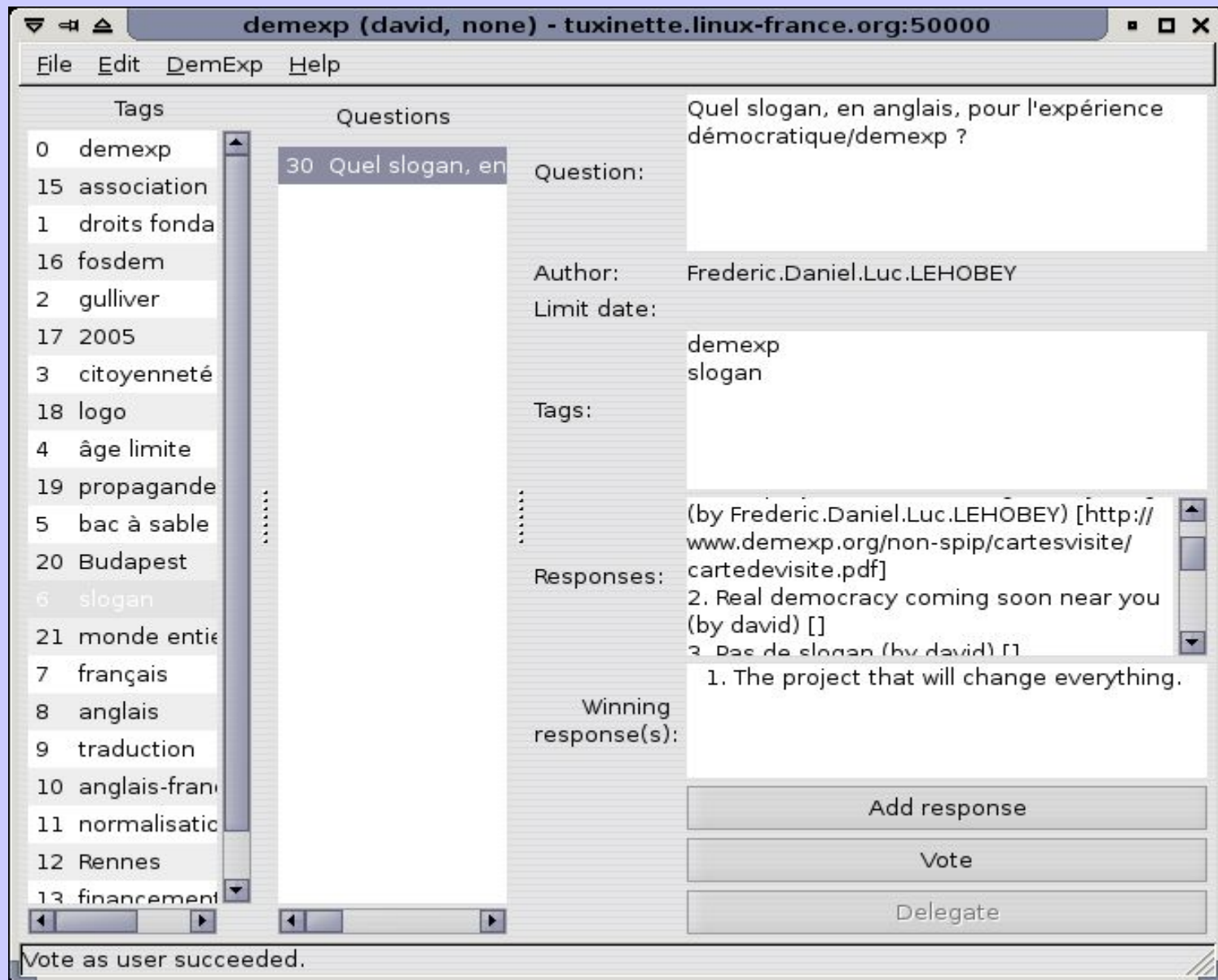
demexp design

- ◆ Client/Server architecture, RPC based protocol
- ◆ a graphical client (GTK 2)
- ◆ Client & Server written in Objective Caml
as fast as C, as safe as Ada, as fun programming as Lisp
- ◆ Try to have the best programming practice
unit & integration tests, literate programming doc like T_EX
- ◆ Rely on standards
client/server communication uses RPC (RFC 1831),
import/export in XML

demexp status (v0.3.5) : server

- ◆ Implemented
 - ◆ questions, Condorcet voting, classification, network, unit and integration tests, load/save bases in XML
- ◆ Still missing
 - ◆ delegation, i18n & l10n, security
- ◆ As is, demexp can be used!
 - ◆ not less secure than an HTTP server

demexp status (v0.3.5) : client



Future of demexp (1/2)

- ◆ Polish for v0.4
 - ◆ fix some performance and UI issues
 - ◆ test it on small beta groups (LUGs, small communities)
- ◆ For v0.6/0.8/0.10, design & implement:
 - ◆ internationalization and localization
 - ◆ delegation
 - ◆ security & cryptography
 - ◆ reuse of recognized, external libraries
 - ◆ maybe specific crypto to fulfill Condorcet voting needs

Future of demexp (2/2)

- ◆ For 1.0: have several clients
 - ◆ Graphical User Interface is **very** important (not only Web interface): impacts usability
 - ◆ database backend
- ◆ Next
 - ◆ scalability: 100 billion questions, 6 billion voters, distributed servers, ...
“Enough vote for each atom in the universe” :-)
 - ◆ improved classification
 - ◆ automatic update system

To conclude

- ◆ We have working code but far from our end goal
 - ◆ Very broad project: all fields of computer science
classification, distributed systems, data bases, user interfaces, security, ...
 - ◆ **Everybody is welcome**
 - ◆ savannah.nongnu.org/projects/demexp
 - ◆ bring us your expertise
 - ◆ we are open to any solution: any language, any user interface, new designs
 - ◆ Democracy rules :-)
- www.demexp.org