freedesktop.org update

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... and Keith Packard
Things you'll hear today

• Glib quips about the past
  • A semi-accurate description of the present
    • Handwaving about the future
  • a desperate plea for help hello can you hear me
What is freedesktop.org?

• Founded in 2000 by Havoc Pennington

• Discussion forum for common desktop standards

• Standardising drag and drop, copy and paste, etc
What happened to fd.o after that?

• Desktops collaborated on a lot of common standards
  • Common MIME types, theming, interop concerns
  • Eventually grew CVS support for hosting code
Interlude: What was xwin.org?

- X Consortium essentially did not exist
- XFree86 a closed shop, becoming more hostile
- Large group of developers formed discussion group
xwin.org gets a bit out of hand

• The Open Group agree to host discussion forums
  • XFree86 4.3 merged into X11R6.6
  • X11R6.7 released as a continuation
• X.Org Foundation gains independence from TOG
When Two Become One

• Made sense to merge with so many shared interests
  • fd.o absorbed xwin.org communities and projects
    • Existing fd.o standard development continued
  • 'XDG' standards family, e.g. autostart/desktop files
2004: fd.o gets a lot out of hand

• CVS hosting was difficult and rare back then
  • We offered hosting for basically anyone
• Effort to push fd.o as kind of LSB-style org (failed)
2006: fd.o gets a bit lost

• Little coherence between projects
  • More SourceForge than LSB
  • Leadership didn't want to be leading
• No-one covering all projects, or too busy hacking
2009: fd.o gets very lost

• About 15 people with root, no-one using it

• Few if any long-term plans for infrastructure maintenance
  • No way to discuss project-specific issues
  • No-one to discuss project-specific issues
2012: Emerging from the wilderness years

- Tollef Fog Heen sponsored part-time for admin work
  - Keith more actively picks up community issues
    - I relent and start doing admin work again
  - Joe Rayhawk, Rob McQueen, Adam Jackson, Eric Anholt assisting
2015: Out of the woods, dazed and confused

- Unclear what our mission was
- Almost zero communication with our projects
- Admin work treading water, technical debt
- First experiments with new services (Phabricator, Jenkins)
2017: Light at the end of the tunnel

• Boring technical debt aggressively paid down
• Infrastructure no longer disgracefully unreliable
  • Code of Conduct introduced
• Long discussions with GNOME about GitLab
Taking stock in 2018

• Open, neutral collaboration space
• Very loose coalition of projects
• Running exclusively on free and controlled services
• Good intentions, mixed execution
Community numbers

- 42-ish active projects
- 28 dormant projects (no activity in Git)
- 30 extinct projects (never moved from CVS)
- 31 departed projects (24 to GitHub)
What we offer our communities

• Code, issue, web, mailing list hosting

• Apologetic responses to reasonable requests

• ???
Modernising our user-facing services

• No-one really likes Bugzilla
• Not everyone likes mailing list patch review
  • CI no longer optional
Modernising our project-facing services

• Blocking on admins for account creation not OK
  • GPG keys??????

• External identity providers extremely helpful
  • 2FA also extremely helpful
Standing up GitLab

- Took part in long discussion with GNOME
- Phabricator not an option due to UI issues
- GitLab an attractive, integrated product
  - Upstream cares about open source
hi everyone what is the cloud please

• Existing fd.o machines not up to running GitLab
• Provisioning new machines at PSU a *lot* of work
  • GitLab sponsoring us to run on Google Cloud
  • I now know what Kubernetes is
Current GitLab status

• Vast majority of projects successfully migrated
• A couple of small projects left to do real soon
  • GStreamer, specifications still very WIP
  • Kernel actively blocked until end of year

GitLab issue: freedesktop/freedesktop#2
gitlab$ du -sh

- 35GB Git repos (+ 7GB git-lfs)
- 7GB CI artifacts
- 800MB file uploads
- ... 157GB Docker registry images
gitlab$ netstat

• 220GB/mo to EMEA
• 180GB/mo to US
• 40GB/mo to APAC
• 15GB/mo to China
• 5GB/mo to Australia
Fuzzy community stuff

or:

What is fd.o besides 2018 SourceForge?
Governance and transparency

• GitLab costs £320pm, paid for by GitLab for now
  • A few thousand $US in the bank
  • ... ?
Fixing governance and transparency

• Need to clearly define what we do and why

• Make our obligations to projects clear, and v/v
  • Open, accountable, electable
  • A lot like the X.Org Foundation
X.Org Foundation

• Already exists since 2004

• Also a SPI member project

• Has actual elected board, actual meetings

• Real good at organising conferences (applause)
freedesktop.org Foundation

or

listen if the X.Org Foundation is so great
why don't you just marry it already
freedeXktop.Org Foundation strawman

• X.Org Foundation takes responsibility for fd.o services
  • Does the Foundation expand its core mission?
  • Or keep mission the same, excluding some fd.o projects?
  • How independent does fd.o remain?
Division of responsibility

• Foundation Board can't quite do everything
  • Volunteers don't always work out

• Delegate specified people with power & responsibility
  • Infrastructure admin, Code of Conduct
Code of Conduct administration

• Current CoC committee: myself, Keith, Tollef
  • Want projects to be enforcing themselves
• We stand as further/highest escalation point
  • (Do we need more than this?)
Code of Conduct transparency

• What should we publish?
• How and where should we publish it?
• How often should we publish it?
Code of Conduct transparency: 2018

- 3 non-troll/abuse reports made
- No action taken on 2 reports
- Private discussion had after 1 report
- No mandated exclusions
Help wanted (aka 'growing our community')

- Have you even seen our website?
  - no really what is the cloud
- Specifications/standards listings & status
  - Help projects with best practice
- Issues on GitLab!
:)  
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