



freedesktop.org update

Daniel Stone

... 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](https://gitlab.com/freedesktop/freedesktop/issues/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!

??

- **?**

- **!**

- **.**

:)

`freedesktop@lists.freedesktop.org`

`https://gitlab.freedesktop.org/freedesktop/freedesktop/`