



Dear KDE e.V. member,

When one is busy, time flies by quicker than one expects. They say the same thing happens when you're having fun. When I look at the calendar and realize that we're already into the second month of 2009, I'm struck with just how quickly 2008 melted away. It's safe to say that we were both hard at work and having fun in the process.

Going forward, we have a series of very exciting programs underway, probably not least of which is a new Individual Supporting Members program. We also have the Gran Canaria Desktop Summit, which is an experiment in co-locating Akademy with GUADEC. It will be interesting to see what comes of this effort in the long run, though given the commitment and daily involvement of the organizers on the ground in Gran Canaria I am left with little doubt that things will go very well.

Combined with the technology project's efforts on KDE 4.3 and 4.4 later in the year, I have the sneaking suspicion that 2009 will fly by just as fast, if not faster, than 2008 did.

The beginning of 2009 is also a poignant time for me personally as a member of the KDE e.V. board, as I will soon be stepping aside as President to allow others to apply their own style and brand of input in this position. Rotating responsibilities is key in my opinion to keeping KDE true to its roots as a community project.

I'm very happy to announce that the board has collectively agreed that my successor as President of KDE e.V. will be Cornelius Schumacher.

Cornelius has been, and continues to be, a lynchpin member of the board. On occasion I will joke that Cornelius is my favourite procedure writer, as he has documented many of our procedures within KDE e.V. with clarity and precision. However, that bit of humor really doesn't capture with accuracy the full scope of Cornelius' contributions as a board member. He has provided us with

solid accounting and valuable organizational skills month after month, year after year. As such, I am more than confident in his stepping into the President's chair.

Cornelius will also benefit from the solid board members that have helped us build KDE e.V. over the past few years into what it has become.

We should all be quite proud of what we have achieved within this organization. It has never been as robust, professional and effective. In the spirit of continuous improvement, I am equally sure we will be able to say the same thing in five years time.

I would also take this opportunity to ask each and every one of the members of our society to examine their own involvement within KDE e.V. It operates smoothly only because we have members who step up and help get things done. We achieve things together that we can not achieve alone.

These activities range from the simple task of voting (and yes, Abstaining is better than not participating at all, as it tells the rest of us you still care and have a pulse!) to getting involved with KDE booths at community and corporate events to helping us organize legal or business efforts to providing mentorship to those doing these tasks with less life experience than you may have at your disposal.

While you ponder these things, let me just reiterate my pleasure in having been on the board serving alongside all of you and to say that I'll continue to apply the same level of energy and efforts to KDE as I always have, though perhaps via some new avenues. This is not a moment of my departure but a moment where others arrive and I get to pay attention to other things that could use it.

Through it all, your efforts and spirit continue to inspire me and others to continue on to achieve our shared goals. Thank you, and never lose that spirit.

Signed,
Aaron Seigo for the KDE e.V. Board
<kde-ev-board@kde.org>

Supported Member Activities

Developer Meetings and Sprints

KDE languages binding meeting, July 11th - 13th

KDE e.V. and KDAB sponsored a KDE language bindings meeting and hacking session on the weekend of 11th to 13th July 2008 at the KDAB offices in Berlin. Thomas Moenicke did a great job organizing the meeting, and kept the team going with the world-renowned KDAB coffee machine and plenty of crates of beer.

Developers for Python, Ruby, C#, PHP, and Lua bindings were present. They discussed the technical issues involved with language bindings such as creating the structures at runtime for making Qt's slots and signals work, implementing KDE plugins, and the best approach to implement Plasma script engine based bindings. It was discussed how the Kross cross-language scripting could be optimised in order to work better with PyQt and QtRuby, and some improvements for the Ruby bindings were implemented.

Joint OpenSync/KDE PIM Meeting, August 29th - 31st

The OpenSync and KDE PIM teams met at the KDAB office in Berlin to exchange experience, improve cooperation and work on KDE's OpenSync frontend KitchenSync and the Akonadi/OpenSync integration.

Akonadi Halloween Sprint, October 31st - November 2nd

The Akonadi team met during the Halloween weekend in the Linuxhotel in Essen, Germany to prepare Akonadi for its next release together with KDE 4.2. A special focus was on migration of the existing PIM data based on the old KResources infrastructure to Akonadi.

KOffice Sprint, November 7th - 9th

The KOffice team met for a coding/media sprint in Berlin to brainstorm on the upcoming 2.0.0 release. The team worked both on a strategy for getting the applications release-ready as well as on an accompanying marketing message.

Tradeshows and Community Events

Akademy 2008, August 8th - 16th

On Friday August 8th 2008, more than 350 KDE contributors came to the city of Mechelen to register for the event many had been looking forward to for almost a year: Akademy 2008. A full week of hard work, fun, and a little sleep resulted in many keynotes, talks, BoF's, blog articles and a lot of code.

The first keynote of the conference was given by Frank Karlitschek. He spoke about increasing community involvement by giving "power to the people", and the refreshing ideas in his talk represented Akademy 2008 in a nutshell: innovation and community. The changes in the community during the last few years prompted the talk about a new development process, further extended in a BoF session. The second keynote was delivered by Sebastian Nyström of Nokia, who discussed their involvement in Qt and KDE and gave away over 100 Nokia N810 devices to developers.

After the keynotes, two tracks with a variety of talks started, covering many topics in the areas of platform, libraries, research, applications, and the KDE community. One of the highlights of the event was the social event on Saturday night, which was sponsored by Nokia.

The conference ended with the Akademy Awards. Mark Kretschmann and the Amarok team, Nuno Pinheiro and the Oxygen team, and Aaron Seigo and the Plasma developers were awarded with the official metal gear and praise and recognition from the community. Of course, the organisers of this year's Akademy received a standing ovation as well.

Monday, August 11th was reserved for the KDE e.V.'s yearly general assembly. The membership endorsed the new Community Working Group and a Code of Conduct. The assembly also voted for the Fiduciary License Agreement (FLA), re-elected the board members Aaron Seigo and Cornelius Schumacher, and voted five new members into the e.V.

The rest of the week featured an Emsys-sponsored Embedded and Mobile Day, and lots of smaller meetings and BoF's. On Tuesday, the BoF sessions (done "unconference" style) started. During the BoF sessions, several rooms centering around a certain sub-project were available: the Amarok Den, the Plasma Hackers Containment, and the Office and PIM productivity room. In each of these rooms one could find 20-odd developers working on their respective applications, using the whiteboards to develop new interface concepts or discussing the weather (bad). Furthermore, two days were reserved for a more in-depth exploration of important topics: the HCI usability day and the Sun tutorials day. Thursday was spent on a boat trip.

Despite the impact of the keynotes and BoF's, much happened in the corridors, and no report can show the real impact of the Akademy meetings. But one thing is clear – this has been a great, fun and very productive meeting.

FrOSCon, August 23rd - 24th

Only one week after Akademy, the KDE community was active again at FrOSCon in St. Augustin, Germany. Apart from a KDE and Amarok booth, there were several KDE-related talks. Sebastian Kügler gave a talk on new concepts and features in KDE4 in the main conference track. In the developer room, Frederik Gladhorn spoke about KDE-Edu, Lydia Pintscher and Alexandra Leisse presented ways to get involved with the KDE community, Sven Krohls and Lydia showcased Amarok 2, and there was a talk about Kubuntu by Markus Czeslinki.

OpenExpo Winterthur, Switzerland, September 24th - 25th

KDE had a booth at OpenExpo in Winterthur where Luca Gugelmann, Alexandra Leisse, Claudia Rauch, and Eckhart Wörner demoed KDE 4.1 and took care of the smaller and bigger sorrows of the many interested visitors. Alexandra Leisse gave a well-received presentation about the upcoming release of KOffice 2. She showed the KOffice concepts and vision to a curious audience and answered some questions.

LatinoWare 2008, October 30th - November 1st

KDE had a strong presence at LatinoWare 2008. The event took place from Oct 30th to November 1st, and more than 3500 people attended. The geographical location was perfect for the intended audience, right in the middle of the triple frontier between Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, at Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil.

The KDE community in Latin America presented several sessions at the event, as part of the First Latin American KDE Forum. Talks covered almost everything about KDE, from games to Plasma, from coding in PyQt to managing your finances with KMyMoney, from KDE in Fedora to KDE-Edu and the work of the pt_BR team. The lineup of speakers included Helio Castro, Mauricio Piacentini, Roberto Alsina, Alvaro Soliveres, Fernando Boaglio, Frederico Gonçalves Guimarães and Cristiano Furtado. There was also a 6 hour workshop teaching the basics of coding with Qt, C++ and KDE Libs, thanks to our friends Sandro Andrade and Tomaz Canabrava from Faculdade Ruy Barbosa <<http://www.frb.br>>, Bahia.

We also managed to staff a booth at the expo, and shared a session with the GNOME community about cross-desktop experiences.

KDE's presence at LatinoWare was organized by e.V. members Mauricio Piacentini and Helio Castro.

Open Source Desktop Experiences Seminar, November 20th

November 20th, Jos Poortvliet gave a well-received talk at the Open Source Desktop Experiences seminar organized by the Dutch Department of Economics. The seminar targeted IT professionals from small businesses and government agencies. He explained the relationship between KDE and two companies prominent within the community, KDAB and Nokia. They represent two different business models relying on close collaboration with the KDE community. The community receives code and sponsorship. The companies benefit from bug reports, code and review of their work and further use the KDE community as hiring pool.

Linux Info Tag Oldenburg, November 15th

On November 15th, Carsten Niehaus gave a well-received talk at the Linux Info Tag in Oldenburg, North Germany. He demonstrated KDE 4.2 to about 60 interested users, many of them new to KDE and Linux. After the talk, Carsten was invited to a local TV station's discussion with four other FOSS community members about his experiences with Linux (and KDE) in schools. That talk can be downloaded at <http://www.hitsandbytes.de/>.

NLUUG Fall Conference 2008, November 6th

Will Stephenson spoke about network management in KDE 4 at NLUUG's Fall Conference in Ede, Netherlands. The talk was well-attended for a smaller talk, about 30 people were present, and the audience asked another questions afterwards.

SQO-OSS Project

On December 3rd, the EC-funded Software Quality Observatory for Open Source Software (SQO-OSS) project <<http://www.sqo-oss.org>>, was passed at its final review. The project has developed a new system for the automated assessment of software quality as well as new metrics for quality assessment. KDE e.V. was a full partner in the project with work being carried out by board members Adriaan de Groot and Sebastian Kugler. In addition, KDE e.V. patron KDAB and supporting member Sirius were also full partners in the project.

As part of this work, KDE e.V. received financial support from the European Commission in order to buy hardware upon which the EBN is currently hosted. A deployment of SQO-OSS system, "Alitheia Core", is planned in the near future for the benefit of all KDE developers.

Status Reports

Marketing Working Group Report

In December, the KDE Marketing Team held a meeting at the KDE e.V. office in Frankfurt, Germany. The meeting focused almost exclusively on public relations regarding the KDE 4.2 release. During the meeting, the team planned a social media press release, employing web 2.0 concepts to KDE's marketing efforts.

Furthermore, the messaging regarding the KDE 4.2 release has been carved out, and some progress has been made on a site oriented towards potential KDE users. The site will be launched later this year.

We especially encourage members of the internationalization and documentation teams to join and represent their needs.

System Administration Team Report

Sysadmin is a group of long-term KDE contributors and KDE e.V. members who are running the KDE server infrastructure. This includes services such as managing our Subversion source code repository; granting access to new contributors; keeping the bugs database operational; and, of course, keeping all our mission critical servers running smoothly.

Highlights of the two quarters system administration tasks:

- Created 138 Subversion accounts, and disabled 3 Subversion accounts.
- Created 11 kdemail.net aliases, modified 2 kdemail.net aliases, and disabled 2 kdemail.net aliases
- Created 16 kde.org aliases, modified 11 kde.org aliases, and disabled 2 kde.org aliases.

- Created 9 kde.org mailing-lists:
 - plasma-devel
 - plasma-bugs
 - bugsquad-triage
 - qtscript-bindings
 - kde-110n-sw
 - kde-110n-in
 - webkit-devel
 - solidkreator
 - kde-games-bugs

- Disabled 11 kde.org mailing-lists:
 - panel-devel
 - atlantik-devel
 - ksvg-devel
 - kde-i18n-devel
 - kreative3d
 - firedisk
 - kde-soccer
 - atlantik-artists
 - kc-kde
 - kde-asia
 - kplato

Contact this group with your system administration requirements by sending email to sysadmin@kde.org.

Welcome New Members

The KDE e.V. is happy to welcome the following new members:

- Aleix Pol Gonzalez
- Eckhart Woerner
- Pierre Ducroquet
- Sebastien Renard
- Patrick Spendrin
- Flavio Castelli
- Urs Wolfer
- Davide Bettio
- Thomas McGuire
- Dan Jensen
- Cho Sung-Jae
- Chani Armitage

Welcome to the KDE e.V.!

See the membership list page for more information, and instructions for how to join the e.V.

If you or your company is interested in providing financial support to the KDE project on a continuing basis please visit the Supporting Members pages on the KDE e.V. website.

Finances

Q3/Q4 2008

Income:

- €24,500 Akademy 2008 sponsorship
- €10,000 Supporting Members
- €18,500 GSoC 2008
- €9,600 Camp KDE sponsorship

Expenses:

- €8,500 Developer meetings
- €41,600 Akademy
- €21,000 Akademy travel support
- €500 Business cards
- €4,600 Miscellaneous travel
- €5,000 Office
- €700 Legal fees
- €700 OASIS membership
- €19,000 Employee

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At the end of this reporting period the KDE e.V. has a positive balance of €158,387.84

(Note: The financial numbers are rounded numbers for information only. They do not constitute an accurate accounting statement. Donations are not included).

For donor and sponsorship information please see the "Supporting KDE" website.

Signed The KDE e.V. Board:

- Aaron J. Seigo <aseigo@kde.org>, President
- Cornelius Schumacher <schumacher@kde.org>, Vice President
- Adriaan de Groot <groot@kde.org>, Vice President
- Sebastian Kügler <sebas@kde.org>, Board Member
- Klaas Freitag <freitag@kde.org>, Board Member

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