

COMMUNITY REPORT

1ST QUARTER, 2012 | ISSUE 21



WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear KDE members, contributors, users, supporters, patrons, sponsors and friends,

2012 is turning into a pivotal year for KDE in several areas. One of the most important is the Open Qt Governance, which is a great opportunity to improve collaboration between KDE and Qt. Exciting times are ahead of us in this area.

Akademy 2012—the KDE Community Summit—will take place in Tallinn, Estonia. It is the first time for our annual event to be in eastern Europe, which was a request from our contributors. Preparations are in full swing; this promises to be another great event. KDE has also had a presence at many events around the world promoting our software and values.

During the first quarter of 2012, KDE had major releases (4.8) of KDE Platform, Workspaces and Applications, and a minor stabilization release (4.8.1). These releases brought improvements in many areas, particularly KDE-PIM, Akonadi and Nepomuk.

People are quickly catching on to the idea that KDE software is a mature, yet innovative multi-platform and multi-device solution. Recent improvements in cloud services integration and the development of Vivaldi tablet are examples of KDE's momentum. They also demonstrate how successful we are when joining forces with other Free Software projects and organizations.

The KDE 4 series is attracting a lot of press and commercial attention. We have been honored with several

awards, which makes us proud of our achievements and generates positive energy to face new challenges.

The KDE Community is working on a new approach to strengthen relationships with other organizations through a networking program called KDE Connect. This new effort will be introduced at Akademy 2012.

We are looking forward to seeing you at Akademy 2012 in Tallinn on June 30th!

Agustín Benito Bethencourt for the KDE e.V. Board of Directors.

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momentum
mass x velocity

THE ALERT PROJECT

Stuart Jarvis



ALERT

The ALERT Project is a technology research project partly funded by the European Union. ALERT (Active support and real-time coordination based on Event pRocessing in FLOSS development) aims to improve the overall bug resolution process in Open Source developers' collaborative environments. It addresses the ways Free Software communities track bugs in software, how trends and issues are identified, and how problems are fixed through active collaboration. The project brings together partners from seven countries, from universities and research institutes to large IT consultancies. The partners range from those that are familiar with free software (a few laptops at meetings are running GNOME or KDE software) to those who had never used a free operating system before. KDE e.V. is a project partner and will be an end user, providing feedback and advice on the software system during development. To assist with this, Dario Freddi and Stuart Jarvis are contracted to the project as KDE experts.

The project has had its first annual review; the European Commission assessors were pleased with the progress. Most of the software components for extracting data from our bug tracker, forums, mailing lists and git repositories are now at the demo stage and are working well. The ALERT software will all be released as free software.

Two of subprojects of particular interest are bug duplicate detection and community member profiles.

The bug duplicate detection code ranks bugs by their likelihood of being a duplicate of an existing report. It is currently able to identify 40% of known duplicates by looking at the 5% closest related bugs. This raises the possibility of automatically suggesting potential duplicate bugs when a new report is filed, easing the burden on our developers and bug squashers.

The community profiler (with the catchy name of STARDOM) identifies key members in each team and particular strengths of developers. With this information, it may be possible to automatically suggest assignees for bugs. In this way, even if a bug is reported to the wrong team, there may be suggestions of someone better suited to take over the bug. Conversely, developers would be able to access a list of bugs that the system believes they could be well suited to solve.

The ALERT Project has over a year left to run. We expect to begin serious testing of the software before the end of 2012. Our chosen pilot project in KDE is Solid. If the trials are a success, we may try and integrate ALERT components into our existing infrastructure and make them available to all KDE contributors over the coming years.



FUTURE CITY

Ramon Miranda (& Krita)
with permission



Amsterdam - Past, Future

Mango open movie project concept art - CC-BY Blender Foundation, artwork: David Revoy

Mango open movie project concept art - CC-BY Blender Foundation, artwork: David Revoy (Krita)

SUPPORTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Developer Sprints



DIGIKAM
GENOA
January 2012
Martin Klapek

In the middle of cold January, the digiKam team met in Genoa, the sunny old port city in northern Italy. Participants started gathering on a Thursday evening, getting together over dinner to form new friendships and to find out how people's lives were going. The next day, real work started on digiKam, KDE's award-winning photo management application.

Optimization:

The main focus of this sprint was on optimization, but lots of new features found their places as well.

The two lead developers—Gilles Caulier and Marcel Wiesweg—met for the first time with the newest core developer, Francesco Riosa. The core team put their heads together to optimize database handling and processes so that performance can be improved. Gilles said, "We have talked about separating database information into dedicated files to prevent bloating files with unrelated information about images. This is already the case with thumbnails, which are hosted in a separate database file. I introduced the idea to do the same with fingerprints because this info can grow quickly and it has an influence on

database performance, especially with SQLite."

Projects:

Work then continued on improving even a simple operation such as rotating an image. Until now, the code for rotation was a plugin, and so required different handling.

may involve quality loss.) Thanks to this work, digiKam also gained multi-threaded metadata editing to go along with multiple-core CPUs. "I figured out a way to distribute the work—based on inter-thread Qt signals and slots—to multiple threads without having to change the existing code. The solution



digiKam Sprint Team

Marcel commented, "This had quite a few shortcomings; some RAW files simply cannot be rotated. For other formats the rotation step involves lossy editing. Building on work which Gilles started, I have integrated the rotation code into digiKam, reusing our existing editing framework. Rotation is multithreaded, fully integrated, and can be customized in the setup. It is now possible to rotate by setting a flag in the database, editing the metadata, or by rotating the full pixel data; falling back to the best possible solution if an operation is not supported". (RAW metadata may not be editable; for some formats, rotation by pixel data

works well.", added Marcel.

Francesco worked on internal digiKam dependencies, mainly porting LCMS to the LCMS version 2 library. LCMS is a color management system with a small footprint; the API changed significantly between LCMS versions. The porting task is not trivial, but it's important to keep digiKam in sync for the future. Other library dependencies were improved as well.

Gilles introduced a new progress manager. It informs the user of background activity, including (the new) rotation, scanning directories,



Genoa Plaza

DB processing, batch image processing, thumbnail generation and more. The progress manager presents running tasks in a readable way and allows users to cancel any operation easily. Now even kipi-plugins can take advantage of the new progress manager, and other plugins already do. Besides the digiKam collection management tool, Gilles also managed to close 40 bug reports in 2 days.

This was Dhruv Patel's first time in Europe, and, in fact, his first time outside India. Dhruv participated in Season of KDE last year, starting a QML presentation tool for digiKam. Dhruv continued the work in Genoa while others gave valuable feedback.

Local developer Daniele and

Martin, both KDE Telepathy developers, gave digiKam some Instant Messaging love. Daniele wrote a new kipi plugin that allows people to share pictures with their online friends directly via IM file transfer. Martin explored the possibility of integrating face recognition with Nepomuk and displaying semantic data about the recognized person, mainly their online status and a possibility to start chatting directly from the face recognition interface. A working prototype was spawned, but

the road to a complete feature is still long (including a complete rewrite of the digiKam interface with Nepomuk).

Other new features were born in Genoa as well. Angelo, a local developer, worked on improving printing of images from digiKam. Benjamin from France did tremendous work on a panorama stitching tool, which we tested right away as Genoa offered many nice vistas. It is now easy and straightforward to use—just give it a set of pics, let it do its magic, make the final crop and bam!...panorama picture. Lukasz, a contributor from Poland, worked on the Photo Layouts Editor kipi-plugin. With his work, users are now able to use SVG templates (in addition to transparent PNG and

GIF formats) while composing images into a layout.

Thank you:

The hacking room was generously provided by a local FLOSS awareness group called Alid, which brings free software to local schools, getting kids familiar with libre software starting from age 6. While the digiKam team was hard at work, some members of Alid prepared things to eat. Thanks to their great care and feeding, we got to try lots of local Italian specialties.

None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for KDE e.V., the main sponsor of this coding sprint. All the participants send a big 'Thank you!' to the supporting members of KDE e.V. for allowing us to make a huge leap forward with digiKam and to find new friends from all over the world.

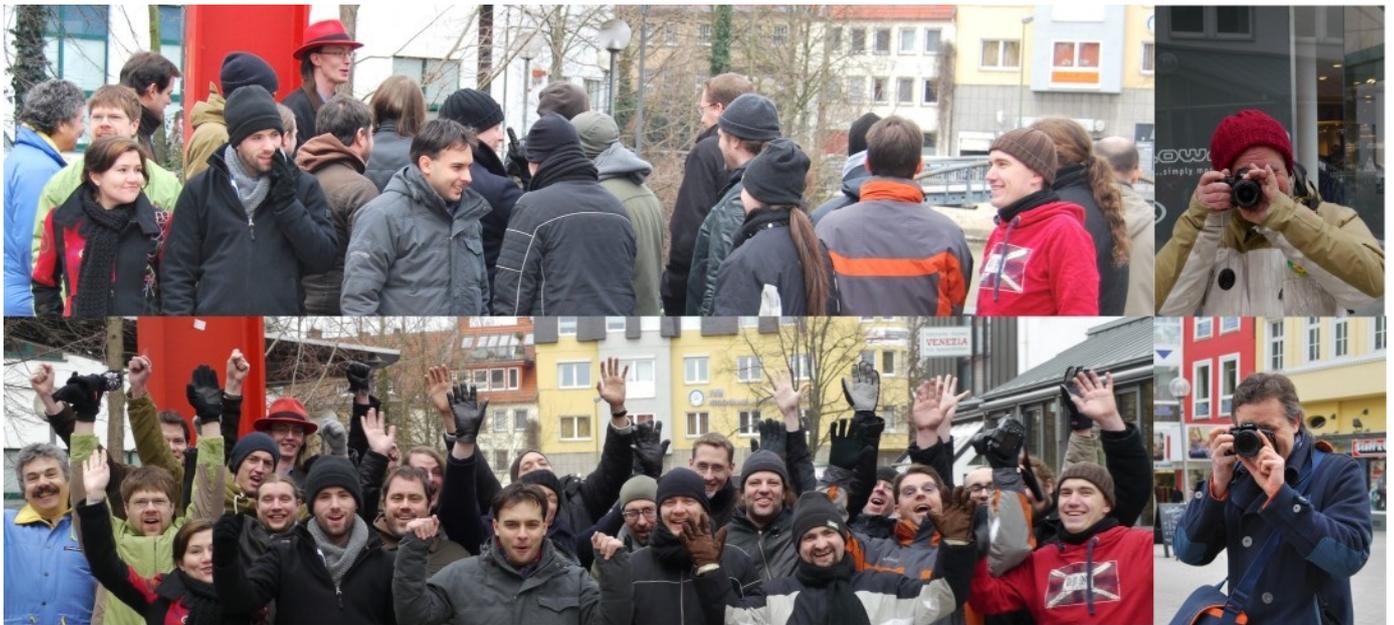
Photos courtesy of the digiKam Sprint Team

KDE PIM OSNABRÜCK February 2012

Jos Poortvliet

The 10th KDE PIM Meeting in Osnabrück took place from 10-12 February 2012. Starting with pizza Friday afternoon running until Sunday around 17:00, the meeting attracted more than 20 hackers working on the various parts of KDE PIM.

The meeting officially started on Friday when everyone had arrived around 16:30. Cornelius Schumacher took the lead, introducing 10 years of KDE PIM sprints making it the longest running series in KDE, as well as



KDE PIM Sprint Team

the first real sprint! Only three people have attended all ten meetings—Cornelius, Ingo and Bernhard.

The very first KDE PIM meeting brought together developers working independently on their respective applications. It was decided at that meeting to move KMail from the KDE Network group to the brand new KDE PIM CVS location, creating a real 'team' dedicated to maintaining the applications. At the KDE PIM sprint in 2004, there was a move towards deeper integration: the creation of one unified layer instead of separate data storage locations. And now, at this recent PIM sprint, the first real unified KDE PIM can be celebrated. Release 4.7 brought users 5 years of hard work, and in the 4.8.0 release, most problems from this huge merger have already been fixed.

Planning

After reminiscing, we went through introductions, started creating our Kanban list of TODO items and got to work. During the day there

were the usual moments of synchronization and overview-of-work-done. Throughout the sprint, there were bug fixing frenzies and "fix the problems of my mail setup" sessions.

The next morning we started by discussing progress from Friday. Difficult items were brought forward for the group to discuss. Part of this was a discussion about getting KDE PIM ready for KDE Frameworks 5. Kévin Ottens, KDE Frameworks 5 Release Manager, was present so this was a good time to discuss time lines and priorities. The conclusion was that KDE PIM will not likely go Frameworks 5 before the beginning of 2013.

Partnerships

Björn Balazs from OpenUsability.org joined us and presented a plan to gather more user feedback on KDE PIM. The idea was enthusiastically received. Some work was started to display images of KDE PIM hacker Stephen in the UI to put a "human face" on our apps. The exact implementation and upgrade

options (Upgrade to images of KDE PIM hacker Volker) were put on the table and are still not exactly clear. But we had fun with the joke. We expect the collaboration between KDE PIM, OpenUsability and openSUSE to lead to something interesting.

A couple of discussions related to Kolab and its relationship with KDE PIM. Christian Mollekopf presented the next generation of the Kolab XML format, which is based on xCard and xCal. Georg Greve presented the concept of putting Akonadi on the server to provide a scalable groupware solution making use of the experience and high-level functionality provided by the KDE PIM backend. Both are part of the current Kolab 3.0 development cycle. On top of that, there was some discussion about IMAP 5, which could converge protocol efforts around Kolab and Akonadi into a standard for wider usage. Tomas Koch, a student who is working on a thesis around KDE PIM, brought up the topic of creating a REST backend for Kolab, an interesting approach for refreshing the traditional protocols used for email and other PIM data.

Marketing and Platforms

Marketing was the focus of discussions in the afternoon. The refactoring of the KDE PIM backend is done, and there is a solid foundation. Now the perspective will switch to the user side, continually improving the applications and resolving issues. Users are encouraged to submit bug reports.

On Sunday we discussed platforms for Kontact Desktop and Kontact Touch. Android is hard, because it's a limited platform particularly with regard to the multi-process design of Kontact. Blackberry would be easier to support with its full Unix environment and Qt as its primary UI toolkit. iPhone simply won't be possible due to legal restrictions.

MeeGo versions of Kontact Touch are up and running, but the platform has some issues. To get this running will require either the creation of a touch-compatible QWidjet theme, or porting everything that is still not QML-based. Neither are particularly easy or fast to implement.

The QML porting work is also hampered by open build service issues. Moving from MeeGo to openSUSE or self-hosting are possibilities; these decisions belong to the Mer Project. They are not completely straightforward either due to requirements for application signing.

Meanwhile, Nokia's latest OS and Windows Mobile 8 are other possible targets for KDE PIM. Porting will probably be easy, but these are new developments and their directions and restrictions are not clear.

There was a discussion about KDE

PIM on Windows and Mac; both are close to "good enough". The biggest issue with these platforms is that they are understaffed. There is almost no awareness of the state of KDE on Windows and KDE on Mac. Both projects need only a small push to be ready to go.

KDE Telepathy

There was a video conference call on Sunday with some members of the Telepathy team to discuss the KDE contact aggregation strategy. Decisions came rather quickly: it makes most sense to store relations between contacts in Nepomuk as this is exactly what Nepomuk has been designed to do. Some performance issues still exist, but the team expects that these can be addressed rather quickly.

Appreciation

Dinner was sponsored by Intevation, KDAB and Kolab Systems on both evenings. Thank you for keeping us well fed! And thank you to KDE e.V. for sponsoring accommodation and travel expenses.

Trade Shows and Community Events

SCALE 10X LOS ANGELES January 2012

Barrington Daltrey

The Southern California Linux Exposition 10x (SCALE) was held in Los Angeles, California at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton. This year's SCALE was very successful in terms of participation and vendor sponsorship.

KDE is increasingly well received each year, especially as the stability and resource usage have improved so much. It's really a pleasure to demonstrate Workspaces and software that are equal to or better than anything else available.

Some visitors were experienced Linux users who said, "I tried 4.x and it crashed a lot and was a resource hog." After a short demo, they were eager to install KDE 4.8 on their computers. Another type of visitor asked, "Why can't KDE do ... ?" Because KDE has such excellent customization possibilities, as well as the ability to use non-KDE software, the answer was, "Yes it can ... here's how." Many people were unclear as to how widgets and activities can be used. After a short demo, they were ready to implement features whose value they did not previously understand.

For the techies, we showed off simple Kdialog GUIs and a cool integration of KDE software running on a remote computer via an ssh connection and running a (remote) KDE 3.5 panel on the local KDE 4.7 desktop.

The scope of SCALE was awesome. There were talks ranging from cloud implementation to best practices in security, to protecting GPL and other open source copyrights. Various open source packages oriented toward educators were shown. The KDE booth was flanked by Facebook and Linux astronomy. The astronomy group had collections of home-made step-motors, bread boards and equipment mounts with binoculars, telescopes and camera lenses, all driven by Linux to gaze at the stars (or just get a close-up of what was going on across the

room). The KDE exhibit got great support from other organizations (OpenSUSE who provided some give-away disks, Qt, Ubuntu, various BSD organizations, and others).

Recruiters for Linux programmers were also present. There has been a significant increase in the participation of women who use (and program) Linux. This is an important development; I hope they will convince my wife to quit using the clunky and expensive proprietary software!

FOSDEM BRUSSELS

February 2012

Claudia Rauch, photos by Jonathan Riddell

As in recent years, KDE had a large presence at FOSDEM. There were more than 20 KDE folks present, staffing the KDE booth, milling in the hallways or giving talks in the Cross-Desktop Devroom.



KDEWear at FOSDEM



Lydia presents Open Advice

There were many visitors to the KDE booth. Demos of KDE Software on every form factor—mobile, tablet, desktop, cloud and server—were of particular interest. We also had cool new KDE t-shirts at the booth which were almost sold out at the

end of the event.

In the Crossdesktop Devroom, there were several talks about KDE and Qt. One of the highlights was the presentation of the book "Open Advice", a collection of knowledge and experience from a wide variety of Free Software projects. The book was compiled and edited by Lydia Pintscher, KDE e.V. Board member.

CeBIT HANOVER March 2012

After two years absence, KDE presented again at CeBIT 2012—the world's largest computer expo, which took place from March 6th to 10th in Hanover, Germany. The KDE booth was part of the Open Source Project Lounge. The booth presence was organized by Eckhart Wörner who was supported by seven other KDE contributors throughout the event. They presented a variety of KDE software, including the latest

Plasma Desktop and the first release of the Calligra Office and Creative Suite. Aaron Seigo demonstrated an early version of Plasma Active—KDE’s Workspace for mobile devices—on a prototype of the Vivaldi tablet, a collaborative effort involving several members of the KDE Community.

LeThAc
NEW DELHI
March 2012

Shreya Pandit

LeThAc (Learn, Think, Act) was an open source conclave organized by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University in New Delhi, India from 9-10th March, 2012. The conclave brought together open source enthusiasts and eminent people in the open source industry in one place for shared learning and spreading awareness about the growing FOSS industry.

KDE is a recognized leader in the free software world, hence was an integral part of the event. The popularity that KDE has among budding software developers is phenomenal, and so KDE was one of the partners in LeThAc.

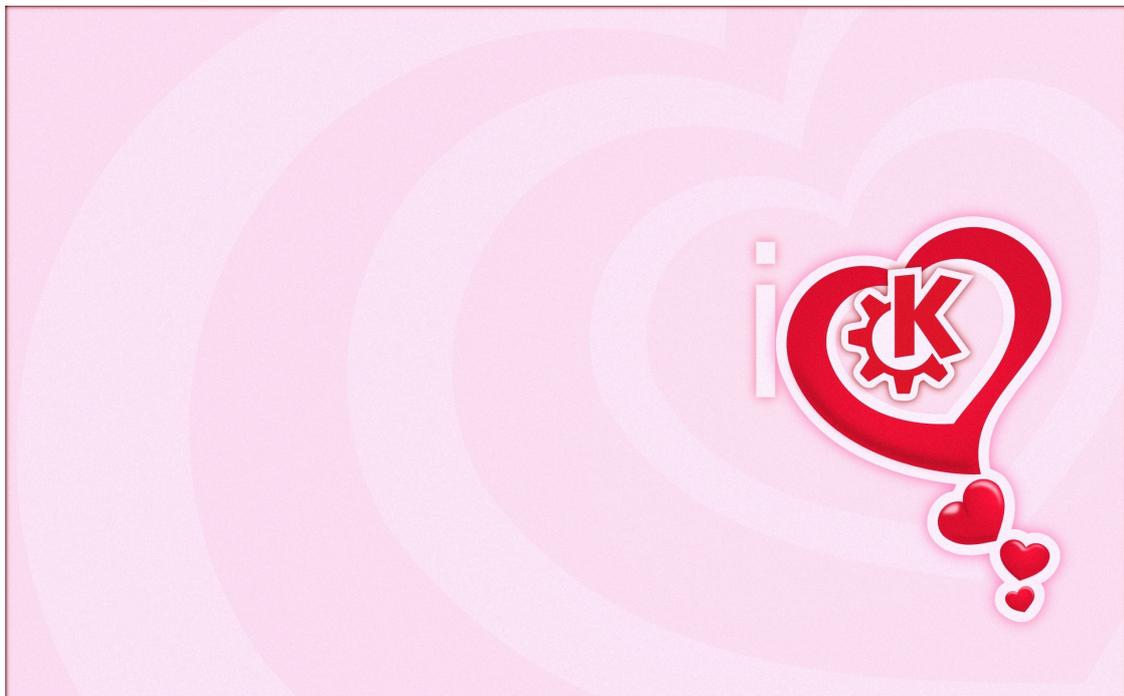
Mr. Sudhendu Kumar Roy, an avid interface designer and a KDE developer, enlightened the students on how to taking the first steps in the KDE community, how the community works, explained KDE e.V., and showed Qt-based application development. This included an introduction to Qt, its applications, beginning development with Qt, getting familiar with various IDE’s used for KDE development such as KDevelop and Qt Creator. The students enjoyed a hands-on hacking session with KDE apps like Kexi, KMail and more.

Shreya Pandit, an open-source contributor and a KDE developer, delivered a lecture-cum-session on

KDE and Qt. This included an introduction to KDE and a brief overview of various software provided by KDE such as Kcontact, KDevelop, Calligra, and KMail. She also spoke about KDE’s participation in Google Summer Of Code, Season of KDE and gave useful tips on how to be a part of these prestigious programs. Eager learners appreciated an overview of KDE Bugzilla.

KDE e.V. provided us with awesome goodies for the event: t-shirts, badges and lovely stickers which were a favorite among the audience. The most enthusiastic students got a bag full of these goodies as a prize.

Learning about the wonderful KDE family was highly encouraging and motivating for all, and elicited enthusiastic response from the attendees, many of whom resolved to become a part of KDE. Lots of thanks to KDE for making our event a huge success!



Happy Valentine’s Day
Eugene Trounev (LGPL)

NEW MEMBERS

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

Martin Klapatek

Shaun Reich

FINANCES

INCOME (€):

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Corporate Supporters: | 14,760 |
| Donations: | 6,456 |
| Individual supporting membership program (Join The Game): | 4,150 |
| Akademy 2012 sponsorship: | 21,700 |
| Others (shared office, R&D projects, other sponsorships): | 5,070 |
| Total: | 52,136 |

EXPENSES (€):

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Personnel/administration/office: | 19,027 |
| Sponsorship for flights/accommodation for events/meetings: | |
| Sprints: | 9,275 |
| Other events: | 1,823 |
| Akademy organization: | 208 |
| Other expenses: | 4,935 |
| Total: | 35,268 |

QUARTERLY RESULT (1Q2011)

16,868

AT THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2012, KDE E.V. HAD A POSITIVE BALANCE OF €181,900.

Note: The financial numbers provided here are approximations and are provided for informational purposes only. For a complete accounting record, please contact the KDE e.V. directly.

SYSADMIN REPORT

1ST QUARTER

- Created 29 subversion accounts; disabled 1 subversion account
- Modified 2 kdemail.net aliases
- Created 8 kde.org aliases; disabled 5 kde.org aliases; modified 6 kde.org aliases
- Created 4 kde.org mailing-lists: rocs-devel zanshin-devel kde-connect-team kde-telepathy-bugs
- Disabled 2 kde.org mailing-lists: kde-appmonth kitchensync

KDE E.V. BOARD

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Thanks to the other KDE members and supporters who contributed to this report.

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