# COMMUNITY REPORT

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## WELCOME MESSAGE

These days we are celebrating a special anniversary. It's the fifteenth anniversary of KDE e.V., the organization behind the KDE Community.

On November 26th 1997, Matthias Ettrich, Kalle Dalheimer and Martin Konold got together at Matthias's student flat to found an association according to German law. This organization would represent and support the community of the small but growing software project they had started a year earlier. They dragged in their roommates and airlfriends to reach the minimum number of seven founding members. After some speeches they formally decided the first articles of association of KDE e.V. Further details about what happened at this historical event got lost over time, but rumors say that it involved discussions about C++ and packet radio.

From today's perspective, it's remarkable the foresight and vision the founders of KDE e.V. demonstrated by putting a formal organization behind the young open source project KDE. This certainly wasn't an easy step, but it proved to be a pivotal element in growing and sustaining the community over one and a half

decades. The agreement with the owners of Qt to ensure the freedom of the toolkit, running ten global KDE conferences, organizing many dozens of developer sprints, owning the trademark, maintaining an office and an employee to support the community, all this wouldn't have been possible without KDE e.V.

Just recently we saw a demonstration of what's possible in the KDE community with the Randa meeting, a combination of sprints taking place in the solitude of the Swiss mountains. Mario Fux, the restless organizer of these meetings, brought together people from the accessibility, education, multimedia, and workspace communities to work on their projects for a week of concentrated collaboration. To make this possible, KDE e.V. ran a donation campaign; the result went beyond our wildest dreams. Our friends and supporters donated more than €10,000 to support volunteer contributors to attend this event and spend valuable face-to-face time working together on free software. You can read more about the meeting in this quarterly report. I'm humbled to be part of a community that makes something like this possible. Thank you so much.

Finally I want to applaud another achievement of the community, the creation of the KDE Manifesto. As the result of a process over a number of years to understand the core of the community and what defines our identity as KDE, the KDE Manifesto has been written and is published at http://manifesto.kde.org. For those who are familiar with KDE, there are no surprises, but it is a concrete community artifact that defines who we are, and makes it explicit to us and everybody else. It's a reminder and guideline for KDE and also for the work we do in KDE e.V.

On this fifteenth anniversary, we look back with pride, celebrating one of the largest and longest-lived communities in the Free Software world, and look forward to the future with curiousity and confidence.

On the next fifteen years of KDE and KDE e.V.!

**Cornelius Schumacher** for the KDE e.V. Board of Directors

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# **AKADEMY 2012**

Carl Symons and Kenny Duffus

For most of the year, KDE—one of the largest FOSS communities in the world—works online by email, IRC, forums and mailing lists. But every summer, Akademy, the Community conference, provides all KDE contributors the opportunity to meet in person to foster social bonds, work on concrete technology issues, and reinforce the innovative, dynamic culture of KDE.

This year, nearly 300 hackers grabbed their badges at the Estonian IT College in Tallinn and launched Akademy 2012 on 30 June. "Freedom of Expression"—the opening keynote by Mathias Klang—got things going quickly with his urgent call to action for those who stand for freedom, which often disappears gradually and in a slow creep.



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Riddell

#### The First Day

During the first day of Akademy, there were sessions on release management, Plasma Active, and the future of KDE and Qt technologies. Highlights were talks about the Frameworks 5 efforts and Aaron Seigo painting the possibilities of A New Hope for Open Devices: the awesome Vivaldi tablet and what's to come.

Several KDE GSoC students attended Akademy; 7 of these students presented their projects in lightning talks in the main conference track. The projects included work on the Plasma Media Center, the astronomy software KStars, and the speech recognition project Simon.

During the first day, people got in some hacking and socializing, and the social part of Akademy really

took off on Saturday night. A local band provided rock music from Estonia, which led naturally into the KDE karaoke tradition. At the end of the party, everyone was on stage to sing the final song "Imagine".

#### The Second Day

Sunday, the second day of the conference, started with a keynote by Thiago Macieira about Qt Project Achievements and How KDE Is Helping. There were talks on the recent developments in KDE Plasma's Window Manager (KWin), and the work of KDE e.V. (the non-profit foundation that supports the KDE Community). Other presentations ranged from promoting an open source project and preserving freedom of use to specific applications and topic areas.

The second Sunday keynote was Will Schroeder's talk about Open Science and Research. He suggested that open source is the most effective way to get things done through agile, collaborative innovation. In the past, science was open, critically reviewed and widely available. Results were shared and new innovations could build on previous discoveries. It is now largely closed and restricted by patents. Free and open access to information has benefits in all fields, not just software. In science, being open was once standard practice. Schroeder suggested that it's time to return to sharing information openly.

On Sunday afternoon, the traditional Akademy awards were presented to people whose work and dedication were especially important to KDE over the past year. The organization award went to Laur Mõtus and the entire volunteer team for organizing a



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Riddell

wonderful Akademy. The non-application award went to Lydia Pintscher for the unbelievable amount of work she puts into KDE, especially the effort and care she lavishes on the Google Summer of Code and the Season of KDE, in addition to being an active KDE e.V. Board member. Kévin Ottens and Nicolás Alvarez received the Jury award together. Their work on the future of KDE has long term value and importance. Nicolás received the award for his work on the conversion of KDE projects to git, Kévin was recognized for his work on KDE Frameworks 5, giving a new lease of life to KDE applications and desktop. Camilla Boeman received the Application Award in recognition of her work on Calligra Words. In the past two years, she has brought together a team of developers spread from Europe to India who are dedicated to Calligra Words, and the team delivered the first release.



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Riddell

#### Workshops and BoFs

From Monday onwards, it was time for the community to focus in smaller teams on specific topics during the informal Birds of a Feather (BoF) sessions, workshops and courses. The legal organization behind the KDE Community held a meeting. A comprehensive Qt training session and a "PR for Free Software Projects" workshop took place on Monday.

The Akademy environment supports getting things done. It's possible to condense weeks or even months of work into a few days. The wide range of BoF sessions were especially productive. Topics ranged from "R&D projects in KDE" to "Plasma Active application writing" and "KDE Frameworks". Some BoFs introduced new opportunities; others were

intensive working sessions. "We did some major work discussing and defining the fundamental issues of the KDE Community. We simply could not have done this without being together in person." said one attendee. The results of the hands-on BoF sessions will appear in a variety of ways—application improvements, new and invigorated contributors, new initiatives and more, limited only by people's imaginations.

#### About Akademy

Almost all communication between KDE community members happens online, and includes people from all around the world. At Akademy, KDE people meet each other and work together in person. Virtual communication is necessary and valuable for day-to-day work; working face-to-face is much more effective. And Akademy provides much more than that. Strong, lasting friendships developed here make it easier to work together online in the future. One person's strongest impression came from the Friday pre-registration event "seeing people again. And watching new friendships being made." Another person said, "Until now I only knew people by their IRC nicknames. Now I've met them and also became known to them for what I'm contributing."

Akademy is fun; it's a pleasure working hard with other committed people. People also enjoyed meeting over lunch or dinner away from Akademy to discuss and plan, or just to get better acquainted. Some people took a break from computers and made Geary plush toys based on the Akademy 2012 mascot. Being around other committed KDE people helps recharge energy and rediscover inspiration. That's why Akademy is such an important event for the whole KDE community.



Photo courtesy of Matthias Welwarsky

### SUPPORTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES



#### **KDE** on Windows

#### OSNABRÜCK, GERMANY August

Patrick Spendrin

The meeting started on Thursday evening when the Patricks (Spendrin and von Reth) arrived in Osnabrück. On Friday morning, the others arrived and we continued to discuss and hack. In the evening, KDAB sponsored a dinner in a Bavarian-style restaurant. After dinner we went back to the Intevation office and hacked a bit more.

This time we had 7 participants with a lot of different interests and backgrounds. Andre Heinecke maintains the Kontact builds for Windows, Boudewijn Rempt attended to improve Calligra and Krita, Fabian Aichele showed us his work on integrating Windows menus and shell actions with KDE, Andy Holzammer worked on several tasks related to Qt5 on Windows, Patrick von Reth set up the new buildserver and got MySQL building with mingw-w64, Dominik Schmidt worked on cross compiling Windows applications under Linux with the help of OBS and I "have been slacking" (I worked to get emerge into better shape).

On Saturday we had a nice introduction to Qt5 and its development process by Andy. I spoke about KDE Frameworks and how this will affect KDE on Windows. In the afternoon, we had a Google Hangout with Andrius Ribas who is based in Brazil and couldn't attend in person. In the evening, we enjoyed an Arabian-

style dinner that was sponsored by KO GmbH. This evening was somewhat of a social event; we planned it to be a release party—even before the KDE 4.9.0 release;-) And as could be expected from hackers, we couldn't resist going back to work after that, and some people stayed late into the night.

On Sunday, we started an hour later with presentations from Fabian (lots of cool features for the KDE start menu and the file open menu in Dolphin); Dominik showed us how to cross compile Tomahawk on Linux. After more hacking, Fabian left first because he had one of the longer journeys, and then one by one all the participants had to leave.

Thank you to Andre Heinecke and Intevation for organizing a really nice sprint and giving us a place to hack and discuss. Thanks also to KDE e.V., KO and KDAB for covering the trip and the hotel costs.

#### RANDA MEETING

# RANDA, SWITZERLAND 21-27 September 2012

Carl Symons

In September, several teams met in Randa, Switzerland for the fourth such Sprint Intensive. As expected, there was substantial progress as the teams worked on their individual projects and across projects. The work done at the Randa meetings involves both future-oriented discussions and detailed bug fixing and coding, all done ultimately to delight KDE users.

Each of the project teams -Accessibility (ally), Plasma, KDE Edu and Multimedia - have provided a synopsis of their accomplishments below. The actual results of their work will appear in future versions of KDE software.

#### Accessibility

This was the first big KDE meeting for the KDE Accessibility Team. This face-to-face meeting helped team members discuss and understand many complex issues such as the inter-process communication and protocols. We were happy to have a guest, Alejandro Piñeiro from the GNOME Accessibility team.

Peter Grasch and Yash Shah focused on Simon, Amandeep Singh continued polishing his Google Summer of Code project—Focus Tracking in KWin / KMagnifier—and helped out in other areas. José Millán Soto worked on several things to improve the screen-reader experience. Frederik Gladhorn created a new library (QAccessibilityClient) and contributed on several other things as well.

Most of the time was spent fixing issues so that applications work better with the Orca screen reader and KMag. We fixed several crashes and made many small things run smoother. Albert Astals Cid helped make it possible to have translations for qt-at-spi, which will make things a lot better for screen reader users. This also makes adding accessibility features easier for application developers.

In Simon, the AT-SPI (Assistive Technology Service Provider Interface) plugin prototype was completely rewritten using the new QAccessibilityClient library. To keep up with elements on the screen that change rapidly, performance issues across all of



Photo courtesy of Lucas Lira Gomes

Simon's core infrastructure were addressed, including further optimizing the model caching lauer and introducing a more efficient synchronization protocol.

Dozens of bugfixes, a new DBus context condition and more work on face-detection rounded out a very productive week.

#### Plasma

The Plasma team worked to reach critical mass for creating Plasma2, the successor to the current Plasma framework that builds KDE's Workspaces. The team started by making a list of tasks that ranged from minor issues in the API to design issues that affect almost all Plasma classes. They then got to work, quickly making a big dent in the list, knocking off one task after another. Patches were written, reviewed, revised and committed. Bugs were fixed left and right.

Plasma2 is the next version of the Plasma framework. It employs QML for its user interface (thus simplifying development) and will be extendable through C++, Python, Ruby and other languages that provide Qt bindings. Plasma2 makes it possible to move to OpenGL-based scenegraph rendering, which can be done

entirely in graphics hardware. Compared to the current framework, this will provide smoother visuals and significantly less CPU usage. Libplasma2 will also be a lot leaner than its predecessor, resulting in decreased library size on disk and in memory. This will be useful, along with KDE Frameworks 5, in contexts where not all of the KDE Platform is required, making possible wider adoption of KDE technology.

#### KDE Edu

In preparation for the Randa sprint, some topics for discussion were defined ahead of time. To begin at Randa, the KDE Edu team discussed questions and issues that will guide the path of the project. Face-to-face discussions with other developers were helpful for proposing new features and getting good feedback on them. Several KDE Edu applications got new features. And there were many bug fixes and documentation enhancements. Developers also presented their plans for future versions of their applications. The team worked on plans for how the overall KDE Edu project will go forward under full steam.

Interactions with other teams were helpful, such as the discussions about Plasma Active and other mobile platforms. Work started on an installer for KDE Edu on Windows.

#### Multimedia Team

The KDE Multimedia team took stock of progress and planned for the year ahead. Lots of bugsquashing was done in Phonon-GStreamer—open bugs went from over 45 to less than 8! The Phonon 5 API was designed along with implementation of Qt Quick support for the upcoming release of Phonon 4 and its backends. The KMix 3 rewrite is in progress, and the new Sound Menu will be released in the next major KDE software release.

The Amarok team designed the 2.7+ architecture, which will guide the team into the next big leap into the future—Amarok 3. Now the roadmap is no longer just good ideas, but rather real plans with developers committed to their own timelines. The team put together a fundraising appeal, and updated the Amarok Handbook to 2.6. For more information on Randa Multimedia, see the KDE Community Wiki. (http://community.kde.org/Sprints/ Randa/2012/Multimedia)

#### SYSADMIN MINI-SPRINT

#### ESSEN, GERMANY 28-30 September

Tom Albers

At the end of September, two members of the KDE sysadmin and webteam, Tom Albers and Ingo Malchow met up at the Linuxhotel in Essen, Germany for a mini-sprint.

On the first day, we started a Google Hangout with Ben Cooksley and spent the morning working together. The first matter we needed to address was the start of the User Working Group (UWG). We had set up the site a month previously and it was ready for prime time. You can read about it on the UWG website, http://ev.kde.org/workinggroups/uwg.php. There is also a forum.

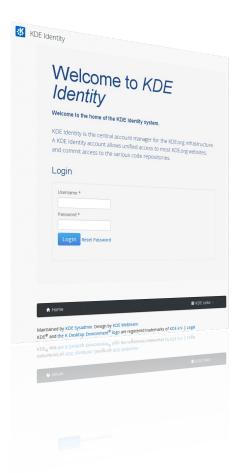
Next, Ingo and I caught up on some work within the sysadmin and web teams. We started by evaluating the main site. Last year at the WebWorld meeting, we decided that the new site should be revamped and we choose WordPress as the Content Management System. Now, a year later, that site is still not live. Since resources are lacking, we discussed switching from WordPress to Drupal. Changing the tool does not magically make the site, but it does make it maintainable. Several other KDE sites (e.g. dot.kde.org and behindkde.org) are already based on Drupal. So a theme is ready, and the focus can be on getting the content right.

Over dinner, we continued to brainstorm and discussed bugs.kde.org. Basically it needs to be split up into crashes, wishes and bugs. Then it needs to be decided if bugzilla is the right choice for each of those categories. We decided to create a planning document for the future of bugs.kde.org.

Another big item for discussion was the future of subversion. Or rather, the lack of future for subversion. The sysadmin team currently maintains complete infrastructures for both subversion and for git, which is a waste of resources even though KDE is a big project. At this time, a single server is divided in two, one reviewboard for svn; one for git, anonsvn and anongit servers. Commit hooks for svn and for git are written in completely different languages. Subversion needs to be shut down at some point. It does not need to be done immediately. but there should be a definite date for it to happen. We will draft a proposal and present it for feedback.

On Day 2 over breakfast, Ingo reported that identity.kde.org suffers from an enormous amount of spam sign-ups. These can be split into two groups. One has sign-ups that are done by bots. Most web sites implement a CAPTCHA to thwart them, there is also a service called stopforumspam.com. Directly after breakfast, I looked at the API, wrote some code and Ben Cooksley merged it into identity.kde.org. We will monitor the site to see if that will help.

The second group is not really spam sign-ups. They are done by people who want to post something on forum.kde.org, but they are not interested in any other services and use a nickname as full name. It is hard to distinguish between these two groups. We brainstormed a bit about how to solve this, but didn't come up with a workable solution.



In the afternoon we settled in the garden. Though it was a bit cold, it was very pleasant. We worked on setting up the Drupal instance for the main site. Ingo explained the structure we should use for the website. I started and will continue to work on it.

This was a productive meeting. Though it was a mini-sprint, it produced great results. I regained some motivation, had a great time and have a reasonable idea about what we should focus on. Many thanks to Ingo for hanging out with me for 2 days, to the Linuxhotel for providing the best possible environment to work in and to KDE e.V. for making it possible!

# Trade Shows and Community Events

KDE E.V. ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Tallin, Estonia 3 July 2012

Every year, the members of KDE e.V. meet for the Annual General Assembly (AGM) of the Association. Traditionally, this happens during Akademy and 2012 was no exception. The AGM is one of the key aspects of the Association and is the highest decision-making body of KDE e.V. The meeting also serves as an opportunity to look back on what KDE e.V. has achieved during the past 12 months and to discuss future plans and challenges for the organization.

#### Reports

First on the agenda, after the election of a chairman for the meeting (Frederik Gladhorn), were the reports from the Board and the Treasurer of the Association. The President of KDE e.V., Cornelius Schumacher spoke about the responsibilities of the Board members. They manage the business for KDE e.V. and decide about the budget. Each Board member is individually entitled to represent the e.V. legally.

Cornelius then gave an overview of all of the activities that have happened between August 2011 and July 2012. KDE e.V. organizes and supports many events every year. In addition to the KDE Community conference called

"Akademy", which took place as part of the Desktop Summit in Berlin in 2011 and in Tallinn this year, there were 12 contributor/developer sprints that happened over the past 12 months. In addition, the first LaKademy—a meeting of the Latin American KDE community—took place in April 2012 in Brazil, and was financially supported by KDE e.V..



Other KDE e.V. activities include handling of the KDE domains together with the KDE Sysadmin team, membership in other organizations like the OASIS Consortium or the Open Source Initiative. The Board, the KDE e.V. Business Manager and KDE e.V. members raise funds for the organization to be able to sustain its activities.

Next up was a report by the interim Treasurer Agustín Benito Bethencourt. He presented the annual results for 2011. The total assets on 31 December 2011 amounted to €157,749. For 2012, the Board projects a budget of €164,000 in income and the same amount in expenses.

The Board projects less income for 2012 than there was in previous years. Consequently, expenses have already been reduced and will be reduced further over the upcoming months. The Board and community members are also working to increase revenue, with measures such as an Economic

Working Group and an increase in the number of supporting members.

After the Treasurer's report the auditors of accounting—Mirko Böhm and Alexandra Leisse—informed the assembly that they found no irregularities in the accounting and that the board had done their work correctly. Mirko then asked the assembly to discharge the Board of their responsibilities which passed with a vote of 81 in favor and 12 abstentions (including the board members).

The stage then belonged to the working groups within KDE e.V.: the Marketing Working group, the Sysadmin team, the Community Working Group, and the KDE e.V. delegates to the KDE Free Qt Foundation.

#### **Elections**

Every KDE e.V. board member is elected for three years. This year, the term of board member Celeste Lyn Paul came to an end. Thus, her seat and the seat of Frank Karlitschek who stepped down at the beginning of 2012 were up for election. There were three candidates: Albert Astals Cid, Agustín Benito Bethencourt, and Pradeepto Bhattacharya.

In a secret ballot, Agustín and Pradeepto received the most votes and are now members of the KDE e.V. Board of Directors.

The assembly also re-elected Mirko Böhm and Alexandra Leisse as auditors of accounting, and Martin Konold and Olaf Schmidt-Wischhöfer were re-elected to represent KDE e.V. in the KDE Free Qt Foundation.

#### FISL 13

# PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL 25-29 July

Filipe Saraiva



FISL 13 is the biggest event related to Free Software and Free Culture in Brazil. In fact, it is one of the biggest events of its kind in the world. FISL has thousands of participants (7709), hundreds of lectures (584), community events, workshops, community booths, speeches, and widespread hacking.

Of course, the KDE community was present with an interesting program. Our booth drew much attention and stood out in the area targeting user/developer groups. We had KDE souvenirs like T-shirts, stickers, and pins, with special emphasis on brooches with

Brazilian regional representations of Konqi and a banner commemorating the 15th anniversary of KDE. We also had some computers with KDE for people to see and experience our software.

But what really drew attention was Konqi in a fantasy costume commissioned by Tomaz Canabrava. It is huge with a charismatic and good-natured face. Wearing it is quite a challenge, and two people are required to assist the "pilot" put it on. Inside is very hot, it's almost impossible to see, and moving is also not that easy. But it is fun for people to see a huge green dragon dancing and walking the halls. And it makes a geat impression of KDE.

The main Konqi pilot was Tomaz Canabrava, but many people took turns giving life to our mascot, like Wagner, me and a couple of other people who appeared out of nowhere asking if they could be a big, charismatic, green dragon for a while.

When he was not walking and dancing around, Konqi sat on two chairs in our booth. People took pictures with him for a reminder of KDE and FISL. Our stand

became a focal point for children who looked admiringly at our dragon. They got presents of chocolate and blue and white balloons.

We were on the event schedule with an extensive program of lectures and courses, plus "special quests", especially with activities of Free Software and Education groups. Some of our highlights were the lecture and workshop of sebas (Sebastian Kügler). Sebas, together with Daker Pinheiro, held a workshop on developing applications for multiple devices using KDE Plasma technology. Two days later, he presented Plasma Active, the KDE Workspace for tablets, and talked about the platform. There were several questions including KDE's plans for the future of free software in the growing environment of mobile computing.

We also organized a pre-KDE 4.9 Release Party at the Penguin's Bar =D where we had a few drinks, relaxed and chatted.

In retrospect, FISL 13 was very good for KDE Brazil. We gave KDE good visibility, set up a really cool booth, presented an excellent program.



Photo courtesy of Filipe Saraiva

# Sysadmin Report

Created 27 subversion accounts Disabled 2 subversion accounts Created 1 kdemail.net alias

Created 10 kde.org aliases Disabled 2 kde.org aliases Modified 2 kde.org aliases Created 3 kde.org mailing-lists:

- calligra-author
- nepomuk-bugs
- kde-uwg

# **New Members**

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

- Eli MacKenzie
- Georg Greve
- Gilles Caulier
- Jure Repinc
- Kåre Alexander Särs
- Kevin Scannel
- Laszlo Papp
- Ludovic Grossard
- Marek Laane
- Rohan Garg
- Shantanu Tushar Jha
- Trever Fischer
- Vishesh Handa
- Yuri Chornoivan

### Finances Q3 2012

#### INCOME (€):

Donations:	47,395
Corporate Supporters:	37,518
Individual Supportive Membership Program:	17,455
Akademy Sponsorship:	64,977
Others:	1,103
Total:	168,448

#### EXPENSES (€):

Sponsorships for flights/accomodation for Akademy/sprints/events/meetings:	46,937
Akademy organization:	8,170
Other expenses:	8,564
Total:	113,427

#### QUARTERLY RESULT (3Q2012)

Personnel/administration/office:

55,021 €

49,756

At the end of the third quarter of 2012, KDE e.V. had a positive balance of  $268,028 \in$ 

Note: The rounded financial numbers are for information only. The lists do not include all income and expenses and don't constitute an accurate accounting statement.

# Financial support

If your company is interested in providing financial support to the KDE community on a continuing basis, please visit the Supporting Members page on the KDE e.V. website, http://ev.kde.org/getinvolved/supporting-members.php

If you would like to support KDE financially as an individual, please visit the individual supporting membership program site at http://jointhegame.kde.org.

# New patron

We are pleased to welcome our new patron:

Blue Systems GmbH

## KDE E.V. BOARD

Cornelius Schumacher - President <schumacher@kde.org>

Sebastian Kügler - Vice President <sebas@kde.org>

Agustín Benito Bethencourt - Treasurer <abenito@kde.org>

> Lydia Pintscher - Board Member <lydia@kde.org>

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

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