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This past year KDE sent 150 people through their formal mentoring program, helping them to become better software developers and open source contributors. In this interview, Lydia Pintscher explains how and why. Page 3.

Community Activities

KDE e.V. sponsors developer sprints, meetings, and activities all over the world. In this edition of the report, we hear about KDE at the 2011 Desktop Summit, the Plasma Active Meeting, the KDE Telepathy Sprint, the Calligra Mini-Sprint, and KDE e.V. General Assembly.
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Attendees at the 2011 Berlin Desktop Summit. Isabel (upper left), Elizabeth (lower left), Ivan (upper right), and Kimmo (lower right) (photos taken by Claudio Saavedra).
WELCOME MESSAGE

2011’s third quarter brought the KDE community together for its yearly flagship event. Similar to 2009, when Gran Canaria hosted the first ever Desktop Summit, KDE gathered again with its peers from the GNOME camp for the Desktop Summit. In 2009, KDE and GNOME held separate, but co-located events. However, 2011 brought both communities closer together, and combined GUADEC (GNOME’s yearly European developer conference) and Akademy (KDE’s yearly world summit) into one conference. The atmosphere was amazing, collaboration could be observed on different levels, and social interactions showed that, with all the different opinions in both communities, we have more in common than what sets us apart. Free software, open collaboration and a warm and welcoming community are at the heart of the what.

The Desktop Summit is one of the largest software gatherings anywhere. Hundreds of software developers from dozens of projects came to work with colleagues and find solutions to common problems.

Designers
The KDE and GNOME projects are home to thriving design communities. The Oxygen project, started by Nuno Pinheiro (right), includes hundreds of high quality images.

Community
Meetings like the Desktop Summit are more than collaborative sprints. They are also opportunities for a worldwide community to meet face to face. This year the summit was hosted by Humboldt University in Berlin.

Users
The KDE and GNOME desktops are used by millions of people all over the world. They are used for work, education, and recreation.

The Desktop 2011 Conference brought together artists, software developers, designers, users, and students. Together these diverse digital craftsmen build and beautify software that powers phones, computers, and tablets. They work to create an open future.

It seems fitting that the meeting took place in Germany, home of the Bauhaus School of Design and Art. Like the desktop summit, the Bauhaus school also sought to bring a diverse group of craftsmen together to build a more beautiful world.

This edition of the KDE community report is dedicated to all those who strive for beauty in all its forms and generously share their work with others.

For KDE specifically, the Desktop Summit set the tone for KDE’s direction, with efforts such as Frameworks 5—officially announced during the Desktop Summit in Berlin and the technical base being made more future-proof. With Plasma Active, the KDE community shows a concerted effort to embrace new classes of devices, widening its scope to the computers of the future.

In all those efforts, KDE e.V. plays a supporting, yet central role, thanks to active participation by its members, and the continued support of our supporting member and patrons, both individual and companies.

Sebastian Kügler
Vice President
on behalf of the KDE e.V. Board of Directors
WHY AND HOW KDE ROCKS AT MENTORING

An interview with Lydia Pintscher, the newest KDE e.V. Board member

Hi, Lydia, you recently joined the Board of KDE e.V. Congratulations! Would you introduce yourself?

Thank you! I live in Germany, am 27 years old and am passionate about helping people change their lives and the world through contributing to Free Software. I am about to finish my diploma in computer science with a focus on medicine, language and speech, and innovation.

How did you first get involved with KDE? And what were your roles?

I've been contributing to KDE for about 7 years now. I started with promotion for Amarok and moved on to community and project management and other areas of KDE. Today most of my time is spent on KDE’s mentoring programs (Google Summer of Code, Season of KDE and Google Code-in), the Community Working Group and KDE e.V. Board duties. The best thing about KDE for me personally is that it helped me find my true passion and allowed me to develop my skills in that area. Whenever I wanted to try and learn something new, KDE made it possible. To this day this amazes me. Over the years (with the help of others), I have been able to run mentoring programs, develop a group to take care of problems in the community and grow it, write KDE’s Code of Conduct and manage the releases of a major piece of software, and other things too. I don't know a lot of places where this is possible so easily. And you’re able to make the world a bit of a better place at the same time. As a fellow KDE contributor said: "I dreamed I’d be a freedom fighter one day and then I woke up and realized I am one already."

Why and how does KDE rock at mentoring?

I think there are 4 things needed for a successful mentoring program. The first ingredient is amazing mentors who spend a lot of time with their mentees and guide them where needed. The second ingredient is a team that runs the mentoring program that is truly...
passionate about introducing people to Free Software and gives structure and guidance to everyone involved. The third ingredient is an interesting codebase that is varied in terms of the topics people can work on (e.g. astronomy to text processing and more) and needed skills. And fourth, you need rocking students.

KDE is fortunate to have all of these in abundance. Because of that, we’ve been able to run structured mentoring programs for more than 7 years now and learned a lot along the way. This year over 150 people went through our structured mentoring programs, and there were more outside these programs. Each of them learned something important for their life. I was fortunate to meet some of them at the Desktop Summit earlier this year where I organized a lightning talk session for students from Google Summer of Code, Season of KDE and GNOME’s Outreach Program for Women. It was great to see the students on stage presenting their projects passionately to a large audience. And in the end this is what it is all about for me personally: Showing them what they are capable of—not just in terms of writing code but also presenting their work in front of hundreds of people, working and communicating in a large distributed team and so much more.

What was your motivation to become a Board member at KDE e.V.?

I believe the Board is vital for the day-to-day tasks of KDE e.V. and thereby also to some extent for KDE as a whole.

Do you have specific visions or goals you would like to achieve during your term?

My first goal is to increase the transparency of the Board towards the membership of KDE e.V. and the community at large. I am also working on moving some of the tasks that the Board currently does to others outside of the Board. This will allow the Board members to concentrate on tasks that only the Board is able to do. The third thing I am working on is developing more strategic relationships to other projects and the non-profits behind them.

Thank you Lydia for the interview and wish you all the best for your work with KDE e.V.!
SUPPORTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Developer Sprints

Plasma Active Meeting
Darmstadt
September 2011
Sebastian Kübler

Towards the end of September, the Plasma Active team got together in Darmstadt, kindly hosted by basysKom. The goals of the workshop were to stabilize the current code base towards its first release, to plan the first release and to discuss next steps for Plasma Active. Plasma Active One provides a first working and functional release to end users, but targets hardware manufacturers to bring the software into the users’ hands.

With Plasma Active, KDE creates a cross-device user experience. The Plasma Active team uses an agile, user-centered approach with continuous integration and testing. Plasma Active is a community-driven project. Commercial partners such as basysKom and open-slx help drive its development forward by investing resources into it. Other commercial partners are ready to provide support and expertise around its technologies.

Plasma Active One, which will be released on 9th October 2011, brings an exciting, touch-friendly interface to touch-based devices, such as tablet computers. During the workshop, the team decided to one-up Plasma Active One with a second release still this year, paying tribute to the rapid progress the system is making from a user’s point of view. The following releases will widen the spectrum of devices for Plasma Active.

Plasma Active is a new touch friendly interface that can be used with devices such as tablets. It was released in October 2011.
KDE Telepathy Sprint
Cambridge, England, UK
September 2011
Dario Ffreddi

On the 14th of September, a group of brave souls from all over the world gathered at Collabora’s office in Cambridge to shape the future of cross-desktop Telepathy inside KDE. The result was a productive sprint which paints a bright future of the next-generation IM system in KDE. And we also have a

name: Plasma has Tokamak, Solid has Forge... and Telepathy-KDE has Woshibon!

The most obvious achievement was a plan for releasing Technical Preview 0.2 on the 30th of October. This release is mainly for leading edge users who would like to test and report bugs on the software. However it is expected to be fairly stable and filled with interesting features.

During the sprint, we had a useful pre-event with sprinter-to-sprinter training on several important topics. This helped us kickstart the hacking days efficiently. A huge planning phase followed, which gave us a good chance to unify licensing and talk about project management strategies.

And what about code? Of course we did some stuff: we implemented support for Audio Calls into our stack, drag ’n drop support from contact list to desktop — to have your beloved ones available right away on your Plasma Desktop, auto-away support, and much more. We also slaughtered quite a lot of bugs.

An important part of this sprint was the on-site presence of most upstream Telepathy developers who have been responsive and helpful towards KDE coders. It was a great example of cross-desktop and downstream/upstream cooperation. It would be great to see such things happening in other parts of KDE that have substantial up-and-downstream interactions.

Overall, it was a great sprint, and getting better every year. You can be assured Woshibon 3 will be even better! Thanks to KDE e.V. for sponsoring travel and accommodation and to Collabora Ltd. for sponsoring the venue, food, and part of travel and accommodation.

P.S. Don’t bother looking it up on Google. Woshibon has no meaning at all. It’s hard to say how we came up with that, so don’t ask ;)}
Calligra Mini-Sprint
Denmark
September 2011
Sebastian Sauer

The main goal during the 2-day sprint was to come up with plans for addressing the difficult topic of anchoring and object positioning within Calligra. We concentrated on Calligra Words, investigated how anchoring is done in Microsoft Office and in OpenOffice.org, and came up with a plan for how it should be done in Calligra. During the sprint, we came to the conclusion that the ODF specification is flawed in that it supports 3 different anchoring methods. It seems this was done only because OpenOffice.org supports 3 different methods. We decided to support only one method to reduce complexity and focus on interoperability. It’s enough to support the anchoring method used by both OpenOffice.org (as well as LibreOffice) and Microsoft Office. The planning took most of the first day. On the second day, we started work on our previously broken and buggy anchoring logic.

At the end of the sprint, we had a proper plan for how to proceed, and got a start on some code that implements this plan. In the following weeks, work continued on anchoring so that today we have 100% of our plan accomplished.

Trade Shows and Community Events

KDE at the Desktop Summit
Berlin, Germany

The Desktop Summit 2011 (6th - 9th August) was held in Berlin to promote open desktop collaboration—organized by the KDE and GNOME communities. This article takes a closer look at the KDE activities and topics during Desktop Summit 2011 Berlin.

Day 1

There were a number of talks related to KDE during the day, some of which were about where the KDE community stands.

Stu Jarvis from the Promo Team gave the KDE community keynote, speaking about what KDE stands for. He recalled that the initial motivation for KDE was to

This year, the KDE and GNOME community summits were held together in Berlin, Germany.
make a Linux desktop environment that was as good as anything available commercially, making Linux and free software usable for everyday tasks by regular endusers. But we achieved that goal many years ago. Now we have all kinds of KDE software with independent release schedules. Applications that don’t use the KDE Platform (Marble has a Qt-only version). And software that is not about the Linux desktop at all, such as ownCloud. Stu suggested that organizations need to understand what they do and how. But they also need to know why, and communicate that if they want to be relevant now.

Thomas Thym spoke on conflict resolution, explaining that the normal tendency to blame someone is counterproductive. It is more effective to look at people’s interests rather than their positions to work towards a solution that everyone can live with. Knut Yrvin, Community Manager for Qt Development Framework, reported.
on the expansion in the use of Qt—it’s everywhere, even on projectors in cinemas. Nokia is a big Qt contributor, and KDAB as well. More than 20 KDE people contributed 46,000 lines of Qt code in 2010. KDE is a major contributor to Qt market awareness in other, more subtle ways. 30% of all developers surveyed recently reported discovering Qt through their use of FOSS, especially KDE. And KDE’s Google Summer of Code program introduces many students to Qt.

Day 2

Sebastian Kügler presented the plans for Plasma Active and explained how it was different from other user interfaces designed for tablets and other mobile devices, especially with its deep information tracking and context-awareness provided by KDE-Nepomuk. Krita, KDE’s natural drawing and painting program, has gained momentum and praise over the past few years. Boudewijn Rempt reviewed Krita’s history from an attempt at a Photoshop or GIMP clone to finding its own unique place. The focus now is on being a tool for professional digital graphics artists, distinctly different from anything else available, FOSS or not.

Big news of the day came in one of the last sessions, “KDE Platform 4

At the Summit Frameworks 5 was announced, a more modular approach to the KDE.

The Desktop Summit brought together hundreds of developers from dozens of projects.
Roadmap. KDE core developers unveiled a plan to switch from Platform 4 to Frameworks 5, a more modular approach to KDE libraries with closer ties to Qt. Smaller, more specialized library modules will make it easier for developers to pick just the KDE pieces they need for their applications, reducing the number of dependencies and the size of binaries. For those who prefer to install all of KDE Frameworks, it will be just as easy to package them as it is, thanks to a common release schedule and automated tools to combine modules.

Day 3

Ivan Cukic continued the deep information tracking theme by demonstrating Plasma Activities. He explained how people can use them to change their entire working environment for different sets of tasks based on context and switch easily between environments—such as shifting from a coding project on the job to a writing project to listening to music at home.

Nepomuk is at the heart of this awareness, tracking applications and files used, associating information between applications and making useful suggestions that go beyond a simple Recent Document list. Zeitgeist is also available as a semantic backend.

Moving beyond the free desktop into the free cloud, Frank Karlitschek highlighted the latest advances in ownCloud. This KDE project enables a user to set up a server quickly to store documents, contacts, music and other types of files. Users can access ownCloud remotely from their desktop or through a web interface. An alpha release of version 2.0 is expected shortly. It includes new features such as a better web interface, file sharing, an advanced web-based media player, in addition to extensions and addons to customize ownCloud.

Akademy Awards

This year’s Akademy Awards were chosen by last year’s winners, keeping with tradition. The award for best non-application contribution went to Dario Andres for his work with the bug triaging team. The application award went to Martin Gräßlin for his work on KWin. The jury award was a tough choice between many of KDE’s dedicated system administrators, including Ben Cooksley, Eike Hein and Jeff Mitchell. However, in the end, it was awarded to Tom Albers for his work in building up a team of contributors, while continuing to do much work himself.
Group photo from the 2011 Desktop Summit (top left). Aaron Seigo, one of the lead KDE developers, delivers a presentation (top right; photo by Matthias Węgierski). Conference goers pose for the camera (middle right; photo by Matthias Węgierski). Developers meet for an impromptu planning session (bottom left; photo by Claudio Sevvedra). Guillaume after the beach party (bottom right; photo by Claudio Sevvedra).
KDE e.V. General Assembly
Berlin
9 August 2011
Claudia Rauch

One of the main events in KDE e.V.’s calendar is the Annual General Assembly (AGM). It usually convenes during Akademy, taking place this year at the Desktop Summit in Berlin. The AGM is one of the organs of the Association and is the highest decision-making body of KDE e.V. Even though it mainly serves an administrative purpose and has several mandatory agenda items, it is also an important social event, since this is the one time of the year when most of the active members come together in person to discuss the work and future plans of the non-profit organization.

First up were the reports from the Board. Cornelius Schumacher, KDE e.V. President, described the goals of KDE e.V. and its board. KDE e.V., as the organization behind KDE, represents, supports, and provides governance to the KDE community. The board is the management team of KDE e.V. and runs the business of the association. It handles the budget, and acts as point of contact for many kinds of questions and requests.

Cornelius also gave an overview of all the events that were sponsored and organized by the e.V. and its members. Over the past 12 months, there were 21 contributor sprints, a successful premier of conf.kde.in in Bangalore, and the 3rd edition of Camp KDE in San Francisco. Other KDE e.V. activities include...
contributing to the EU research project ALERT, handling KDE-related domains and trademark issues.

Next came a report by the Treasurer, Frank Karlitschek. He presented the financial results for the last fiscal year, and noted that 2010 was the first year in the history of KDE e.V. where the income was lower than the income of the previous year. In addition, the expenses were higher than in 2009.

As of December 31 2011, total assets of KDE e.V. were 268,861.91 EUR. In 2011 the Board projects expenses of 269,000 EUR and an income of 222,200 EUR, using some of the reserves we build up over the last years to continue to invest into the community.

An important agenda item is the relief of the Board. The assembly votes whether the Board has legally discharged its responsibilities. This happens after the report of the auditors of the accounting. Mirko Böhm and Till Adam did the audit. Mirko reported that no irregularities were found. On that basis, they asked the assembly to discharge the Board, which passed with a vote of 102 in favor and 6 abstentions (including the Board members).

After the mandatory parts of the assembly, there were reports from the Sysadmin, Community and Marketing Working Groups within the e.V., as well as a report from the KDE e.V. delegates to the Board of the Free Qt Foundation.

Because the term of KDE e.V. President Cornelius Schumacher ended after 3 years, and Board member Adriaan de Groot stepped down from his position, two seats on the Board were up for election. There were two candidates: Cornelius Schumacher, who ran for his third term, and Lydia Pintscher. In a secret ballot, both candidates received 101 yes votes and were therefore elected to the Board.

The assembly also elected the new auditors for the 2011 fiscal year, who are Alexandra Leisse and Mirko Böhm. Additionally, Olaf Schmidt-Wischhöfer and Martin Konold were re-elected as KDE e.V. representatives on the Board of the Free Qt Foundation.

Fun fact: The 2011 AGM was held in a new record time of just under 3 hours.

Detailed minutes from the AGM in German can be found on the KDE e.V. website.
RMLL in France

August 2011
Stuart Jarvis

Geoffray Levasseur attended RMLL (Rencontres Mondiales du Logiciel Libre/Libre Software Meetings) in Strasbourg, France on behalf of KDE, and gathered some useful feedback on our efforts and the views of Linux users in general.

Geoffray found quite a few differences in attitudes towards the free desktop options on Linux compared to the previous year. The situation with Gnome 3 and Unity in Ubuntu has affected people’s view of KDE. Some traditional free software users have given Unity a bad reception and are considering other options. The response to GNOME 3 is more mixed. Some traditional GNOME users appreciate the new look and feel, while others do not really like it. Some think that the new desktop is not finished. This creates interest in KDE. Naturally some KDE users are excited to try out alternatives such as GNOME 3 and Unity.

Most attendees have positive views of KDE software. There was definitely more satisfaction than last year with the quality of KDE software. Most of the negative remarks were about the usability of new functionality. For example, some people still do not understand Activities. However, Geoffray found that a quick demonstration was enough to show people how useful the feature could be. One suggestion to overcome such lack of understanding was to have every major update of KDE software include “What’s new?” information, along with a video if appropriate.

Regarding KDE in France, Geoffray found that French KDE contributors (and other projects’ contributors that like KDE) want to see more representation of KDE in France and more KDE events to help people connect. The new Akademy-fr—built on the Akademy-es concept—is a good beginning, but more is needed.

GSoC KDE Activities

September 2011
Lydia Pintscher

KDE was chosen again to take part in Google Summer of Code (GSoC) as a mentoring organization. Thanks to Google’s generous funding and KDE’s mentors, we were able to work with 51 students over the summer, making KDE the biggest participant in GSoC.

Choosing students for the program was hard, but the selection turned out well. The students coded in nearly all areas of KDE from Calligra and Rekonq to Amarok and KStars. Their projects turned out fantastic. As in previous years, we’re impressed with the talent and dedication of the students. All 51 students passed the mid-term evaluation and 47 were successful in the final evaluation. (One stopped GSoC after a successful mid-term evaluation because of a job offer.) Their work will be visible in upcoming releases.

As usual, KDE got more great applications for GSoC than we were able to fund. So we ran Season of KDE (SoK) again to welcome the remaining students into the KDE community, and to give them meaningful projects, mentoring, support and recognition. SoK is a program similar to GSoC where students get a certificate and limited-edition t-shirt for completing their project successfully. The response was overwhelming this year and we had to close applications after 100 submissions. Nearly everyone was matched up with a mentor and a project to work on. The results are excellent.

It makes me proud that KDE as a community is able and willing to teach newcomers to Free Software on such a large scale, while delivering high-quality results in terms of code produced and students mentored. What makes me even more proud is the overwhelming success of Season of KDE even without the GSoC monetary incentive, just because people want to work on something amazing.

KDE España

September 2011
Albert Astals Cid

KDE España is an association of KDE enthusiasts with focus on Spain. Since July 2010, it is the official representative of KDE e.V. in Spain after signing an agreement with KDE e.V. during Akademy 2010 [1]. Currently it has 30 active members [2]. Over the past year, we engaged in more than 15 activities around Spain including talks at LAN Parties, workshops at universities, KDE release parties, and, of course, Akademy-es 2011 [3]. The location of those activities range from big cities like Barcelona and Madrid to smaller places such as Segorbe.

Akademy-es is the biggest activity organized by KDE España. This year it took place between the 20th and the 22nd of May in Barcelona. We had two hosts—Polytechnical University of Catalonia (UPC) on Friday and Sant Marc of Sarrià School for the weekend. There were more than 20 talks and around 80 registered participants. More more details and activities of Akademy-es were reported on dot.kde.org (http://dot.kde.org/2011/06/16/kde-spanish-community-meets-akademy-es).

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Thanks to the many other members of KDE who contributed to this report.

FINANCES

Annual Report

INCOME (€):

- Membership fees: 41,945.00
- Donations: 16,080.00
- Major Donations (including Akademy 2010): 159,190.00
- Business Income: 1,890.00
- Misc: 7,250.00
- Interest: 580.00

Total: 226,935.00

EXPENSES (€):

- Goods: 1,500.00
- Personnel Costs: 48,370.00
- Office: 15,540.00
- Insurances: 950.00
- Travel Support: 138,650.00
- Legal, Admin: 12,590.00
- Depreciation: 2,490.00
- Misc: 40.00

Total: 220,130.00

Result: 6,805.00

Positive Balance by 31 December 2010: 271,325.00

Finances for July to September 2011

INCOME (€):

- Supporting membership: 6,150.00
- Donations: 4,480.00

EXPENSES (€):

- Developer sprints: 13,100.00
- Desktop Summit travel support: 18,750.00
- Trade shows, conferences and marketing: 6,030.00

Office and personnel costs: 17,075.00


Note: The rounded financial numbers are for information only. They don't constitute an accurate accounting statement.

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PLEASE VISIT HTTP://EV.KDE.ORG/GETINVOLVED/SUPPORTING-MEMBERS.PHP.

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