.init()

Dear KDE e.V. member,

The fourth quarter of 2006 brought with it the first activities of the new board of KDE e.V., comprised of Aaron, Adriaan, Cornelius, Eva and Sebas. An initial, two-day meeting of the new board occurred in November, with the marketing working group and Kenny Duffus from the aKademy organizational team in attendance.

We also welcomed several new Supporting Members this quarter in a program that is proving to be quite successful.

Upcoming challenges for the KDE e.V. are the expansion of the Supporting Membership program, and making the KDE e.V. as an organization more scalable and sustainable, not at least by means of administrative assistance. First and foremost, of course, the KDE e.V. will support the KDE community in creating the next generation of the Free Desktop.

In 2007 we plan to intensify our support of focused developer meetings (or "sprints"). Small gatherings of developers have proven to be an efficient way of accomplishing important work while simultaneously strengthening the community. Thanks to the increasing number of Supporting Members, the e.V. has the resources, both financially and organizationally, to assist with these sprints. Our goal is to support about ten developer meetings in this particularly important year when the release of KDE 4 is going to happen.

As the KDE community relies on the continuous growth of generations of developers, we also want to encourage our newcomers to take part in the developer gatherings in order to learn and enjoy the culture of KDE in creating innovative technology.

Signed,
The KDE e.V. Board <kde-ev-board@kde.org>

Board Meeting

The KDE e.V. Board of Directors held a two-day long meeting in Darmstadt in November. Topics discussed at the meeting included: wrapping up aKademy 2006; Supporting Membership and how we want to deal with this in detail; developer meetings and Trolltech's role in that; partnerships with other organizations; status and functioning of the Working Groups; the organization of aKademy 2007; and other organizational matters. Kenny Duffus from the Scottish organization team of aKademy 2007 joined part of the meeting to be able to discuss issues more directly.

The next board meeting is currently planned to take place March in The Netherlands. For this meeting, representatives of the different Working Groups will be invited.

Administrative Person

The KDE e.V. Board decided to hire an administrative person in order to have someone available for tasks such as financial administration, organization of developer meetings, collecting papers and being available for phone inquiries. Wikimedia Deutschland, the German organization representing Wikimedia, offered KDE e.V. to share an office with them. The Board visited Wikimedia in their office in Frankfurt and discussed those possibilities with positive outcome. It makes a lot of sense to share an office: sharing saves resources and there is a lot of cultural overlap and mind-share in the respective organizations.

Technical Working Group

In the course of setting up the second Technical Working Group, it became clear that there is considerable lack of support for an e.V.-backed Technical Working Group. The KDE e.V. Board has therefore pulled in its support for such a group hoping that the wider community will be able to solve this. In the meantime, a group has formed to coordinate the releases of future KDE version. The Board appreciates this community effort and supports it.

Copyright Assignment

Work to provide a mechanism for copyright assignment has commenced. The KDE e.V. membership approved such a mechanism with an on-line vote. Currently, the details and (legal) implications are being sorted out in collaboration with the Free Software Foundation.

Supporting Membership

The KDE e.V. is happy to welcome Trolltech as a Patron of KDE and Sirius as new Supporting Member.

The start of the Individual Supporting Membership program has been postponed until work-flows and administration are well in-place.

SQO-OSS Involvement

The SQO-OSS project is proceeding on-schedule with a focus on research and gaining insight into the existing tools; no platform work has been done yet. The second project meeting was held 18-19 December in Thessaloniki, Greece, and yielded more design work and several paper ideas. On the 20th, a workshop on Open Source development with a talk by Adriaan de Groot on KDE4 was held at the Aristotle University.

At the board meeting in November, the board decided to purchase a dedicated research server -- which doubles as a mail archiver and SVN mirror, among other things -- for the processing of data for the SQO-OSS project and to provide a test-bed for ideas for KDE quality assurance activities. This activity will move forward in January.

Human Computer Interaction Working Group Report

The Human Computer Interaction Working Group (HCI) consists of representatives from the fields of accessibility, artwork, documentation, internationalization and usability. Its goal is to create a more compelling, usable, and understandable interface for all people.

In this quarter, the HCI concentrated on the following tasks:

- Oxygen icons: The icons for kdelibs are complete, and the new icon naming scheme is applied to them. Documentation and an icon "wishlist" are available in SVN (playground/artwork/Oxygen/docs).

- Marketing: The artists cooperated with the marketing team by designing pictures and animations for marketing slogans, as well as new merchandising articles.

- KDE Website: Both the artists and the accessibility team polished the layout of the new KDE website by means of look and feel and accessibility.

- Usability support: The usability team supported various projects in design decisions, including the Kubuntu Grub Configuration interface, the file manager Dolphin, Okular and KOffice.

- Accessibility: Our request to Trolltech was successful. Trolltech has now committed to implement full support for the accessibility framework in the next Qt release: http://lists.freestandards.org/pipermail/accessibility/2007-January/001862.html

The primary method of communication with the HCI working group through the kde-hci@kde.org mailing list. We especially encourage members of the internationalization and documentation teams to join and represent their needs.

Report from the Marketing Working Group

The Marketing Working Group (MWG) is a group of KDE contributors (not necessarily e.V. members) who have a common interest in helping to promote and market the project.

MWG highlights from this quarter include:

- KDE Branding Meeting: The KDE Marketing Working Group organized the "KDE Branding Meeting" November in Darmstadt. The meeting was open to the community and attracted 14 people. To save resources, the meeting was held the two days before the board meeting. The first day was used to get everyone on the same level of knowledge. This proved necessary because there is quite some diversity in the Marketing Team and a background of people ranging from 'little knowledge about KDE but lots of professional experience in the field' to 'a lot of knowledge about KDE but some lack of experience on the topic of branding'.

  Roughly, the results of the meeting are that KDE should become an umbrella brand for different sub-brands, such as KOffice, KDE as development platform, KDE as a desktop and various others. To accomplish this, the Marketing Team should be structured according

to the different aspects of branding.

- Business Cards: The KDE Marketing Working Group has announced the immediate availability of business cards for KDE e.V. members and contributors of KDE e.V.. If you need business cards for your contribution to KDE, please refer to http://www.spreadkde.org/business_cards

- KDE's 10th birthday: A birthday party celebrating the 10th birthday of KDE has been organized for the larger community, the press and industry contacts. The birthday party was very successful and presented KDE as a professional organization.

Contact this group with your KDE marketing input by sending email to kde-ev-marketing@kde.org.

Report from the System Administration Team

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.

> In this quarterly reporting period there were 27,478 (~300 per day) commits made into the KDE subversion. The top 10 contributors all made over 300 commits each.
>
> The most productive commit week of this quarter ended 2006-10-24 with 2,315 commits in the 7 day period. The least productive week saw only 535 commits.

Highlights of this quarter's system administration tasks:

- rewrote the spam filtering setup on our mailserver in C++ instead of the huge bunch of perl and bash scripts that it was before, making it more than factor 10 faster and thereby reducing our system load.

- created subversion accounts for 68 new contributors and disabled 3 subversion accounts.

- created 10 email aliases and disabled 2 email aliases.

- created these mailing-lists:
  - kde-events-au
  - kde-ev-patrons
  - okular-devel
  - kde-ev-supporters
  - korganizer-devel

- and disabled these mailing-lists:
  - artist-devel
  - kde-www-devel

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

Future Plans

aKademy 2007
Adriaan de Groot will be visiting Glasgow in April to help with organizational efforts.

Marketing Working Group
Future plans of the Marketing Working Group revolve around further promoting KDE4 as a development platform, working together with the Release Team to prepare a roadmap for the KDE4 release and preparing the release itself. The branding strategy that had been discussed during the meeting in Darmstadt needs to be implemented. Additionally, the SpreadKDE website as a promotion platform for KDE is being renewed and improved for better handling of events and tasks to improve collaboration in the wider promotional community.

A second MWG meeting may be planned to further flesh out the road to KDE4.

Welcome New Members

In this quarter we added 5 new members, growing the total number to 180. The new members are:

  Jaroslaw Staniek
  Karl-Heinz Zimmer
  Andreas Kling
  Stefan Teleman
  Danny Allen

We also added Trolltech as a Patron of KDE and Sirius Corporation as a Supporting Member of KDE.

Welcome to the KDE e.V.!

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

Finances

At the end of this reporting period the KDE e.V. has a positive balance of €78,886 .

Income during the past quarter included:

- €6,500 SQO/OSS
- €25,000 Donation surplus of aKademy 2005
- €1,000 Supporting Membership Fees
- €400 Programmeerzomer Mentor Fee
- Donations

While our expenses covered the following activities:
- €11,500 aKademy travel cost reimbursements
- €1,300 Hardware KDE Server
- Marketing Meeting
- Board Meeting
- Material Trade Shows
- Travel cost reimbursements for people representing KDE at various events

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

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

Signed The e.V. Board:
Eva Brucherseifer <eva@kde.org>, President
Cornelius Schumacher <schumacher@kde.org>, Vice President
Adriaan de Groot <groot@kde.org>, Vice President
Aaron J. Seigo <aseigo@kde.org>, Board Member
Sebastian Kügler <sebas@kde.org>, Board Member

This report prepared by:
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