



.init()

Dear KDE e.V. member,

The first quarter of 2006 was a particularly busy and productive one for KDE e.V. Progress was made on several important fronts: the working groups have been working in earnest, and a seminal board meeting was held in Berlin.

The KDE project continues to show leadership in both technical and social venues while retaining our culture of fun, community and voluntarism. With KDE4 taking form and unprecedented strides being made when it comes to building relationships with groups such as the LSB, OSDL and others, your board is proud to be serving the project during this momentous time in our history.

With aKademy still to look forward to, KDE4 technical previews yet to hit the populace, and only a quarter of the year behind us, it's hard not to be wearing a smile while hitting the subversion repositories. We are looking forward to an exciting time for KDE, with aKademy 2006, the first preview release of KDE 4 and the 10th anniversary of the project approaching fast. We are dedicated to give all the support the e.V. can give to make all this a great success for the KDE project and its community.

Signed,
Eva Brucherseifer <eva@kde.org>
President
KDE e.V.

Status Report

Here is a recap of some of the highlights from 2006's first quarter:

aKademy 2006 Location Selected

The location and dates for this year's annual global KDE meeting and e.V. annual general meeting has been selected: Dublin, Ireland from September 23rd to 30th 2006. We look forward to Marcus Furlong and his team of local organizers helping us prepare the best aKademy yet on the Trinity College campus.

Board Meeting in Berlin

The board of the KDE e.V. got together for a two-day board meeting at the wonderful city of Berlin in the beginning of March. For the first time the KDE e.V. working groups were invited to join the board meeting and all three working groups sent representatives, including: Gunnar Schmidt for the Technical Working Group; Sebastian Kügler for the Marketing Working Group; Ellen Reitmayr and Kenneth Wimer for the Human Computer Interaction Working Group. As an extra highlight, the local organizer of aKademy 2006 in Dublin, Marcus Furlong, also joined the proceedings.

We had a productive two days and a report was released to the e.V. membership (a private, members-only report not available for public consumption). Marcus already did some great work on the preparations of aKademy, the Marketing Working Group is in full swing, and the board resolved some of the more daunting organizational issues involved with running the association.

Technical Working Group Functional

The TWG (or Technical Working Group) is now up and running.

Some accomplishments of this working group last quarter include:

- Gunnar Schmidt is the representative to the e.V. board.
- The [TWG mission statement](#) was written.
- Decided on a rough schedule for KDE4 Technical Previews which was published as the [KDE 4.0 Release Plan](#).
- Discussed the possibility of organizing a small KDE4-development meeting, for speeding up the work on kdelibs (mostly). Nothing has been decided yet, except that "we would like to have it" before July (preferably). The TWG would welcome a volunteer to help organize this meeting (including finding sponsors!). The problem of "how to choose who to invite" is not solved yet.
- Decided on a 3.x branch unfreeze for selected features, for 3.5.3, as announced on the kde-core-devel mailing list.

Although the technical decisions of the TWG occur on the kde-core-devel mailing list (by having the TWG members participate in the discussions there as usual), some people want to contact the TWG privately. For this purpose they can use the kde-ev-twg@kde.org email address. Please use this only for exceptional cases, we are committed to making all important discussions happen on the kde-core-devel mailing list.

Human Computer Interaction Working Group Functional

In order to facilitate current inter- and extra- community communication and innovation there is need for a Human Computer Interaction working group (short name "HCI working group") within KDE made up of core accessibility, usability, internationalization and artist community members. This group will act not only to strengthen and improve current processes but also as a catalyst for new ideas. Key members, based upon motivation and effort not name and popularity, from the different KDE communities involved, have stepped forward to initiate this effort.

The working group is comprised of e.V. members. At this time the membership includes: Ellen Reitmayr, Olaf Schmidt, Celeste Lyn Paul, Thomas Zander, Nuno Pinheiro, and Kenneth Wimer. The first method of communication for the working group will be the mailing list (kde-hci@kde.org). This mailing list is moderated for non-members, although anyone may join as a spectator. Good ideas and useful criticism are welcomed.

So far, the HCI working group has come up with several interdisciplinary proposals that aim at facilitating the KDE desktop for its users and that inform about our work:

- Color schemes in KDE 4 (Accessibility, Artwork, Usability)
- Usability-testing of accessibility features (Accessibility, Usability)
- Folder design (Artwork)
- Relaunch of usability.kde.org (Usability)
- Usability-report on file browsing behavior (Usability)
- Documentation of some required changes in the Libs (Usability)
- What's This help (Accessibility, Documentation, Usability)
- Quality Assurance by automated testing (Accessibility, Usability, QA team)



Much of what this working group intends to accomplish is reliant upon communication and coordination with the other working groups being formed as well as the overall KDE community. The major challenge during the next quarter will be to set up processes that integrate HCI with the KDE development cycle.

Marketing Working Group Functional

The Marketing Working Group (MWG) has put substantial efforts into a wide variety of topics including: business card creation; relationship management; and preparations for KDE4 promotion.

The first result of the relationship management effort is KDE's association with the FSF Europe which was recently announced. Others include improving the communication channels with distributors and different organizations in the Free / Open Source software sphere.

The business cards system is being set up. During the next weeks, KDE e.V. members will be provided with business cards to be used at events by KDE representatives. KDE's performance on future events will also be improved by a "booth-box" which contains material needed to promote KDE on fairs and events. The first booth-box will be shipped around Europe, and serve as an example to create booth-boxes for other geographical areas, such as the Americas.

The Marketing Working Group is working on a press channel to improve communication with the press in order to streamline appearance in the media and make it easier for journalists to write about KDE. The promotion community around SpreadKDE is growing, and the kde-promo list has never in the past seen the level of activity of the last months. Together with the Technical Working Group, a release procedure is being developed which should streamline the software releases and their appearance in the media. In collaboration with the University of Delft in the Netherlands, research into High-Tech marketing is being done supporting the ongoing effort of a comprehensive scientific analysis of a possible marketing strategy for KDE. With the support of the Marketing Working Group, a team of KDE contributors is currently taking the first steps to improve the web-presence of the KDE project.

SQO Involvement Progress

KDE e.V. has joined an international research consortium known as SQO-OSS (or Software Quality Observatory for Open Source Software). In conjunction with the Athens University of Economics and Business and several European industrial partners, the SQO-OSS will perform research into modern methods for measuring software process quality in Open Source projects. KDE e.V. will be involved both as a source of raw material — thanks to our open development model, we are in a position to deliver documentation about the quality of our process — and as an active research partner. A kick-off meeting will be held in Athens in July. Adriaan de Groot and Sebastian Kügler are representing KDE e.V. in the research consortium.

Domain Name Holding Account

The e.V. now has an account for holding and registering domain

names with Schlund Technologies. We can now accept transfers of existing domains and register new ones for the top-level domains (TLDs) that Schlund services. The reason for this is to ensure that we can properly administer and maintain important domain names even if unexpected and unfortunate events occur that prevent a given individual from being able to manage them effectively for the project.

Note that the e.V. has registered the new kde.eu domain via our Schlund account.

KDE trademark registered in the United States

We have received official confirmation from the United States Patent and Trademark Office via our legal counsel that the trademarks we had registered in the European Union have now also been registered in the U.S.A. A thank-you is in order to George Staikos for helping see this process through to completion.

Rules of Procedure for Supporting Members Passed

Many companies and even individuals who would like to support KDE financially have been looking for an official way to do so. The board drafted a set of procedures that provides guidelines for providing such support in a structured and official way. These procedures were presented to the e.V. membership and were ratified by an Internet vote.

The resulting "[Rules of Procedure for Supporting Members](#)" is now available on the e.V. website.

The next step will be to mount a campaign to bring more corporate (and other) members on board as Supporting Members. We are working to triage the previous KDE League members into this new system as well as looking for new members.

Rules of Procedure for Online Voting in Draft Process

A first draft of official rules of procedure for Online Voting has been drafted by board member Cornelius Schumacher. The board has been going through an internal process of editing, proof reading and commenting on the draft in preparation for it to be brought for comment and eventual voting to the general e.V. membership. The goal is to complete this process in 2006Q2.

KDE Representation At Community Events

We have continued our tradition of attending and participating in open source and community events. This year KDE project members have attended high profile events on five continents and several countries, ranging from New Zealand to India, from Germany to Canada, from Brazil to the USA.

KDE e.V. has helped in whole or in part members to attend these events, provide funding for promotional materials and aid in organization. A huge thank-you is due to all the volunteers who have been involved in helping us raise KDE's global profile as well as network with important organizations and people from both within and outside our community.



Board Registration Completed

As an administrative detail, the board that was elected in August 2005 has been accepted and properly registered with the appropriate authorities in Germany.

Welcome New Members

In this quarter we added 6 new members, growing the membership to 165. The new members are:

Alexander Neundorf
Claire Lotion
Olivier Goffart
Bart Coppens
Nuno Marco Fernandes Pinheiro
Klaas Freitag

Welcome to the KDE e.V.!

For donor and sponsorship information please see the "[Supporting KDE](#)" website.

Signed The e.V. Board:

Eva Brucherseifer <eva@kde.org>, President and Executive
Cornelius Schumacher <schumacher@kde.org>, Vice President
Mirko Böhm <mirko@kde.org>, Treasurer
Aaron J. Seigo <aseigo@kde.org>, Board Member

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