

COMMUNITY REPORT

2ND QUARTER 2012 | ISSUE 22



WELCOME MESSAGE

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

We are coming back from a successful Akademy 2012 in Tallinn, Estonia. The event commenced with a befitting talk “Freedom of Expression” by Mathias Klang; “freedom of expression” is a trait that has embodied KDE since its beginning. It was followed by an excellent two day line-up of talks. The main conference was followed by a diverse and interesting array of BoF sessions and workshops. The KDE e.V. Annual General Meeting also was held. Usual social gatherings and brainstorming over dinner and drinks have always been part of Akademy. This year was the same with many attendees gathering around the Old Town area for their dinner. A more detailed report about Akademy 2012 and the Annual General meeting will be published in the report for the third quarter.

Akademy has changed since I first attended it in 2006 in Dublin. Akademy back then had a lot more of long hacking hours with the labs open all night. After the main conference, contributors hacked away to glory all

night only to return after few hours of sleep to continue working from where they left off. Since then, a lot has changed. We now have regular sprints pretty much all year around.

One such sprint is the Randa meeting. In fact, it has become the most intense and largest KDE sprint. In 2011, the event saw participation by 40 KDE contributors from around the world coming together to plan, design, create and work on their favorite KDE projects. The Randa sprint is being organized by our own KDE hero Mario Fux who puts in enormous effort to get this event right and productive. For seven days, contributors participating in the Randa event forget worrying about food, water or beer. They do exactly one thing. Contribute. Occasionally they take breaks to hike around the wonderful mountain trails in Randa, admire the majestic Matterhorn and get inspired. This year, over 30 KDE people will be in Randa for a week to hack on various projects including Accessibility, Education, Multimedia and Plasma Workspaces. KDE e.V. and its Board wholeheartedly support the Randa sprint. To help with limited budget requirements, funds have to be

raised. A Pledgie campaign (<http://pledgie.com/campaigns/18045>) is available to help achieve this goal. Please spread the word about this campaign and donate if you can.

Speaking of changing times, a very important one is the upcoming new ownership of Qt. Recently Nokia announced that it is selling its Qt business to Digia. Congratulations to KDE e.V. supporting member Digia on acquiring Qt Software. We wish them all the best in taking Qt to even higher levels of success and adoption. The KDE Project is also committed to Qt’s success. We are looking forward to working with the new owners of Qt Software and all the other partners in the Qt Project. We expect a bright future. Also, thank you to Nokia for all the support you have given us all these years.

Here’s wishing everybody a happy reading of the second Quarterly Report for 2012 and Happy Contributing!

Pradepto Bhattacharya for the KDE e.V. Board of Directors.

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ORGANIZING AKADEMY

Claudia Rauch



Once a year the KDE community gets together for its annual summit, Akademy. This non-commercial conference takes place in a different European city every year. It is organized by a volunteer team of both local and remote members, supported and coordinated by KDE e.V. and its Berlin office.

Getting a large conference for 300-400 international participants off the ground is no small feat. The work begins roughly a year before the event actually takes place. Although, after 10 years of Akademy, the KDE community is quite experienced in running this event, it still is a time-consuming effort that requires hard work and a lot of attention to details.

The first step is finding a location. KDE e.V. puts out a call for hosts and selects a suitable venue and city. Usually, Akademy takes place at a university as they can provide the infrastructure that is needed for the conference at a low cost: big lecture halls and smaller

Akademy. Money is also needed to take care of organizational things like cleaning service for the venue, a printer to print name badges, snacks and coffee to keep the volunteers happy, printing posters and other small things.

Covering the event costs and the travel program in turn requires finding sponsors for the event. We have always been quite fortunate to find companies from the KDE and Qt ecosystem that value Akademy and help us to fund the event and the travel support for our community members.

Equally as important as a good venue are the people behind the conference - the organizing team. Without the hard work of the team working mainly in their spare time, Akademy wouldn't happen at all. There

are countless tasks that need to be taken care of once the venue is selected. Details like making sure the university cafeteria is open during the conference and that there is food choices for all diets, researching suppliers for t-shirts, posters and banners, finding local sponsors, organizing social event locations, and finding suitable accommodation for attendees.

In addition to the work that has to be done "on the ground", there is a lot more going on. Of course, the conference needs a website with a program, a registration interface and general information about the conference, its location and

more. A program committee drafts a call for papers and puts together a program. The word to get out: blog articles and press releases have to be written, and more.

Once Akademy starts there is still a lot to do. You can imagine that the devil is in the details: the microphones for the speakers won't work if the batteries are dead, and if there is no coffee or water readily available at the conference venue, attendees



Photo courtesy of Matthias Welwarsky

classrooms, technical infrastructure, and a cafeteria that can feed several hundred hungry hackers. They are well connected to public transport and are generally a friendly environment for our community.

Then, a budget has to be planned: what are the costs for organizing such an event? In the case of Akademy, a large part of the budget goes towards the travel sponsorship program for attendees that otherwise wouldn't have the resources to come to

ORGANIZING AKADEMY – CONTINUED

won't be happy. Is there a session chair who will introduce each of the speakers, make sure they know how much time is remaining and moderate questions? Is there a quiet room where journalists and bloggers can work on their articles? Is there room for the "hallway track", for email, socializing and hacking between the talks? All these details matter in order to create a good, productive atmosphere for the conference.

It is also important to make sure those who can't attend Akademy know what is going on. Therefore, a part of the Akademy team is focused on taping the talks on video, writing blog posts during the event and working with the press to make sure word gets out about the latest news from the conference.

After the attendees have left, there is still some work to do. Packing up the leftovers from the event at the venue, sending thank-you notes to sponsors, collecting feedback from the attendees, processing videos of the talks and publishing them on the Akademy website. Much must be done in the first days and weeks after the conference. And once all that's done, it's already time to plan the next event!



Photo courtesy of Matthias Welwarsky



Krita image courtesy of Canitiem

Krita 2.4

(released 12 April 2012)

SUPPORTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES



Developer Sprints

LAKADEMY

PORTO ALLEGRE, BRAZIL

April 2012

Sandro Andrade

From 27 April to 1 May 2012 the first Lakademy (KDE Latin-America Summit) took place at Porto Alegre, in the south of Brazil. Lakademy emerged as a natural follow up to the first Akademy-Brazil which took place in 2010. The meeting brought together 16 participants from Brazil, Argentina, and Peru. Attendee's profiles ranged from students doing their college work with KDE technologies and GSoCers to teachers, web designers, translators, and people interested in promotion.

Lakademy was carried out in a multi-sprint format since there is not yet a large enough number of contributors in any particular KDE

technology, and people are usually too far from each other to have more frequent specialized meetings. In general, participants clustered themselves in small groups dedicated to

hacking AmaroK, Plasma Network Management, Cantor, Rocs, KDE Games, and KMyMoney. Lakademy was also a venue for GSoCers and Mentors from Latin America to meet face-to-face, leveraging their project's quality and building stronger long-term relationships.



Krita image courtesy of Ramon Miranda

On Monday, the promo meeting took the whole morning. There were discussions about topics like a KDE Latin America web site, podcasts, creating a repository for templates and promotional material, upcoming FLOSS conferences, conveying a uniform message, and more. Requests and ideas were collected in the KDE Brazil wiki. The group is working to have some of them done by Latinoware 2012 in late October.

In addition to technical and promo outcomes, Lakademy - as well as previous Brazilian KDE meetings - provide a friendly atmosphere, strengthen old ties and welcome newcomers in a supportive and productive environment.



PLASMA WORKSPACES

PINEDA DE MAR, SPAIN

June 2012

Sebastian Kügler

In June, people interested in the KDE Workspaces met for a week in the Catalan Pineda de Mar, near Barcelona, Spain. The plan was to not do a lot of hacking, but rather to gather new ideas,



develop new directions and make plans for the next iterations of Plasma Workspaces, especially Plasma Desktop.

The meeting produced interesting results including more focus on Activities rather than virtual desktops to organize work, stronger integration of web services, more focus on users' workflows instead of separate, stand-alone applications and features. The Plasma team added a few people for this sprint. And it also developed some personas to help describe actual use cases to help develop solutions that actually meet the needs of the users.

Using games and other techniques to boost productivity, the group brainstormed a list of issues that

need to be resolved, features that need to be implemented or polished, and made plans for future releases.

Overall, the team spent an intense week with people getting together to unify their ideas and visions, and to build a list of specific things to do. Now it is time to empty the TODO list!

Photo courtesy of Martin Klapetek



Trade Shows and Community Events

KDE CASCADIA

AT LINUXFEST NORTHWEST

BELLINGHAM, WA-US

April 2012

Carl Symons

KDE Cascadia took place in conjunction with LinuxFest Northwest (LFNW) 2012 in Bellingham, Washington, USA. LFNW is the original grass-roots, community-driven Fest in the U.S., held each year during the last weekend in April. Thirteen years ago, it started with an intention to share Free and Open Source Software with the local community. Now it attracts more than 1,000 people—mostly developers and sysadmins—from the west coasts of the U.S. and Canada (sometimes referred to as “Cascadia”). KDE had an exhibit space and several presentations. KDE Cascadia was a pilot for having several regional grass roots events rather than one annual KDE conference in the U.S.

The exhibit attracted many people who use and appreciate KDE software. The response was uniformly positive, although it's not likely that there were many converts from other operating systems or desktop environments. The main exhibit draw was the latest version of Krita along with a large screen and pen tablet. Throughout both days, people experimented with the various artist tools. Plasma Active was also on display. Thanks to Valorie Zimmerman and Chad (elcaset) for helping to manage the exhibit.

There were presentations on Krita, ownCloud and Plasma Active; all were well received and all were full.

The Krita presentation was given by Oscar Baechler who also presented a Blender workshop. With only a few weeks of experience with Krita, he demonstrated many of its capabilities

along with pointers about pen tablets and digital drawing tips. Members of the audience were surprised at how quickly Oscar was able to achieve memorable results. Oscar said, "In just a few weeks, Krita has become a critical part of my workflow. It supports the way I work as an artist. It won't make you an artist, but it sure helps if you're already good at art."

Jos Poortvliet and Michael Gapczynski coordinated their presentations on ownCloud to provide user and technical perspectives. The LFNW crowd was

particularly drawn to the possibility of free and open cloud implementations. Thanks to Jos for trusting that LFNW would be a kick.

This crowd in particular could relate to the idea that device control and ownership should belong to the individual, not to the company who sold it.



Photo courtesy of Jos Poortvliet

Aaron and I collaborated on a presentation about Plasma Active. I demoed, spoke a bit and showed slides for Aaron's presentation. Aaron spoke on a remote hookup from Switzerland. The audience was receptive to the message that reverberates throughout KDE "Systems built on openness and participation embody and stimulate our human potential."

KDE Cascadia worked on a small scale. It provided useful information about coordinating a KDE presence with established conferences. On the other hand, it did not have the sense of community and KDE contributor involvement that are key elements of

other KDE gatherings such as Akademie.

Thank you to KDE e.V., the Board and Claudia for your support. Your interest and commitment helped make KDE Cascadia a success.

LINUXTAG
BERLIN
May 2012

Claudia Rauch

Traditionally, KDE has a booth at Linuxtag Berlin, the biggest Linux show in Germany. This year's event took place from 23rd to 26th May. KDE shared a booth with the Qt Project and showcased its latest advancements. Cornelius Schumacher, KDE e.V.'s President gave a keynote talk together with Lars Knoll from Nokia about "Future of UI between desktop and mobile: Qt 5" which was very well received.



Krita image courtesy of Moe Jackson (13 years old)

SOUTHEAST LINUXFEST

CHARLOTTE, NC-WA

June 2012

Heath Matlock

KDE was represented at the SouthEast LinuxFest again this year with a booth showing off our latest software. The Calligra Suite, Kontact, Telepathy, and Plasma Workspaces were featured. Krita particularly intrigued many people. And several copies of the Krita training materials were handed out.

Many who have not used KDE software recently, or ever, said that they were impressed with KDE's technology, with special praise for Kwin's improvements and overall stability. There was a contest to see who could crash a KDE application in under a minute. Several people tried, but no one succeeded.

Based on feedback from visitors to the booth, there are efforts underway to build a stronger KDE presence and get more visibility in the U.S. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to join the #kde-usa channel on Freenode.



Krita image courtesy of Kargall Lefou



Krita image courtesy of Kargall Lefou

SOLUTIONS LINUX

PARIS

June 2012

Gaël Beaudoin

Solutions Linux 2012 took place in Paris La Défense from June 19th to 21st. There to run the booth were: Aurélien Gateau, Sébastien Renard and Gaël Beaudoin. KDE was presented to a wide variety of people, from students to professors, to professionals deploying KDE. Many questions from existing KDE users were about what was new in the demos of what would soon become the 4.9 release. Aurélien as a developer answered more technical questions which was appreciated. It was an interesting experience and a pleasure to demonstrate what the KDE community has done in a year.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Akarsh Simha

FINANCES

INCOME (€):

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Corporate Supporters: | 32,518 |
| Donations: | 5,700 |
| Individual supporting membership program (Join The Game): | 10,461 |
| Akademy sponsorship: | 53,500 |
| Others (shared office, R&D projects, other sponsorships): | 6,994 |
| Total: | 109,173 |

EXPENSES (€):

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Personnel/administration/office: | 33,078 |
| Sponsorship for flights/accommodation for events/meetings/sprints: | 25,888 |
| Akademy organization: | 3,381 |
| Other expenses: | 6,757 |
| Total: | 69,104 |

QUARTERLY RESULT (2Q2012) 40,069

AT THE END OF THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2012, KDE E.V. HAD A POSITIVE BALANCE OF €255,367.

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 56 subversion accounts; disabled 3 subversion accounts
- Created 2 kdemail.net aliases; disabled 3 kdemail.net aliases; modified 1 kdemail.net alias
- Created 3 kde.org aliases; disabled 10 kde.org aliases; modified 6 kde.org aliases
- Created 3 kde.org mailing-lists: kde-testing; kde-sdk-devel; digikam-soc-devel

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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