

The openSUSE Community

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openSUSE Community

- A Community Distribution
- A Positive Response
- Problems & Challenges
- Ongoing Efforts
- Plans for the Future

openSUSE: A Community Distribution



How it is Open

openSUSE, since SUSE Linux 10.0, is completely open to the community; no longer all in-house.

This includes:

- Public Beta-Testing
- Open Bugtracker: <http://bugzilla.novell.com>
- Public Mailing Lists: <http://lists.opensuse.org>
- Open Status Meetings: #opensuse-project (Freenode)
- As well as open software

A Positive Response



How has it been Good?

Great response from the Community, in:

- Bug Reporting
 - 10.1: 700 bug reporters: 53% of reports
 - 10.2: 900 bug reporters: 60% of reports
- Translations
 - Collaboration between developers and users



How has it been Good?

- Excellent Build Service
 - Anyone can easily make packages for all distributions and versions
 - Abundance of packages for users: 6,000 so far for openSUSE 10.2
- Website powered by Mediawiki
- Easy to contribute and change things with discussion

Problems & Challenges



Packaging

Issues that community packagers are experiencing:

- Factory (the openSUSE development version) is not actually in the openSUSE Build Service itself yet, so community members cannot contribute to it
- Nowhere to file bugs/wishes for packages in the openSUSE Build Service, at the moment



A Fragmented Community

Since there was no original centralised community, the community as it is now is still fragmented

- Has spawned micro-communities
- Very little, if any, correspondence between forum, IRC, mailing list, or particular local teams and communities



Why is this a Problem?

Collaboration and openness is close to the essence of the GNU/Linux community as a whole, without this we have:

- A weaker community, since it does not work as a team
- Too many resources; difficult to find exactly what you want
- Duplication of effort
- Unattractive and problematic to a new user

Ongoing Efforts



What is Happening

As well as basic bug reporting and conversations between users and developers, there are a few other ongoing efforts:

- Centralisation of documentation
- Community package sources with many extra applications
- Package Search
- makeSUSEdvd



Centralising Documentation

Try to encourage all community-produced documentation to go onto openSUSE.org where possible

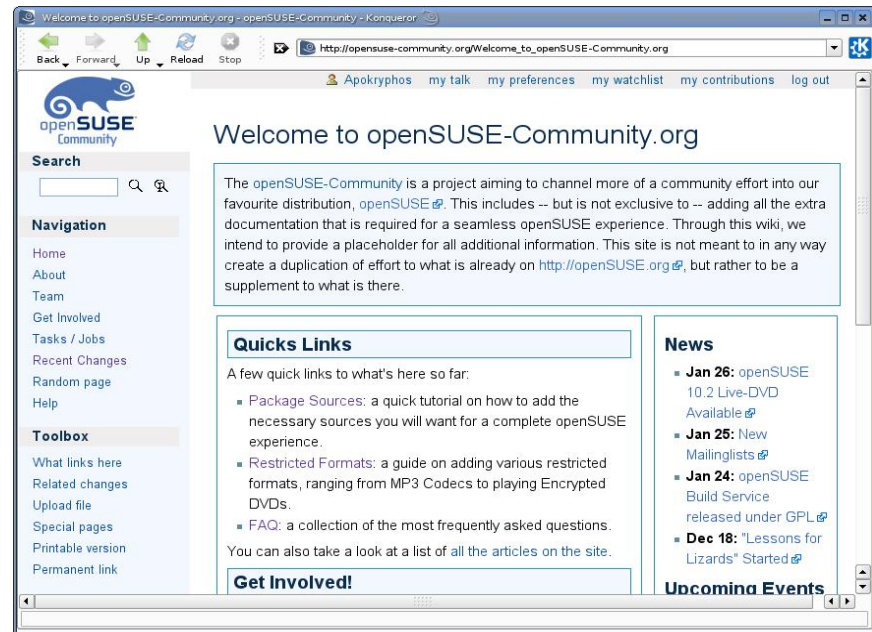
- Easy for a new user as they only need to check one resource
- Maximise collaboration by using only one resource which everyone has to go through



openSUSE-Community.org

Not all documentation can go onto openSUSE.org, including Packman/Guru tutorials and other things concerning restricted formats. Solution: openSUSE-Community.org

- FAQ
- Mediawiki
- Integrated Feel





Community Packages

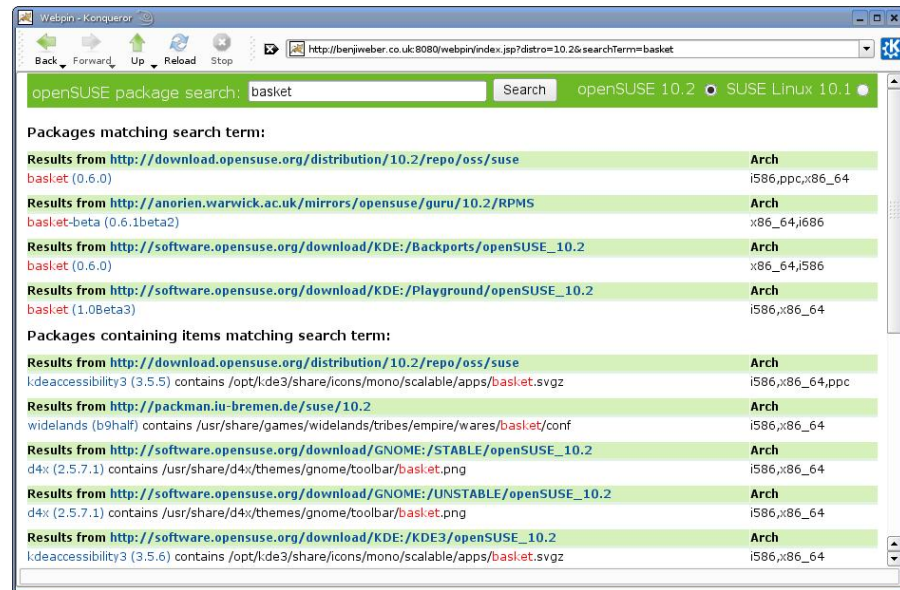
- Packman: <http://packman.links2linux.org>
 - 1800+ packages for users
 - Great, accessible interface
- Guru: <http://linux01.gwdg.de/~pbleser>
 - Nearly 1000 packages
 - Backported, built differently, or nowhere else
- Questions on Merging



Package Search

Wonderful package and file search by Benjamin Weber:
<http://packages.opensuse-community.org>. Indexing:

- Online repositories of 10.1 and 10.2
- openSUSE Build Service
- Packman
- Guru





makeSUSEdvd

Powerful ISO manipulator/creator by houghi:

- Originally created to convert the CD ISOs to a DVD ISO
- Making an openSUSE-based distribution:

http://opensuse.org/Making_a_SUSE_based_distribution

- Rembrand
- No CD/DVD install

Plans for the Future



Goals and Plans

What more can be done, and what should we be working on?

- Continue expanding documentation
- Community Bugzilla?
- One forum?
- How to deal with Community Acknowledgment: @openSUSE.org, etc.
- At least one clear medium of communication for getting involved in the project

Open Discussion



Join Us!

For discussion on all of these issues, feel free to jump in on the discussion at:

- `#opensuse-project` and `#opensuse-community` on `irc.freenode.net`
- `opensuse-project@opensuse.org`