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
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 ongoings 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
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
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:

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