Managing Gentoo

On the Gentoo Council & Foundation

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Birth of Gentoo

- Founded by Daniel Robbins 1999
- Top of the chain: founder, leader, controlled directions, made final decisions
- Real life came into play

partly based on the presentation of Mike Frysinger, 25-02-2006
Managers Project

- GLEP 4, mid-2003 by drobins
- Top level projects
  - Operation manager (day-to-day)
  - Strategic manager (long term)
- Started off well, but soon lost their steam
Gentoo Foundation

- Formed in 2004
- Copyrights and such were transferred
- Trustees board for legal issues
- Non technical focus
- But are no managers/leaders
Restructuring

- Lack of leadership/authority reached crisis mid-2005
- Different restructuring proposals
  - FOSDEM, koon, g2boojum, ciaranm
- Gentoo wide vote was held
Council was born

- GLEP 39, ciaranm and g2boojum
- Projects can be created by anyone
- Monthly meetings
- Yearly elections of 7 persons
- Slackers get booted from Council
- Global technical issues focus
First Council

- Voted in Aug 2005
  - agriffis, azarah, koon, seemant, solar, swift, vapier
- Worked on directing the scope of things
- Retained the power to overrule any project
- Deferred to projects since they generally know best
Second Council

- Voted Aug 2006
  - flameeyes, kingtaco, kloeri, kugelfang, robbat2, vapier, wolf31o2

- Addressed some common criticisms
  - impromptu meetings
  - status reports
  - “contactability”
Fast Forward :)  

- Currently, 8th Council
- My Second Council term
- Investments in effectivity
Inefficiencies

- Meetings took too long
- Too much unstructured
- Too many “vague” topics on the agenda
Structure

- Have discussions on ML prior to meetings
- Agenda assembled well in advance
- The Council is not just there to force opinions upon others
- Focus on original global technical direction
Current Role

- Last stop for project wide changes
- e.g. new EAPIs and their features
- Group of “old wise” man to make balanced decisions
- Less and less the silver bullet in conflicts
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In existence since 2004
Major revamp in 2008

Currently:
dabbott (2009), NeddySeagooon (2008),
rich0 (2011), robbat2 (2009),
quantum summers (2009)
 Trustees: Purpose

- Paperwork, paperwork, paperwork
- Trademarks
- Taxes
- Corporation registration (New Mexico)
- Money...
Trustees: Income

- Income 2012FY: $17,835.58
  - 56% GSoC org payment
  - 40% PayPal donations
  - 1.7% CafePress
  - 2.3% interest

- 2011FY ~$15800
- 2010FY ~$24400 ($12000 GSoC backpay)
Trustees: Expenditure

Legal: Accountant, Trademark, Corporation

Infra hardware

$2000 misc, plus major purchases

Thanks to Google for matching donations

Dev hardware

MIPS+ARM machines, RAM, hard drives

Conferences...