The Ubuntu Development and Community Model

24/6/2005

Michael Banck <mbanck@debian.org>

Overview

- Introduction

- Infrastructure

- Development

- Community

Introduction

- Ubuntu is...

  - Just working[tm]

  - Concentrating on the Desktop

  - Providing a warm and flurry Community Feeling

  - Python centric

  - Sponsored by Canonical, Ltd.

Ubuntu infrastructure, Current Status

- All official boxes setup in a Datacentre

- Archive setup similar to Debian's

- Bugzilla as Bug Tracking System

- Mailman for Mailing Lists

- Plone/Wiki for Webpage

Ubuntu Launchpad

- Reimplementation of most services

- Soyuz for Archive Handling

- Malone as Bug Tracking System

- Rosetta as Translation System

Ubuntu archive

- Package pools setup like Debian

- 'main'

  - ubuntu-base meta package

  - ubunt-desktop meta package

  - Selected server and console applications

  - Selected additional GNOME applications

Ubuntu archive (continued)

- **'restricted'**

  - Binary-only firmware and device drivers

- **'universe'**

  - All other packages from Debian/apt-get.org etc.
  - Officially unsupported

- **'multiverse'**

  - Packages with problematic licenses
  - Officially unsupported

Release Strategy

- 'breezy' currently developed distribution

- No 'testing' distribution

- Development distribution frequently broken

- Rigid release schedule

  - Exactly 6 months between releases
  - Major milestone dates fixed as well
  - Branch unstable halfway through and stabilize
  - Freeze later on, every upload needs approval
  - Preview release coinciding with GNOME release

Package Maintenance

- No notion of 'One Maintainer per package'

  - Every Developer can fix any package

  - Teams work on specific parts like installer, desktop, laptop

  - Porters are both responisble for porting and buildds

Package development

- Most packages imported from Debian unstable unchanged

  - Rebuilt against breezy
  - No source changes

- 'main' packages frequently modified

  - 'ubuntu1', 'ubuntu2' etc. added to Debian revision
  - Distribution in changelog set to breezy
  - Patch available to Debian, but procedure under discussion

Package development (continued)

- 'universe' packages maintained by MOTUs

- Merge-o-Matic

  - Automatically try to merge modified packages

- Source-Only uploads

  - Bootstrapping of e.g. mono handled by porters

- Automatically rebuilt+uploaded by buildds

- Multiple dinstall runs per day

Ubuntu Community, overview

- Code of Conduct

- Tightly organized

- Open to new members

Community Code of Conduct

- Covers expected behaviour of community members:

  - Be considerate

  - Be respectful

  - Be collaborative

  - Do not flame or troll

- Violations are sentenced

Community structure

- The SABDFL

- Technical Board

- Community Council

- Teams

- Ubuntu Maintainers

- Community Members

SABDFL

- Mark Shuttleworth

  - Provides guidance

  - Steers developement

  - Actively involved

  - Sometimes makes unpopular ex-cathedra decisions

Technical Board and Community Council

- Tech Board
  - Matt Zimmerman, Scott James Remnant and Mark Shuttleworth

- Community Council
  - Benjamin 'mako' Hill, Mark Shuttleworth, Colin Watson and James Troup

- Bi-weekly public IRC meetings

Technical Board and Community Council (continued)

- Approve new Ubuntu Community members and maintainer

- Arbiter technical or social disagreements, respectively

Further Community

- Organized in teams

  - Desktop Team

  - Porting Teams

  - Documentation Team

  - MOTU Team

  - LoCo Teams

Members

- Ubuntu activists

  - Have signed Code of Conduct

- Members

  - Substantial contributions (also non-technical)

  - Approved by Community Council

  - Vote on Community Council or resolutions

  - Two years, renewable

Maintainers

- Upload packages to certain parts of archive

- Heavy involvement in development

- Getting mentored and reviewed

- Approved by Community Council and Tech Board

Canonical and Ubuntu

- Employees working on Ubuntu are mostly high-profile DDs

- Around a dozen Canonical employees work on Ubuntu

- No central office, employees work from home

- Tri-yearly conferences with intense working

Further Information

- http://www.ubuntu.com

- Slides of this talk

  - http://people.debian.org/~mbanck/talks/

- 'Debian and Ubuntu: To fork or not to fork'

  - Mako Hill, Saturday, 16:00, Hebel Saal

- 'Ubuntu - Das menschliche Linux'

  - Michael Kofler, Saturday, 17:00 Weinbrenner