



R&D: Getting Hackers Laid*

*Other side effects may include better quality software

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Outline

(or what is all this rubbish then?)



- 1 Introduction
- 2 Growing User Base
- 3 Growing Developer Base
- 4 Cross Platform
- 5 Getting Formal?



Some things in life...



... are unavoidable truths.

- Death (Unless you happen to be Elvis or Captain Scarlet or Sebastian Kügler)
- Taxes
- Success makes you attractive!



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John Prescott



- Some time Deputy PM
- Object of desire for Whitehall secretaries



How To Get Laid At Akademy

(or a lesson in being humongous)



You only have a few days. So be quick! If you're going to convince people you are successful, remember...

Success is a Free Software project is:

- Regular, useful contribution
- Team player
- Good humoured



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The solution..?

Convince people that you're Kevin Ottens



The "John Prescot" of KDE



Hello, my name is Kevin Ottens

and I am successful ;) (for some definition of "successful")



You may remember me from such talks as:

- The Software Quality Observatory for Open Source Software
- R&D: Killing the Imp

I am:

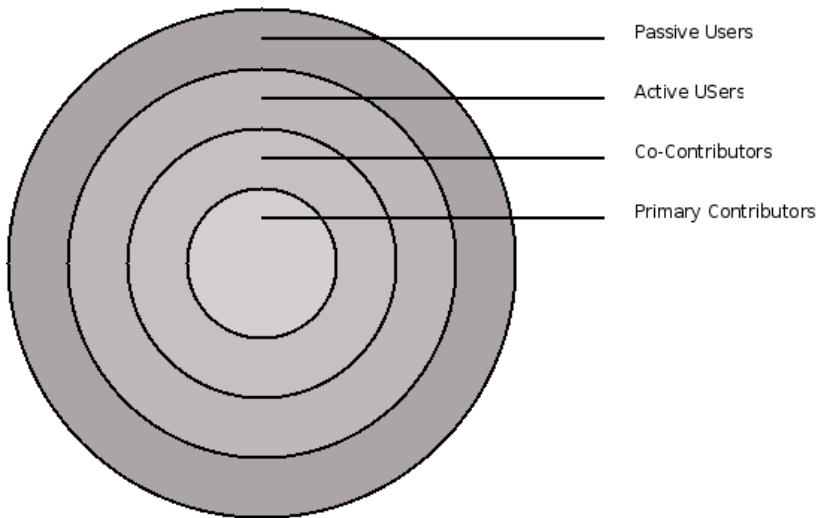
- Researcher of software quality
- e.V. member
- blogger of research issues

Green Eggs and Ham



Eating Into The Onion

(or understanding where /we/ are)





Benchmarking

(or measuring the things we /know/ are important)



Benchmarking:

- planned
- (simple) measurements
- regularly
- published
- compare
- react

Konsole: Short Example

```

paulams@paulams: ~ - MuIt - Konsole
Session Edit View Bookmarks Settings Help
-----
18 Feb 15 Helen Murray (179d) draft letters to sponsors and sponsors
19 Feb 15 Peter Murray (20d) --msg: flyers + GDD
20 Feb 14 Graham Wright (139k) --Pd: Meeting in geneva
21 Feb 14 Andrej Drel (15d) --Pd: Meeting in geneva
22 Feb 14 Peter Murray (19k) --Pd: Meeting in geneva
23 N Feb 14 Graham Wright (14k)
24 N Feb 15 Graham Wright (13k)
25 N Feb 15 Peter Murray (16k)
26 N Feb 15 Graham Wright (13k)
27 N Feb 15 Nelson Wright (17.2k)
28 N Feb 15 Graham Wright (18k)
29 Feb 15 Andrej Drel (1220k) -- a new logo for STC2008 - proposal
30 Feb 15 Nelson Wright (21k)
31 Feb 18 Graham Wright (22k)
32 Feb 18 Andrej Drel (20k)
33 N Feb 18 Graham Wright (20k)
34 + Feb 18 Liu, Xiaodong (45N) RE: [Pw] Seeking (RE) partners for a PPT proposal on
35 T Feb 18 Frank Martin (2.8k) Re: BCS 2008 talk for April 2008
36 N L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (13.8k) Re: [500-055 wp] SQL work plan
37 L Feb 18 Co wp@kde.org (1.39k) Re: [500-055 wp] [500-055 Gw] Commit (ignoring - 43
38 N Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (5k)
39 Feb 18 Ishamwood, Steve (1001) Specialist Group and BCS Membership
40 F Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (1.27) [Debug-committee] Thought Leadership Debate
41 L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (1.26) [500-055 wp] understanding the structure of us/
42 N L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (1.79)
43 N L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (13.8k)
44 N L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (14.6k)
45 N L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (12.5k)
46 N L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (14.6k)
47 N L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (12.8k)
48 N L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (12.4k)
49 N L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (1.79)
50 N L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (13.6k)
51 L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (13.2k) [500-055 wp] Makefile updates (was: altheisa build f
52 L Feb 18 Co wp@kde.org (1.24) --msg: [500-055 wp] Makefile updates
53 N L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (12.4k)
54 N L Feb 18 Co wp@kde.org (12.7k)
55 N L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (14.6k)
56 L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (1.39k)
57 L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (1.54k)
58 L Feb 18 Te wp@kde.org (1.71)
-----
MuIt Konsole

```

'cat' the en-GB dictionary:

- 1.411, 1.374, 1.412 for KDE 3.5.8
- 1.063, 1.046, 1.079 for KDE 4.0



Surveying

(or finding out what we /don't/ know is important)



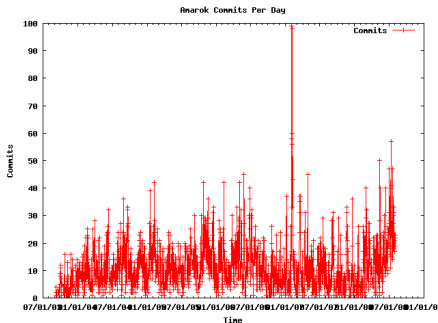
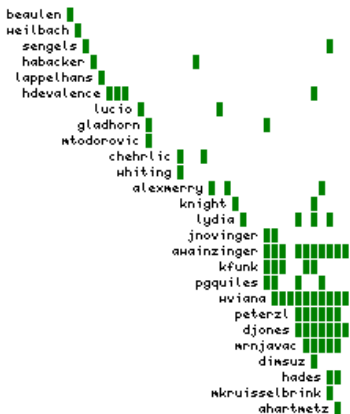
The big software houses spend a minor fortune on market research. They frequently deliver software which didn't meet the users' expectations. Somehow **they still pay for it!**

- Users are as much a part of the onion as we are
- It's /their/ freedom we are protecting, so we should protect their opinion, too



Keeping An Eye On The Community

(or "Little Sister Is Watching You")



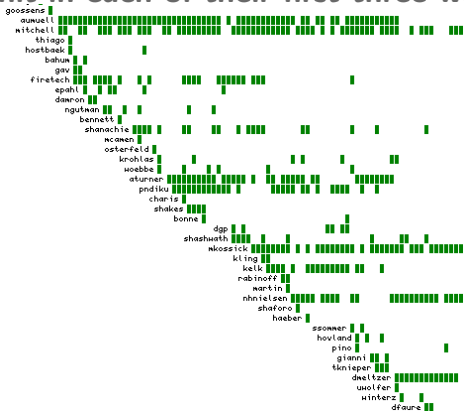


Re-Introducing Paul's Law

(or academic narcissism at its most blatant)



A new developer within a given project will be more likely to remain an active developer for longer if they commit in each of their first three weeks.





Try To Be Flimsy

(or please stop hardcoding "/proc")



There are a few known solutions to this problem. They don't all encapsulate everything we need from every target platform. This is all a specific case of a more general problem.

Be platform aware or platform agnostic! Just make your choice and make it now!



Managing Expectations

(or yes, Paul, you are the UK's only Plan9 user)



Not everyone likes (or expects this)

```

padams@egagus:~$ shell - kornsh42
10:23 ~ acapi@luppi-
10:24 ~ acapi@luppi-
10:24 ~ @padams-
10:24 ~ @padams-
10:24 ~ acapi@luppi-
10:24 ~ @padams-
10:24 ~ kbeecher-
10:24 ~ acapi@luppi-
10:25 ~ @padams-
10:25 ~ acapi@luppi-
10:25 ~ @padams-
10:26 ~ @padams-
10:26 ~ kbeecher-
10:26 ~ @padams-
10:27 ~ @padams-
10:34 ~ @padams-

[lucci@padams:qsl] [~/firemode/linux/cross/m2]
[linux-cross] []

padams@egagus:~$ shell - kornsh42
#Quit #Del #Send #Esc #Mail #Reply #Group #Help
94 N L May 30 To wp3qoo-oss. [2,7K]
95 N L May 30 To wp3qoo-oss. [2,5K]
96 N L May 30 To 500_OSS_All [2,9K]
97 r May 30 Fulvio Frati [1043]
98 r + May 30 Sissop Ron [607K]
99 + May 30 Sissop Ron [4,8K]
100 r + May 30 Sissop Ron [4,1K]
101 + May 30 Sissop Ron [3,6K]
102 May 30 Alain Williams [4,7K]
103 N May 30 Chris Clark [3,0K]
104 N May 30 Alain Williams [5,6K]
105 N L May 30 To wp3qoo-oss. [6,3K]
106 N May 30 Richard Malville [2,7K]
107 N May 31 Philip Hands [4,2K]

[lucci@egagus:~$ shell - kornsh42
[lucci@egagus:~/mail/sirius/sirius/uk/1/050/Msgs/106-New/33-Incl/3_W/1-1]
106 kept, 1 deleted.

[INFO] Using default encoding to copy filtered resources.
[INFO] [compiler:testCompile]
[INFO] No sources to compile
[INFO] [surefire:test]
[INFO] No tests to run.
[INFO] [jar:jar]
[INFO] Building jar: /home/padams/Research/EC/500_OSS/svn.sqo-oss.org/trunk/specs/target/eu.sqooss.spe
cs-0.0.1.jar
[INFO] -----
[INFO] BUILD SUCCESSFUL
[INFO] -----
[INFO] Total time: 3 seconds
[INFO] Finished at: Mon Jun 02 10:39:44 BST 2008
[INFO] Final Memory: 21M/180M
[INFO] -----
cp target/*.jar /home/padams/Research/EC/500_OSS/svn.sqo-oss.org/trunk/equinox
make[1]: Leaving directory "/home/padams/Research/EC/500_OSS/svn.sqo-oss.org/trunk/specs"
###
### run : use start-core instead.
###
make start-core
make[1]: Entering directory "/home/padams/Research/EC/500_OSS/svn.sqo-oss.org/trunk"
rm -rf /home/padams/Research/EC/500_OSS/svn.sqo-oss.org/trunk/equinox/configuration/org.eclipse.osgi/
rm -rf /home/padams/Research/EC/500_OSS/svn.sqo-oss.org/trunk/equinox/configuration/*.log
rm -rf /home/padams/Research/EC/500_OSS/svn.sqo-oss.org/trunk/equinox/configuration-specs/org.eclipse.
osgi/
rm -rf /home/padams/Research/EC/500_OSS/svn.sqo-oss.org/trunk/equinox/configuration-specs/*.log
cd /home/padams/Research/EC/500_OSS/svn.sqo-oss.org/trunk/equinox
java DEBUG -Dorg.apache.commons.logging.LogImpl=org.apache.commons.logging.impl.Log4JLogger -Dlog
g4.configurationfile:///home/padams/Research/EC/500_OSS/svn.sqo-oss.org/trunk/equinox/configuration
/user4.properties -DDEBUG_VERBOSE=1 -DDEBUG_PATTERN=main.org.mortbay.http -Dorg.mortbay.Log.LogFactor
y.notrecover=false -jar org.eclipse.equinox.osgi-3.3.0.jar console
osgi> Host org.apache.axion.api:version=1.2.2* Bundle org.apache.axion.dom
Host org.apache.axion.api:version=1.2.2* Bundle org.apache.axion.rpl
Host org.apache.axion.api:version=1.1.0* Bundle org.apache.axis2.databinding
Host eu.sqooss.service.core Bundle org.apache.velocity
Host org.apache.axis2:bundle-versions=1.1.0* Bundle org.eclipse.core.runtime
2008-05-02 10:30:50,518 Start Level Event Dispatcher sqooss.messaging.LoggerImpl.java:81
Can't find property: eu.sqooss.messaging.sntp.user!
2008-05-02 10:30:50,518 Start Level Event Dispatcher sqooss.messaging.LoggerImpl.java:81
Can't find property: eu.sqooss.messaging.sntp.pass!
2008-05-02 10:30:50,883 Start Level Event Dispatcher sqooss.tds.LoggerImpl.java:75
Mail access uses an unsupported URL scheme ->
Self-test is disabled.

osgi> close
make[1]: Leaving directory "/home/padams/Research/EC/500_OSS/svn.sqo-oss.org/trunk"
padams@egagus:~/Research/EC/500_OSS/svn.sqo-oss.org/trunk$

```



Research Is Not For Everyone

But It /Is/ For KDE



SQO OSS

KDE e.V. received direct funding for its participation in SQO-OSS:

- AFAIK, PyPy is the only other Free Software project to do this.
- We got through! (Words cannot describe how big an achievement this is!)
- The result is something almost, but not quite, entirely unlike useful?



Understanding KDE Research

(or "I'm a /thing/ not a researcher!")



- Despite the successes of taking part in SQA-OSS, KDE Research is /not/ about milking €millions out of the tax payers
 - Although funding is /always/ an option
- Education
- Helping



So what's your point, Paul?

(or get on with it. Yes, get on with it!)



- Research is a skill, but does not need to be formal
- KDE is full of cool people who do cool stuff /anyhow/
- Let's be aware of the trouble ahead (because it /is/ there)

Ideas drive development, so....

SHARE AND ENJOY!

Idea: Nokia, please may I have Qt supported on Plan9? I'd do the work myself but my boss would kill me.



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This Nonsense Was Brought To You By....



Proud to continue supporting
the KDE community and KDE e.V.