Minutes of the General Assembly of the KDE e.V. 2011

Location: Berlin, Germany

Date: August 9th, 2011

Keeper of the minutes: Claudia Rauch

Translation: Thomas Baumgart (1-5), Ingo Klöcker (6-8)

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1. Welcome

President Cornelius Schumacher opens the assembly at 10:20AM and welcomes the attendees in the name of the board. The invitation to the assembly took place according to the regulations of the KDE e.V. A total of 108 eligible members are present or represented by a proxy and the assembly has a quorum.

2. Election of a chairman for the General Assembly

Cornelius Schumacher proposes Mirko Böhm as chairman for the general assembly. This recommendation is accepted by the assembly with 107 accepts and one abstention. Mirko Böhm conducts the assembly from there on and suggests to allow the participation of the non-members Claudia Rauch, Inu Kim, Florian Wilhelm, Jean-Nicolas Artaud, and Benjamin Port as guests. There are no objections. Mirko also suggests that Claudia Rauch shall take the minutes of the assembly. Again, the assembly accepts the suggestion.

2.1 Approval of agenda

Mirko Böhm asks the assembly if there are any proposals for additions to the agenda. Kevin Ottens asks to add the presentation of a hosting proposal for the Desktop Summit 2013 to section 8, Miscellaneous. The

assembly accepts this addition and accepts the new agenda unanimously.

3. Reports

3.1 Board activity report

President Cornelius Schumacher reports on the activities of the board during the previous year. After a short introduction of the duties of the association and its board (representation of interests and support of the KDE community in legal, financial, and organizational affairs) he emphasizes that the board manages the association as a team and that each board member is allowed to represent KDE individually. He asks that each member give serious consideration on who to elect as a new board member.

Cornelius Schumacher then welcomes 15 new members that joined KDE e.V. during the reporting period and indicates that the association now also has 188 individual supporting members. Nevertheless, the association missed the goal to gain 500 supporting members in the first year of the Join-The-Game campaign. Also, no new corporate supporting members joined either.

Many operational tasks are taken care of by the association's office in Berlin. This is where the employee Claudia Rauch works. She has been regularly supported by interns since April 2010.

As in previous years, KDE e.V. organized many events and supported them financially during the past 12 months. The largest and most important among them was Akademy, the yearly meeting of the KDE community. The current plan is to combine this event every other year with the Desktop Summit. There was an Akademy 2010 in Tampere, Finland, and this year is the Desktop Summit in Berlin. Next year will be an Akademy year. The venue is not yet known.

The third year of the North American 'Camp KDE' conference was held in April of 2011 in San Francisco. The first Indian 'conf.kde.in' conference took place in Bengaluru, India, in March of 2011. Cornelius Schumacher welcomes this initiative and hopes to see more successful international KDE events in the future. Both conferences were financially supported by the association.

Cornelius Schumacher also reports that the association organized 21 developer meetings that received financial support. He mentions that the developer meetings are the largest cost factor but also emphasizes that they are very effective and productive. The KDE Developer Sprint model serves as example to other Free Software projects, e.g. Debian.

He mentions the Quarterly Reports that contain detailed information about recent activities of the association and encourages the members to contribute to the reports.

KDE e.V. is still participating in the EU research project ALERT. The KDE community members Dario Freddi, Stuart Jarvis, and Adriaan de Groot work as subject matter experts on this project but get paid by other project partners.

Cornelius Schumacher then gives a short overview about other activities of the association, such as the membership in the OASIS foundation, the funding of travel expenses for members of the association and the KDE community to visit conferences and trade fairs, the maintenance of KDE domains together with the System Administration Working Group, a training for the Community Working Group as part of the Desktop Summit program, and more.

Moreover, the board serves as point of contact for questions about KDE trademark rights and general questions and complaints about KDE and KDE e.V.

Cornelius Schumacher points out how important the association is for the broader KDE community and that the association must face the question whether it should grow or shrink. The reason for this is that the KDE e.V. has reached its limits in terms of personnel and financial resources. The board hopes to see more commitment from the members and suggests to organize a KDE e.V. sprint in the last quarter of this year. During this meeting, work shall be done on various projects to contribute to KDE e.V. operating tasks. He calls upon the membership to be more active in the operation of the KDE e.V.

As final statement of his report, Cornelius Schumacher invites the attendants to join the KDE e.V. Birds of a Feather which will be held after the meeting.

Richard Dale wants to know, if the decision of the meeting in 2010 to join the Open Innovation Network (OIN) has been decided. Sebastian Kügler confirms that this has been done.

3.2 Treasurer's report

Frank Karlitschek reports about the financial situation for the reporting period of 2010 and gives an outlook on the budget for 2011.

The numbers for the year 2010:

Income: 226,938.02 EUR

Expenses: 220,135.80 EUR

Profit: 6,802.22 EUR

Balance per December 31st, 2010: 265,842.31 EUR

Frank Karlitschek stresses that 2010 was the first year in the history of the association when its income was smaller than the year before and that expenses grew at the same time compared to the year before. Since the decrease of income is substantial, he emphasizes the necessity to address the financial situation. Important tools in this respect are the supporting membership programs for companies and individuals.

The budget for 2011 is planned as follows:

Income: 222,200 EUR

Expenses: 269,000 EUR

Paul Adams raises the question if the board expects losses due to the participation in the EU research project ALERT. Cornelius Schumacher replies "no", to this question since those KDE members who work on the project are employed by other project partners and payed by them. Another attendee wants to know what can be done to stabilize and improve the financial situation. Frank Karlitschek calls upon the members to support the board in the implementation and propagation of the supporting membership programs.

Finally, Frank Karlitschek thanks the supporting members and sponsors for their support.

3.3. Report of the editors of accounting

Mirko Böhm announces that the elected auditors Claire Lotion and Tom Albers were not able to fulfill their auditing duties. Therefore, Till Adam and Mirko Böhm agreed to take over the audit. The membership has approved this prior to the General Assembly.

Mirko Böhm reports that he and Till Adam did not find any irregularities in the financial reports. The books were maintained according to the rules and in a timely manner. Questions have been answered satisfactorily.

He informs the assembly, that the auditors think that KDE e.V. was in a financially sound state by the end of 2010. He reminds the members that the board was encouraged in the general assembly of 2010 to spend money according to the association's purposes, since the association as non-profit organization is not allowed to maintain large cash assets. This demand has been fulfilled by the board.

There are no questions about the auditor's report and the auditors suggest the relief of the board.

3.4 Relief of the board

The assembly takes a vote on the relief of the board. 102 members Agree, 6 members (including the board members) Abstain and nobody votes Against the relief. The board is thus relieved by the assembly.

4. Working Group reports

4.1. Report of the Marketing Working Group

Stuart Jarvis reports for the marketing working group. He notes that this working group is actually not necessary as KDE promotion is mostly done by the KDE Promo Team. The existing mailing list kde-ev-marketing is a useful tool for discussions and answering questions though it is not tied to the marketing working group. Since the members of this group agree that the group does not fulfill any useful purpose, he recommends to close it. The assembly does not object.

Stuart Jarvis therefore plans to conduct an online ballot about this in the near future.

4.2. Free Qt Foundation

Martin Konold and Olaf Schmidt-Wischhöfer, the two KDE representatives to the Free Qt Foundation, report about the activities of the foundation within the last 12 months.

They remind the assembly about the purpose of the foundation, which is securing the availability and usefulness of the Qt toolkit for the development of free software. The Free Qt foundation has been founded in 1998 by KDE e.V. and Trolltech. In 2009 the agreement about the Free Qt foundation has been updated to the two current members KDE e.V. and Nokia. The current board members are Martin Konold and Olaf Schmidt-Wischhöfer, representing KDE e.V., as well as Lars Knoll and Matthias Ettrich, representing Nokia. All four members have the right to vote, but KDE has an additional vote. Both Trolltech founders Harvaard Nord and Eirik Chambre-Eng are supporting the board as consulting advisers.

Martin Konold indicates that the importance of the foundation became obvious this year when Nokia decided in early 2011 to switch to the Windows operating system environment. Furthermore, Nokia sold the "Qt commercial" licensing business to Digia.

In the wake of those changes, a telephone conference was held with Nokia. Unfortunately, the minutes to it are still missing, which caused mixed feelings for the two KDE e.V. representatives.

Olaf Schmidt-Wischhöfer and Martin Konold contacted Digia to achieve that Digia's work on Qt will be released under free licenses.

Martin Konold describes his impression from the conversation with the Digia representatives. In his opinion the sale of the "Qt commercial" business does not have a large impact on the KDE project. However, there is no contract between Digia and the Free Qt Foundation.

Both Martin Konold and Olaf Schmidt-Wischhöfer rate the overall situation as follows: the existing contracts remain valid, Nokia still develops Qt actively, and publishes the code as Free Software.

Open Governance for Qt development, i.e. an open, transparent process of participation, is currently in the process of being established and more important than ever.

They report that some open issues remain for the Free Qt Foundation. The Qt contribution agreement still needs some adjustments and improvements to also cover other platforms besides X11. Nokia is willing to work on this issue, but the Nokia legal department currently does not have the necessary time to do so.

Olaf Schmidt-Wischhöfer indicates another open issue: what is the relationship between Free Qt Foundation and the Open Governance process for Qt? For him the question arises if the license rights should be transferred to the Free Qt Foundation.

Thiago Macieira warns against transferring the license rights to the Free Qt Foundation. This would result in unforeseeable complications especially regarding the commercial licenses.

After a few more questions and discussions, Mirko thanks the two KDE e.V. representatives for their important efforts within the Free Qt Foundation.

4.3. Report of the System Administration Working Group

Dirk Müller reports for the sysadmin group. The group consists of Tom Albers, Ben Cooksley, Eike Hein, Ingo Malchow, Jeff Mitchell, David Faure and himself.

He gives an overview about the bigger projects the members of the group have been working on during the past 12 months. Tom Albers took care of the IPv6 implementation on most KDE servers and services. Another project was the transfer of domain ownership of kde.org domains to KDE e.V. Additionally, the domain system has been enhanced by setting up new domain name servers and the introduction of geo-location routing for anongit.kde.org.

Ben Cooksley worked on the successful introduction of identity.kde.org. Dirk Müller set up a new mail system, the ktown server was shut down and service monitoring has been reorganized.

Dirk Müller further reports about other major changes that were made. Ingo Malchow has updated all wiki instances to the newest versions, Ben Cooksley centralized all Drupal based web sites and updated them to the latest versions and Jeff Mitchell did work on the Git services.

On top of that, the sysadmin group has answered 1000 requests during the past year which is an increase of 30%. 18 new mailing lists have been created, 18 others have been removed. 31 new kde.org aliases have been created, four deleted. 252 new user accounts were created, 725 old ones deactivated.

Dirk Müller also mentions the status of the servers and future projects of the team. Mirko Böhm thanks for the report and the work of the group.

4.4. Report of the community working group

Jeff Mitchell reports for the community working group (CWG). Current members of the group are Lydia Pintscher, Valorie Zimmermann, Tomaz Canabrava, Ingo Malchow and Jeff himself. The former member Anne Wilson is available as a consultant.

He emphasizes that the group faced a lot of work in the past 12 months, especially the KOffice/Calligra case, but also and other requests.

Besides that, three members are acting as mentors in the Google Summer of Code program and support the Season of KDE program as well. For the latter, the group received more than 100 applications last year.

Jeff reports that the group plans to give KDE developers an understanding of its value for the KDE community. Other topics for the future are the decentralization of the community support and establishing contact to the GNOME community to foster communication between both communities.

Furthermore, he stresses that Fedora as well as Mandriva have adopted the KDE Community working group charter.

Martin Konold asks about encrypted e-mails, since the mailing list of the community working group is public. He suggests to extend the CWG charter to contain a requirement that members have to sign a non-disclosure agreement. This shall be subject of the next General Assembly.

Mirko Böhm thanks the group for their work and Jeff for the report.

5. Board elections

Since Cornelius Schumacher's three year term ends and Adriaan de Groot stepped down before the end of his term as board member, the two vacancies need to be filled. Candidates are Cornelius Schumacher and Lydia Pintscher.

Both introduce themselves briefly and the assembly progresses with a secret vote.

Both candidates receive each 101 votes in favor and 7 Abstentions. Mirko Böhm asks both if they accept the election which they do. Thus they are elected as board members.

6. Election of representatives to the Free Qt Foundation

The former representatives of KDE e.V. to the Free Qt Foundation, Martin Konold and Olaf Schmidt-Wischhöfer, announce that they are available for re-election. There are no other candidates.

The assembly votes by a show of hands. Both candidates receive an obvious majority of votes and accept their election.

7. Election of account auditors

Alexandra Leisse and Mirko Böhm both volunteer as auditors for the KDE e.V. accounting. The assembly votes by a show of hands. Both are elected unanimously. Alexandra and Mirko accept their election.

8. Miscellaneous

Mirko Böhm asks the assembly whether there any additional topics that should be discussed. There are a few requests to speak.

8.1 15th anniversary of KDE project

The assembly raises the question whether the association has planned special activities on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the KDE project on October 14th. Cornelius Schumacher replies that currently nothing is planned, but that initiatives are welcome.

8.2 Online votes

Thiago Macieira who has conducted the online votes in the past will no longer be available to do it. Jeff Mitchell volunteers to take over the position of online vote manager for KDE e.V. votes. The assembly conducts a proforma vote by a show of hands and, with vast majority, approves that Jeff Mitchell takes over this task.

8.3 Application of Toulouse, Desktop Summit 2013

Benjamin Port and Jean-Nicolas Artaud present their proposal to organize a potential Desktop Summit 2013 in Toulouse, France. They report that the KDE community in Toulouse is very active—seven members of this community attend this Desktop Summit. In 2008, 2010 and 2011 they have organized KDE release parties and, additionally, for 2011 an Akademy-Fr is planned.

Furthermore they report that the town council of Toulouse has been supportive of Free Software events for some time, and that they have good contacts to the local universities. They add that Wikimedia France might also apply for organizing Wikimania 2013 in Toulouse and that both events could potentially be colocated. Mirko Böhm thanks Benjamin and Jean-Nicolas for their short presentation.

8.4 Dinner for the Board

Finally, Paul Adams requests to speak and asks the assembly to vote on the association treating the board to a dinner. The assembly accepts Paul's motion unanimously by a show of hands

The chairman of assembly Mirko Böhm thanks the attendees and closes the assembly at 13:10.

Mirko Böhm   Claudia Rauch

Head of Assembly   Keeper of the Minutes