.init()

Dear KDE e.V. member,

This is the fourth edition of the e.V. quarterly report, marking one full year since we began publishing these reports in a bid to increase the level of communication between the e.V., its board, and the general public.

Over this last year we have made tremendous progress as a team due to the ongoing efforts of a growing number of people within our community. These efforts have been driven by the growth of KDE itself which has brought with it both new opportunities as well as new challenges for us to meet.

To keep pace with the demands of the project over the last year many initiatives have been accomplished, including: formation of three working groups; implementation of a number of protocols for things such as on-line voting (which in the past we were able to simply navigate "by the seat of our pants"); completion of several developer sprints; numerous administrative details such as trademark registration; and progress on our non-profit status in Germany.

There remain open challenges and tasks, as there always are in such highly dynamic environments, and new ones will present themselves in the future. While many within the e.V. membership provide vital support in helping meet these needs through their active participation, there is a unique opportunity presenting itself in the form of a board position opening up in September.

If you would like to help us build upon the momentum we have captured together and help take the KDE e.V. to even greater heights you may want to consider joining the board yourself. This may seen like a daunting task, but as Jim Collins and Jerry I. Porras wrote in Built to Last: "Gone forever [...] is the debilitating perspective that the trajectory of [an organization] depends on whether it is led by people ordained with rare and mysterious qualities that cannot be learned by others." All it really takes is a bit of determination, commitment, and a sense of adventure.

So make your candidacy known today by sending an email either directly to the KDE e.V. board or to the KDE e.V. membership and get ready to grow along with the entire community.

Those of us on the board today wish to thank everyone in the KDE project for the last year of excitement and support as we look forward to kicking off another year of service with our new board member(s) following the 2006 aKademy conference in Dublin. See you in Ireland!

Signed,
Eva Brucherseifer <eva@kde.org>
President
KDE e.V.

Status Report

The KDE e.V. Plan Document

An ongoing thread throughout the last year in the e.V. has been improved planning and support. In the course of relationship management exercises with our corporate partners it was identified that to be able to do proper fiscal and organizational planning we needed to document the direction of the e.V. Work was started in earnest by a group of e.V. members to assemble such a document that provides a description of KDE e.V. and its role within the KDE community, its recent history, and goals for the next year.

Several draft revisions have been floated to the KDE e.V. membership list and the document, which currently stands at 15 pages, is approaching final draft status. Once finalized the document will be distributed to a wider audience including our partners, supporters and KDE project members.

While many e.V. members have provided valuable input during the process, the board would in like to recognize in particular the efforts of Adriaan de Groot, Allen Winter, Stefan Westerfeld, Torsten Rahn, and Waldo Bastian for putting in considerable amounts of their time and effort into this endeavor.

aKademy 2006

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the aKademy organizational team the conference planning for this year's event in Dublin, Ireland is coming together like clockwork. The sponsorship drive, which has been spearheaded by Tink Bastian, has shown great results with 12 sponsors already confirmed.

Most of the speaking track has been determined with a few keynotes left to confirm and work on confirming the Asian delegation for a track dedicated to building bridges and sharing our needs and concerns continues at the time of this writing. Along with the KDE e.V. annual general meeting, the Open Document Format (ODF) day, week-long hackathon, and wrap-up lightening talk sessions this year's conference will be an event not to miss.

A huge "thanks!" to each and every one of those on the aKademy organization team. In particular, we wish to publicly recognize:

Marcus Furlong, *local organizer*
Tink Bastian, *sponsors*
Kevin Ottens and the program committee, *conference program*
Chris Howells, *registration system*
Thomas Zander, *printed conference program*
Valerie Hoh, *merchandising*
Nuno Pinheiro, *aKademy web site design*
Marcos Fouces, *aKademy web site implementation*
Cornelius Schumacher, *KDE e.V. board contact, conference program, web site*

Additional thanks go to our sponsors, the people in Dublin, our friends at Linux Magazine, and everyone else who pitched-in! Visit the aKademy 2006 website for all the exciting details.

Report from the Technical Working Group

The Technical Working Group (TWG) consists of seven long-time contributors to KDE, elected by the KDE e.V. membership.

Some accomplishments of the TWG in this quarter include:

- released KDE 3.5.3
- started planning for KDE 3.5.4
- organized the KDE Four Core meeting
- took responsibility for the KDE portion of Coverity's Accelerating Open Source Quality project
- pushed D-BUS adoption in KDE 4
- presented KDE at the Desktop Architects Meeting II
- began working with the HCI to establish a KDE vision

Although the technical decisions of the TWG occur on the kde-core-devel mailing list (by having the TWG members participate in the discussions there as usual), some people want to contact the TWG privately. For this purpose they can use the kde-ev-twg@kde.org email address. Please use this only for exceptional cases, we are committed to making all important discussions happen on the kde-core-devel mailing list.

Report from the Human Computer Interaction Working Group

The Human Computer Interaction Working Group (HCI) consists of representatives from the fields of accessibility, artwork, documentation, internationalization and usability. Its goal is to create a more compelling, usable, and understandable interface for all people.

In this quarter, the HCI concentrated on the following tasks:

- *Development of the Human Interface Guidelines for KDE 4 along methods of User-Centered Design:* For this purpose, a survey among developers asking for expectations and current development habits was conducted. Furthermore, the developers at the KDE Four meeting were consulted to develop an optimal information architecture for the contents of the Human Interface Guidelines.

- *Color and font settings in KDE 4:* In a collaborative effort between accessibility, arts, and usability the color and font settings were revised. This included the definition of the KDE 4 color palette, new color roles, a consistent default handling among applications, and a revised design of the color selection dialog.

- *Trolltech Roadmap:* In an official request from the HCI Working Group, Trolltech was asked to make statements on a roadmap for AT-SPI (Assistive Technology Service Provider Interface) support in Qt, as well as smaller changes in the color management and widget behavior. The AT-SPI protocol is important to make applications accessible with screen readers and other assistive technologies for users with disabilities.

- *Finalizing the Oxygen Icon Set:* The development of the Oxygen icon set made good progress. Together with the usability team, the icons will now be tested for self-descriptiveness in isolation and the context of use.

- *Icon Analysis and Icon Naming Scheme:* The designers are currently analyzing the ~1900 icons in KDE to identify duplicates. Once this work is done, the freedesktop.org icon specification will be extended to contain all KDE 4 icons.

The primary method of communication with the HCI working group through the kde-hci@kde.org mailing list. We especially encourage members of the internationalization and documentation teams to join and represent their needs.

Report from the Marketing Working Group

The Marketing Working Group (MWG) is a group of KDE contributors (not necessarily e.V. members) who have a common interest in helping to promote and market the KDE project.

MWG highlights from this quarter include:

- *Business Cards:* Quite a few people have already received them. The work-flow is still suboptimal due to a number of issues that should be taken up with the printer, but the MWG is basically ready to go officially "live". As soon as someone who speaks German finds time to contact the printer it will hopefully (finally) be only a matter of weeks.

- *Event Organization Handbook:* Part of the aftermath of the KDE Multimedia Meeting is documenting the planning process so setting up events will be easier in the future. This should become a "living" document that is refined and improved by subsequent event teams including the aKademy teams. The MWG is working on this handbook and the accompanying documents.

- *Press List:* Work is ongoing and about 3/4 done. Left is testing and actually subscribing the people and documenting the work-flow on SpreadKDE.

Contact this group with your KDE marketing input by sending email to kde-ev-marketing@kde.org.

Report from the System Administration Team

Sysadmin is a group of long-term KDE contributors and KDE e.V. members who are running the KDE server infrastructure. This includes services such as managing our subversion source code repository; granting access to new contributors; keeping the bugs database operational; and, of course, keeping all our mission critical servers running smoothly.

Highlights of this quarter's system administration tasks:

- handled several problems with KDE servers including DNS and anonsvn services being down
- installed security updates for the servers
- created subversion accounts for 72 new contributors

Also, during the past quarter these mailing-lists were created:
- amarok
- amarok-bugs-dist
- amarok-promo
- akademy-talks-2006
- kde-press-announce

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- decibel
- kreative3d
- phonon-backends
- kde-networkmanager
- kde-dashboard

Contact this group with your system administration requirements by sending email to sysadmin@kde.org.

Reports from the "Sprints"

The KDE community holds smaller meetings on various topics on a regular basis. These meetings are focused on a certain aspects of development for the KDE desktop call "sprints" (following the nomenclature of the Apache Foundation) since they are used to cover a short distance very quickly.

A typical sprint brings developers from all over the world together in one room for a couple of days of discussion, design, and development of ideas as well as the necessary social interaction. The meetings usually prove important milestones in the history of a sub-project.

KDE e.V. supported the following sprints in this past quarter:

- *KDE Four Oxygen Meeting (Portugal):* Three artists met for an entire week and produced hundreds of new icons in the Oxygen style, which will be the default style for KDE 4. A big thanks to Nuno Pinheiro for organizing and hosting this event.

- *KDE Four Multimedia Meeting (The Netherlands):* The Dutch local group KDE-NL organized the KDE Four Multimedia Meeting in May. Attendees worked on Phonon, Amarok, and made progress with a proof-of-concept Qt 4 port. KDE-NL announced plans to organize two sprints covering various topics per year.

KDE Representation At Community Events

We have continued our tradition of attending and participating in open source and community events. This year KDE project members have attended high profile events on five continents and several countries, ranging from New Zealand to India, from Germany to Canada, from Brazil to the USA.

KDE e.V. has helped in whole or in part members to attend these events, provide funding for promotional materials and aid in organization. A huge thank-you is due to all the volunteers who have been involved in helping us raise KDE's global profile as well as network with important organizations and people from both within and outside our community.

- *Ubuntu Meeting*: KDE was invited by Canonical to attend the Ubuntu development conference. A delegation of seven KDE community members were in attendance including a KDE e.V. board member (Aaron Seigo) and a Marketing Working Group member (Sebastian Kügler). It was an excellent opportunity to increase the visibility of KDE within Ubuntu, show our support for the Kubuntu distribution as we do for all KDE based operating systems and build new relationships with the staff and leaders at Canonical via in-person meetings.

- *KDE at Linuxtag:* KDE e.V. assisted in the organization of KDE's attendance at Linuxtag. This event was the first event supported by our new booth box, a rugged metal case containing items that are useful for event presence such as display systems and network equipment. The KDE e.V. Marketing Working Group preparations that have been done in order to streamline the event attendance.

The event itself was fruitful and lead to a lot of improved contacts, notably with the PC-BSD community, as well as corporations of varying sizes. Two meetings with Canonical, represented by Jonathan Riddell and Mark Shuttleworth, were a highlight of the event. We discussed ways to improve our collaboration and reach a better mutual understanding.

We strongly feel that pursuing these sorts of relationships with as many of the companies and interests that use and rely on KDE is in the project's best interest and look forward to more such opportunities being realized.

SQO Involvement Progress

The start of the SQO-OSS project has been delayed until September 1st. There will be a kick-off meeting in Athens attended by Sebastian Kügler and Adriaan de Groot.

Recall from the 2006Q1 report that the KDE e.V. has joined an international research consortium known as SQO-OSS. In conjunction with the Athens University of Economics and Business and several European industrial partners, the SQO-OSS will perform research into modern methods for measuring software process quality in Open Source projects.

Legal Council Retained in the USA

The KDE e.V. board has entered into an agreement with Sheppard Mullin Richter and Hampton LLP to engage their services as legal council on a pro-bono basis. From time to time according to our needs, the board can direct Sheppard Mullin to act on behalf of KDE.

The first action that has been requested is to complete the legal documents and workings necessary to complete the dissolution of the KDE League.

Domains

The KDE e.V. acquired the *kde.in* top-level domain.

Future Plans

aKademy 2007
Providing a progressive start to aKademy 2007 planning, the aKademy organizational team has put out a call for location and organization proposals for next year's annual world conference. The story was carried "The Dot" and the deadline for submissions is August 31, 2006.

Human Computer Interaction Working Group
The Human Computer Interaction Working Group plans to publish implementation requests addressing HCI improvements in the KDE core or Qt in regular intervals, probably on a quarterly basis. A commit digest for non-technical contributors is also planned to better synchronize these requests with development. During the HCI day at aKademy 2006 these topics will be further addressed and coordinated with the other working groups.

Marketing Working Group
The Marketing Working Group plans to hold a series of BoFs at aKademy 2006. Preparations for this are already in under way. Ongoing efforts such as improving event attendance, assisting in press work, and producing documentation for non-technical tasks will be pursued further. An evaluation of last year's work of MWG has expressed a common understanding of the excellent overall direction of the group and that work should be continued.

Welcome New Members

In this quarter we added 7 new members, growing the total number to 172. The new members are:

   Rex Allen Dieter
   Andreas Mueller
   Pradeepto Bhattacharya
   Sebastian Trueg
   Jason Harris
   Stefan Werden
   Joerg Hoh

Welcome to the KDE e.V.!

For donor and sponsorship information please see the "Supporting KDE" website.

Signed The e.V. Board:
Eva Brucherseifer <eva@kde.org>, President and Executive
Cornelius Schumacher <schumacher@kde.org>, Vice President
Mirko Böhm <mirko@kde.org>, Vice President and Treasurer
Aaron J. Seigo <aseigo@kde.org>, Board Member

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