These are the slides for a presentation given by Mary Gardiner at the Open Source Developers’ Conference in Melbourne Australia in December 2006.

The slides were produced by \LaTeX using the Beamer class, available from http://latex-beamer.sourceforge.net/. Presentation source is available via Bazaar from http://users.puzzling.org/users/mary/bzr/OSDC+2006/

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The Planet symbol used in this talk is actually the web-browser.svg image from the Tango icon theme, which is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.5 License Agreement from http://tango.freedesktop.org/. It isn’t normally used by the Planet project.

The hackergotchi heads used in this presentation are those of Mary Gardiner and Andrew Bennetts with an assortment from http://planet.gnome.org/heads/

All smack about Planet v Venus is pure hyperbole.
The Planet Feed Reader
Better Living Through Gravity

Mary Gardiner
mary@puzzling.org

Open Source Developers’ Conference, 6th December 2006
Planet: a conceptual overview
Planet: definition 1

Planet *proper noun*

A piece of software written in Python, which aggregates syndication feeds and outputs a text document, usually a web page.

Sample usage: “How do I install Planet?” “Why does Planet use so much memory?”
Planet: definition 2

Planet *proper noun*

A webpage that has been produced by the Planet software.

Sample usage: “I want to run a Planet.” “I saw that on Planet Debian.”
December 05, 2006

KDE vs. GNOME: Memory Use

About a week ago Quim put out a call for better profiling of whole-desktop resource use. This isn’t it, but it is a start. Consider it more of an update of Lubos Lunak’s comparison from GNOME 2.14 vs. KDE 3.5.2. In that comparison KDE won by tens of megabytes.

I have cooked up a perl script that wakes up every 30 seconds, takes a look at what is going on and writes it out to a log file. The most interesting parameters it currently records are the total memory use (equivalent to what free returns on the -/+ buffers line). Be warned that the script is currently completely undocumented and you will have to read the source to find out where the default log file goes and how to change that. It is also completely Linux specific. I am also deeply suspicious of some of the data it returns. Most definitely a work in progress, but I couldn’t give the results below and keep it hidden.

I am far from certain that everything is being done in the best possible way. For example look at Lubos’ comparison for a discussion for reasons why free isn’t necessarily a good measure of memory use; this script uses the same approach as free. On top of this I have no real indication of the uncertainty in these results. Finally, I did things a bit differently from Lubos so direct comparison with his numbers is impossible.
December 05, 2006

Andreas Barth

More bugs need to go away

On Monday, I sent out the next release update (which was under preparation for a few days). Basically, Debian is doing quite well - we just have a few items left open before we can have the full freeze.

Of course, I worked also on one of the preconditions, namely on RC bugs - the usual trying to reproduce, uploading fixes, encouraging other people to upload fixes, easying testing transition, ...

09:14am

Jeff Bailey

And a good time was had!

On our third attempt to finally get everything signed, we got all the paperwork done for buying a place today! It's silly how much everyone seemed to expect that we knew the whole process and would get impatient with us not having something ready that we hadn't a clue was even required.

I've updated our address in Orkut. I'll do the Debian database and other things when I can remember just how those get done. =)

This evening, we decided that we needed to go over and spend some time in the place, so we had Brad, Jody, me, Angie, Simon, Alison, and Damien over for chips, drinks, pizza and cookies.

Now the moving fun begins, and we still get to try and find a tenant. Whee!

04:10am (Comments)
Planets

December 05, 2006

**Bastien Nocera: Films update**

I have a quite a bit of a backlog on that, so I'll be brief. Overboard, Maverick,

by Bastien Nocera at December 05, 2006 12:09 AM

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December 04, 2006

**Lennart Poettering: Interlocking Quadrilaterals**

As promised, here's a stencil drawing of the Mexican-style IQ Lamp: .ps, .svg, .pdf. (1:1, DIN A4/ISO 216 paper size)

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Screenshot of http://planet.freedesktop.org/
Hackergotchis Heads!

Screenshot of http://planet.gnome.org/heads/
Hackergotchis

Hackergotchi
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A hackergotchi is a picture of a writer used as an avatar to identify the author of a given RSS feed in blog aggregators.

Origin

The term hackergotchi originated when the fashion of blog aggregators hit the hacker community, hence the "hacker" part.

Jakub Steiner, a GNOME artist, had created several whole body cutouts that originally appeared on the Art.GNOME.org website. A couple of years later, Jeff Waugh launched Planet GNOME[1], a blog aggregator of GNOME programmers and contributors. Luke Stroven suggested that Jeff use the images created by Steiner with posts by those writers. Stroven then created a bunch of images that depicted the heads of people on Planet GNOME. Waugh coined the term hackergotchi after seeing the collection of heads Stroven created.

The "gotchi" part seems to be a reference to the Tamagotchi toy.
Speaking of Wikipedia

Planet aggregator
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The introduction to this article provides insufficient context for those unfamiliar with the subject matter. Please help Wikipedia by improving the introduction according to the guidelines laid out at Wikipedia:Guide to layout. You can discuss the issue on the talk page.

In computing, Planet is a FOSS web feed aggregator written in Python and maintained by Jeff Waugh and Scott James Remnant. It is software that runs on a web server, downloading web feeds and aggregating their content together. It then creates web pages with entries from the original feeds in chronological order, most recent entries first.

It uses Mark Pilgrim’s Universal Feed Parser to process feeds in RDF, RSS and Atom format, and Tomas Styblo’s HTML::Template templating engine to output static files in any format.

The concept behind Planet is becoming broader than the original application as other similar projects appear, implemented with the use of other programming languages; examples include MetaPlanet, written in PHP.

Aggregated sites powered by Planet are also called "planets" and often contain the "Planet" moniker in their names. These planets are often built from the weblogs of members of a specific group or clique, e.g. "Planet Debian", created from the feeds of weblogs by people active in the Debian community.

Example planets
- Planet Debian – Debian developers
- Planet GNOME – GNOME developers
- Planet KDE – KDE developers
Outline

1. About Planet
2. Some history
3. Making a good Planet
4. The software
5. The end
In the beginning was Advogato

Welcome to Advogato, the free software developer's advocate. The goal of the site is to serve as a community resource for free software developers around the world, as well as a research testbed for work on group trust metrics.

Here's the mission statement.

Curious how the trust metric works?

Recent diary entries:
- 14 Aug 2000 Daryl
- 14 Aug 2000 nymia
- 14 Aug 2000 chromatic
- 14 Aug 2000 hypatia
- 14 Aug 2000 jan
- 14 Aug 2000 mjd
- 14 Aug 2000 andrewmuck
- 14 Aug 2000 skud
- 14 Aug 2000 Mulad

Screenshot of http://www.advogato.org/ circa August 2000
In the beginning was Advogato

Recent diary entries

Recent diary entries:
15 Aug 2000 nymia

3:10 PM

This is to remind me that I unregistered the dll files pointing to serverA and registered a new set of dlls pointing serverB. Once I'm done with serverB, I should unreg and reg the dlls to its original server.

12:19 AM

Mulad, it's true, DOS shell is gone--kaput. It's probably the Win2K install program, it took away the DOS shell. Dang it, this is bad. Now, I'll have to get me a laptop.

11:28 AM

My goodness! They took away DOS shell in Win2K. How will I play with gcc and nasm on Win32 now? My bad! MS, what have they done with DOS shell?!

8:42 AM

Next time, I should be very careful when mentioning nasm and gas, as some people are sensitive about it. I guess it was an honest mistake for not including gas in the development environment, but it should be in there too. How can anyone use gcc and not use gas when dealing with low level code. Nasm is good but gas is inescapable.

Hmm, my suspicions were correct. KDE has realized they need to market themselves to the public. This is going to be fun to watch.

15 Aug 2000 rillian

Oh look, banner adds on sourceforge! Part of a linkbanner for the "Open Source Developers Network". Also

Screenshot of http://www.advogato.org/recentlog.html circa August 2000
The Dark Ages
## The Dark Ages

**misbehaving here**
- donah boyd
- Caterina Fake
- Meg Hourihan
- Liz Lawley
- Dorothea Salo
- Halley Sult
- Gina Trapani
- Jill Walker

Contact us at:
firstname {at} misbehaving {dot} net

**misbehaving elsewhere**
- Amanda Murphy
- Amy Jo Kim
- Amy Wohl
- Andrea Roceal James
- Angie McKaig
- Angie McKaig
- Aniridita Basu
- Anita Bora
- Anita Rowland
- Anitra Pavka
- Anna Valigorda
- AnnaLee Saxenian
- Anna Gailway
- Anna Jones
- Ariel Meadow Stallings
- Beth Goza
- Beth Mazur
- Beth Platt
- Betsy Aoki
- Betsy Book
- Betsy Devine
- Betsy Walszowski

**Screenshot of [http://www.misbehaving.net/](http://www.misbehaving.net/) circa 2004**
Dawn of a new era

August 12, 2003

Mikael Hallendal: Testing this Trackback-thingy

Frederic got me interested in what this blog trackback ping-thing was. Was easy enough to enable in Movabletype (I think :) At least it seems to ping the other site (in this case Frederics entry about trackback). Updating with a... (August 12, 2003 10:12 AM)

Frederic Crozat: Trackback fixed

Thanks to Micke, I fixed Trackback, so now, it should be working correctly :)

(August 12, 2003 09:44 AM)

Mikael Hallendal: Sleeping for 6+ hours

Yay! Finally able to sleep for more than 5 hours straight. Have had lots to do and found a great number of cool projects to hack on so I’ve had a hard time keeping my mind from rushing. Problem is... (August 12, 2003 08:11 AM)

FootNotes: GIMP 1.3.18 released

Hackergotchis: the original and the best
Outline

1. About Planet
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Why?

Community building: who are the people behind the code?
Why?

We’re all friends here: talking to your peers.
Guidelines

1. real faces;
2. real names;
3. real kitty photos...
1. real faces;
2. real names;
3. real kitty photos...
4. but not too many.
End result

1. inter-blog communications; and
2. reflections on project direction.
Configuring Planet

[Planet]
name = LinuxChix Live
link = http://live.linuxchix.org/
template_files = index.html.tmpl
output_dir = /home/vhosts/live.linuxchix.org/

[http://thewronghands.livejournal.com/data/rss/]
name = Raven
[http://weblog.obso1337.org/wp-rss2.php]
name = Celeste Lyn Paul
face = http://live.linuxchix.org/heads/celeste.png
facewidth = 55
faceheight = 80
<TMPL_IF channel_face>
<img alt="<TMPL_VAR channel_name>"
src="<TMPL_VAR channel_face>"
height="<TMPL_VAR channel_faceheight>"
width="<TMPL_VAR channel_facewidth>"/>
</TMPL_IF>
<TMPL_IF channel_face>
    <img alt="<TMPL_VAR channel_name>" src="<TMPL_VAR channel_face>" height="<TMPL_VAR channel_faceheight>" width="<TMPL_VAR channel_facewidth>">
</TMPL_IF>

<h3><a href="<TMPL_VAR channel_link>" title="<TMPL_VAR channel_title>">
    <TMPL_VAR channel_name></a></h3>
<h3><a href="<TMPL_VAR link>"><TMPL_VAR title></a></h3>
<TMPL_VAR content>
Running Planet

planet.py [config file]
Running Planet

```
planet.py [config file]

(Use a command scheduler)
```
Development is coordinated through the devel@lists.planetplanet.org list.
Development is coordinated through the devel@lists.planetplanet.org list.

... so is support.
Planet development

Development is coordinated through the devel@lists.planetplanet.org list.

... so is support.

See http://www.planetplanet.org/ for the mailing lists and Bazaar branches.
Development is coordinated through the devel@lists.planetplanet.org list.

... so is support.

See http://www.planetplanet.org/ for the mailing lists and Bazaar branches.

... except for Venus (more soon)
Technical details

Planet is:

- written in Python;
- based on Feed Parser, by Mark Pilgrim and Sam Ruby: http://www.feedparser.org/; and
- uses htmltmpl (http://htmltmpl.sourceforge.net/ (or XSLT) for templating.
Technical challenges

Planet is a pain because:

- `htmltmpl` doesn’t stream (read: memory woes);
- the original maintainers ran it on a well equipped machine (read: memory woes);
- the original codebase isn’t well tested (read: maintainence woes);
- for a long time it used `bsddb` (read: crazy woes); and
- people keep writing their own feed generators with a variety of entertaining mistakes, particularly in date stamping (general woes of all kinds).
What’s a little project to do?

???????????????????????????????????????????
Planet v Venus
Outline

1. About Planet
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Planet

Software:

- The Planet software is available from
  http://www.planetplanet.org/

- The Venus branch is at
  http://www.intertwingly.net/code/venus/

- If you don’t like Bazaar/bzr, hassle us, tarballs and zipfiles are a bit intermittent.

Planets of choice:

- Planet GNOME: http://planet.gnome.org/

- Planet Debian: http://planet.debian.org/

Bonus Planets:

- Planet Python: http://planet.python.org/ or http://www.planetpython.org/

- Planet Perl: http://planet.perl.org/

1 Don’t call it “Planet Planet”, it upsets Jeff.