

Contributing to XBMC During a Release Cycle

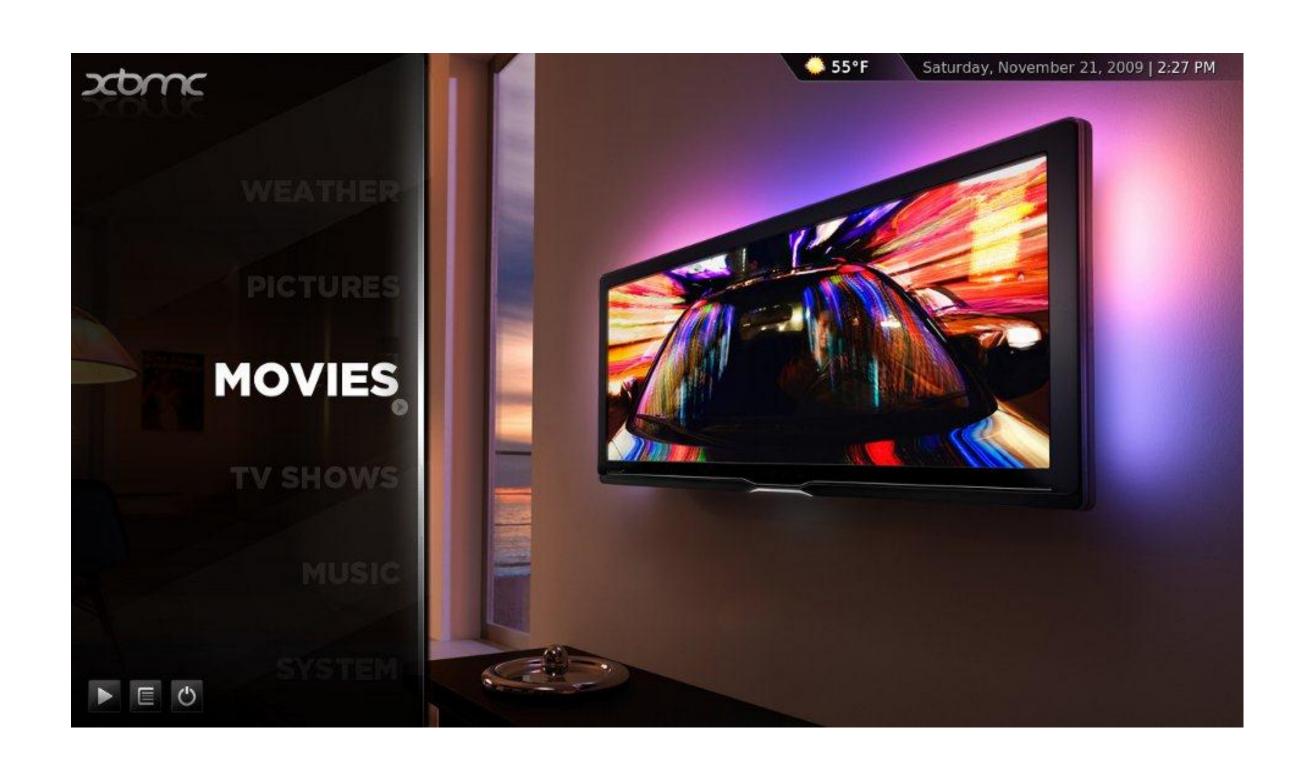
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xbm

A screenshot of Eden (current release)



A screenshot of Dharma (previous version)

The Software Engineering Practicum course taught by Dr. James Bowring focuses on the development of open source software. Our team chose to work with XBMC, and made itself known in the XBMC community by contributing to several bug reports and updating outdated and/or incorrect documentation. By actively contributing and participating in a vibrant open source community, we experienced a "trial-byfire" insight into real-world software development.

Overview

XBMC, formerly known as Xbox Media Center, is an open source media player and entertainment hub that is available for Windows, Mac OSX, iOS, and Linux. XBMC supports most major audio and video formats "out of the box" and allows users to install add-ons to add new functions and/or features. XBMC has also just been accepted into the official Debian distribution.

Group Experiences

When choosing XBMC, the team did not consider the current phase of its development lifecycle. The team joined the community after the release of Eden Beta 1. As a result, bugs were rapidly resolved by the developers in order to meet the scheduled release deadline. This made major contributions to bug fixes difficult; however, the team was able to comment and/or triage several bug reports. In the interest of contributing to XBMC in a significant way, the team looked for other available avenues. XBMC's documentation fell behind during Eden's development. The team recognized this area of concern and switched focus to updating the documentation.

Open Source Software

Open Source Software (OSS) is built on the talents and time donated by individuals. It is produced, distributed, and upgraded for free, and made freely available to the public. OSS is rapidly becoming more relevant in the software world, with projects like this one contributing to it's effectiveness and popularity. We were honored to be a part of such a great initiative.

Contributions

Bug Fixes:

- Bug # 12641: Patch to update
- Bug # 12653: Disconnecting controller leads to XBMC crash.

Over 10 pages of the XBMC wiki have been updated to match the latest build and release.

- Installation and compilation instructions

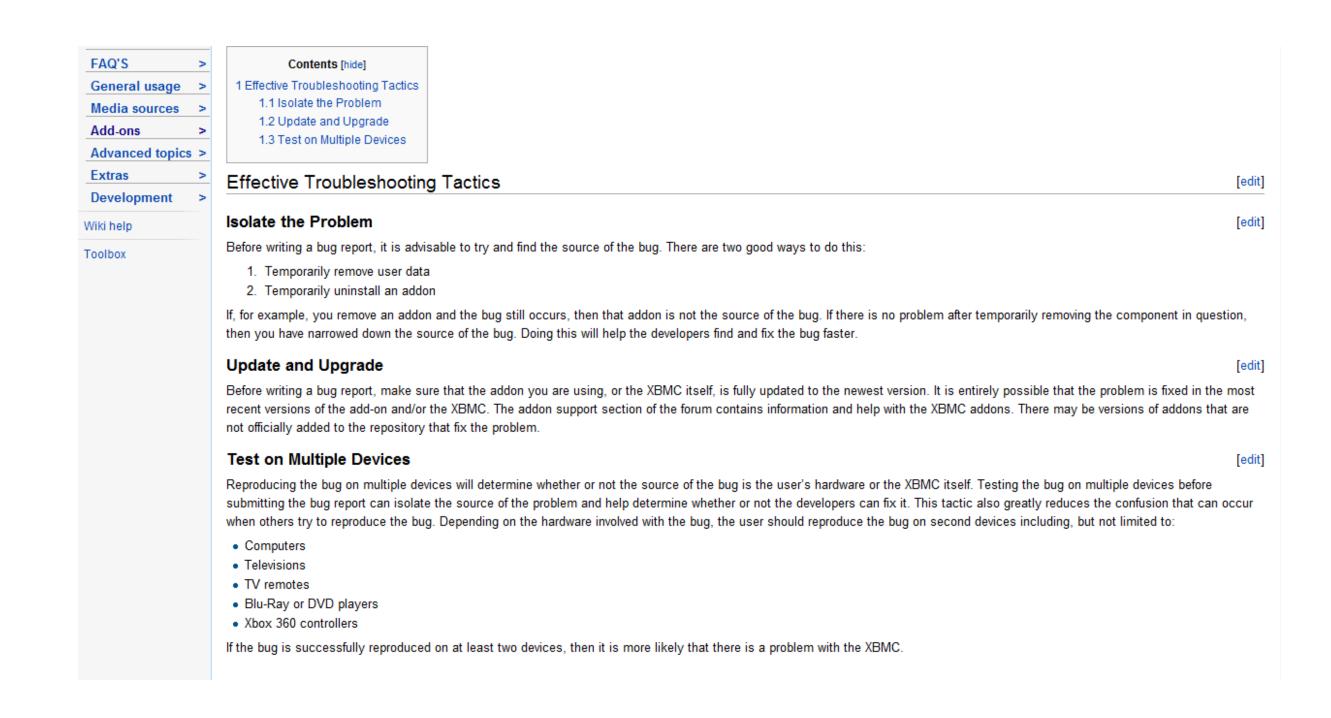
- README.ubuntu with PPA information.
- Bug # 10489: External subtitle is not always the default one, and can't save the default audio settings anymore.

Wiki Contributions:

Including but not limited to these wiki pages:

- Troubleshooting
- Menu selections and descriptions

Patch for Bug # 12641



New Troubleshooting Wiki



Link to team wiki

Product Release Cycle

