GNOME Quarterly Report

GNOME Foundation

Providing a Free Desktop for the World

June, July, August 2009

Hi GNOME Foundation members and fans,

This is our first quarterly report – please let us know if you find it useful!

In these quarterly reports we want to focus on what the GNOME Foundation and its members are doing, so most of the reporting is done by the teams doing the work. You'll hear directly from the release team about the incredibly busy quarter they've had, you'll see first hand how much the travel committee is improving our ability to sponsor travel for GNOME Foundation members, and you'll read updates from all our teams focused on our mission of providing a free desktop accessible for everyone.

The second quarter of 2009 was a busy one as the teams worked on our regular releases as well as prepared for the Desktop Summit and GNOME 3.0. In addition, our Friends of GNOME members came through in a big way – they contributed $12,392 to the GNOME cause – more than a company's annual dues! A big round of applause to them!

A big thanks to all the GNOME Foundation members, GNOME contributors and our Friends of GNOME for a successful second quarter of 2009!

Best,

Stormy Peters
Executive Director,
GNOME Foundation

Release Team

Vincent Untz

The last quarter was an incredibly active quarter for the Release Team. In addition to the usual GNOME releases that happen every three weeks in average (covering 2.25, 2.26 and 2.27 releases during this quarter), some important topics were discussed, followed by decisions.

The very beginning of the quarter started with a focus on 2.26.0 (which went out mid-March), with the Team handling last-minute freeze break requests and making sure all modules would have a new version out by 2.26.0. One of the hot topic that was discussed a lot was the state of session saving in gnome-session, and how to fix the regressions in this area with

minimal risks for the stability of the desktop.

After 2.26.0 went out, we coordinated an announcement with the sysadmin team about the switch to the git version control system, a topic that was debated for a long time within the community.

After a lot of preparation work that has been happening since GUADEC 2008, the GNOME 3.0 planning was finally set in stone and properly announced via a document explaining what are the goals of this new version and how we want to achieve them. With this work, the Release Team wants to help the project focus on a specific vision.

The 3.0 announcement enabled us to finalize the 2.28 schedule and to actually issue a joint schedule for GNOME 2.28 and 2.30/3.0, making GNOME 2.28 an evolutionary step towards 3.0.

Finally, the Release Team had a meeting at the beginning of the 2.27 development cycle, where we did a post-mortem on 2.26, and prepared the work on 2.27. One noticeable change that was discussed and that can be implemented for the 2.29 development cycle is moving the module proposal period earlier in the cycle, so we can announce earlier the decisions and give more time to maintainers to properly integrate the new modules.

Bugsquad Team

Andre Klapper

Top bug closers in Q2 were Akhil Laddha with 435 reports and Fabio Durán Verdugo with 367 reports.

9978 reports (bugs + feature requests) were opened and 12549 were closed.

Normally the number of new reports has always been higher than closed reports as new products get added constantly to GNOME Bugzilla. The negative number in Q2 is especially due to a cleanup of GnuCash reports. Without GnuCash "only" 9210 reports were closed.

After GNOME 2.26.1 had been released in April submission of bug reports about GNOME versions older than 2.24.0 via Bug-Buddy application was blocked. Experience shows that most reported issues are outdated or fixed already plus upstream developers do not work anymore on old versions.

Plans for Q3 include to have an IRC Bugsquad meeting at the beginning of August and among other issues also discuss a policy how to handle old forgotten reports that have not seen any updates for years.

Marketing Team

Paul Cutler

In the second quarter, the Marketing Team saw a number of projects start. The most visible project was the Friends of GNOME program. The Friends of GNOME website saw a number of updates, including the addition of badges and buttons, with subscribers having the ability to display custom badges as well as "Support GNOME!" badges available to all GNOME users to display on their blogs and webpages. After John Palmieri's blog post[1] and email outlining how the GNOME Foundation needs help with donations, the Friends of GNOME program saw record level contributions, and fundraising in the first six month of 2009 has raised more than 2006, 2007 or 2008. A survey to current and former Friends of GNOME subscribers was also sent out in Q2 and the results will be published in Q3.

The second quarter also saw the return of GNOME Journal (gnomejournal.org/) after more than a year's absence. Articles included a report on the GNOME Asia Summit, GConf Concepts for Developers, an Introduction to the Message Indicator, a review of Gourmet Recipe Manager, and a Behind the Scenes interview with Stormy Peters.

The GNOME Marketing Team began planning for GNOME 3.0 brainstorming and discussing marketing ideas for a potential marketing campaign to introduce users to the changes in GNOME 3.0. Claus Schwarm submitted a campaign brief that the team will be working on to market GNOME 3.0, including media partnerships, viral marketing, on the web, a video campaign and more.

In Q3 the team will continue to work on Friends of GNOME by adding more subscription options and publishing the survey results. Work on the GNOME 3.0 campaign will start including creating content and a developing a project plan for the different campaign elements. A new GNOME store will also launch in the third quarter offering GNOME users the ability to purchase GNOME branded merchandise from t-shirts to stickers and more. Work will also continue to work on content for the new GNOME website as well as the Marketing Team getting involved with the GNOME 2.28 release notes and create a Press kit for the 2.28 release. Lastly, the Marketing Team is also looking to create a worldwide Press Team to interact with journalists and and provide relevant and timely news about GNOME.

[1] http://www.j5live.com/2009/04/30/the-gnome-foundation-needs-your-help/

Web Team

Lucas Rocha

The GNOME Web Team has been working hard on the development of a beta version of the new GNOME website that will be available by the time GNOME 2.28 is released. This effort is being coordinated by Lucas Rocha with great help from Art and Marketing teams. The new website will feature reviewed web content in a refreshed design using Plone as the underlying Content Management System (CMS). The use of a CMS will potentially allow more people to contribute with new content and hopefully make the website more appealing and useful for the GNOME users and developers.

The development of the new website has been split in three teams: Content, Design and CMS. As of today, the teams has produced a reviewed content structure, a new website design, and the initial implementation of important Plone components. The next project milestones towards 2.28 involve the implementation of new design in the CMS, the production and review of the actual web content (texts, images, sections, etc) and the development of an infrastructure for the translation of the website content in different languages.

Usability Team

Calum Benson

Shell user interface prototypes and improvements, in preparation for a preview release alongside GNOME 2.28.

Allan Day continues to work on analysis for potential redesign of tabbed applications and GNOME's tab widget.

Allan also wrote a tutorial on usability testing with Pongo, a screen+webcam recording app (written by Andreas Nilsson) that's useful for doing usability studies.

Anton Kerezov carried out an online survey of GNOME user demographics and basic desktop usage. He had over 1000 responses, primarily from people on GNOME mailing lists.

Canonical's Design and User Experience team launched the Hundred Paper Cuts project, to identify 100 trivially easy-to-fix bugs that the average user would encounter on their first day of using a brand new installation of Ubuntu.

It's expected that many of these bugs will be fixed upstream to improve the experience for all GNOME users.

Planned for Q3:

Matthew Paul Thomas from Canonical to give two usability talks at Gran Canaria Desktop Summit: one on the regular Ubuntu/GNOME usability studies that Canonical have started doing, and a lightning talk on "10 Common GUI Bloopers".

Marina Zhurakhinskaya from Red Hat to lead a GNOME Shell Design BOF at GCDS.

Allan Day to run a BOF on tabbed application issues at GCDS.

Kristin Travis and Jenya Gestrin from Sun to call for feedback/participation on the work they've been doing on a potential control center redesign for GNOME 3.0. This work was started last year, and has already included one usability study.

Turn off button and application menu icons by default for GNOME 2.28. This change has been considered for some time, in order to improve visual consistency, reduce clutter, and reduce the need to continually invent new icons for every new function that becomes available in GNOME. This should also prove beneficial for the accessibility themes, allowing them to provide better icon coverage than has been possible up to now.Experiment with changing the default toolbar style in GNOME from text-below-icons to text-beside-icons for GNOME 2.28. The hypothesis is that this style reduces the amount of vertical space uses in toolbars, allowing more room for actual content, and that important buttons are given a larger size than other buttons, making them easier to click. This change will be evaluated over a few development releases prior to 2.28, and the final decision made nearer the stable release.

Accessibility Team

Willie Walker

The GNOME Accessibility Team started a GNOME component in the HFOSS project. Three students (Rachel Foecking - Trinity College '11, Ryan Gee - Wesleyan '11, and Ted Nichols - Wesleyan '10) worked on MouseTrap and VizAudio under the mentorship of GNOME community members Flavio Percoco Premoli, Rohan Anil and Bryen Yunashko.

The projects went well, resulting in many improvements to MouseTrap and a potential new module for libcanberra. At least one student also plans on continuing with the work. The HFOSS organizers would also like to continue the relationship with GNOME for next year's HFOSS summer institute.

We created a small "GOPA-sized" grant for Joanmarie Diggs to work with Xan Lopez on WebKit accessibility. It's a difficult problem but the work is proceeding at a fast pace with strong positive cooperation between Xan and Joanmarie. Willie Walker (Sun and GNOME Accessibility Lead), Li Yuan (Sun), Ke Wang (Sun), Mark Doffman (Codethink), Rob Taylor (Codethink), Mike Gorse (Novell) and Brad Taylor (Novell) held an AT-SPI/D-Bus planning meeting and code sprint. They made significant progress on getting closer to the Bonobo/CORBA deprecation goal[1] for GNOME 3.0, with specific AT-SPI/D-Bus work being tracked via the Linux Foundation[2].

Ke Wang from Sun has made great progress on the Java ATK Wrapper which will supplant the Java/CORBA implementation for AT-SPI.

Brad Taylor and Mike Gorse made great progress on Mono accessibility for GNOME.

Luke Yelavich from Canonical started the Speech Dispatcher work with a goal of supplanting gnome-speech for GNOME 3.0.

Joseph Scheuhammer from the Adaptive Technology Research Centre at the University of Toronto has begun working on magnification. We intend on collaborating closely with Owen Taylor from Red Hat to integrate magnification into GNOME Shell and ultimately supplant gnome-mag for GNOME 3.0.

Community member Alejandro Piñeiro from Igalia released the first version of Cally (Clutter Accessibility Implementation Library).

The GNOME desktop automation project (Mago) has made excellent progress using the Accessibility layer.

The GNOME Accessibility projects have continued to be actively developed, enhanced, and maintained, including: Orca, MouseTweaks, MouseTrap, Gok, Accerciser and Dasher.

For the upcoming quarters, we plan on focusing on the Bonobo/CORBA deprecation goal for GNOME 3.0.

Willie Walker will also be representing the GNOME project at "Jornadas Regionales de Software Libre" this fall: http://jornadas.opencommunity.cl/er

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[1] http://live.gnome.org/Accessibility/BonoboDeprecation

[2] http://www.linuxfoundation.org/en/Accessibility/ATK/AT-SPI/AT-SPI_on_D-Bus

[3] http://blogs.igalia.com/apinheiro/2009/07/20/cally-moved-to-clutter-repository-and-other-news/

Documentation Team

Shaun McCance

In April 2009, Shaun McCance sent an email outlining the steps we need to take to revamp our documentation and our team to better help our users. These plans began to be realized by June 2009, when four members of the documentation team attended the Writing Open Source conference in Owen Sound, Canada.

The results of the conference were amazing.

Paul Cutler, Phil Bull, and Milo Casagrande each stepped up to help Shaun with team leadership,

and we have since held regular meetings for planning and community involvement. We've also become part of a larger open source documentation community, which will help us produce better documentation.

Support for Mallard documents was landed in Yelp, and team members began producing Mallard-based topic-oriented help for Empathy. This real-world usage of Mallard has helped further shape it into a viable solution for our team.

The team has also decided on the

CC-BY-SA 3.0 license for all newly produced work. This alleviates many issues we've had with licenses in the past and helps us collaborate with our downstream distributors.

In Q3, we hope to continue the momentum we've started by continuing to produce topic-oriented help and developing missing functionality in Mallard. With four team leaders, we're better able to teach new contributors and grow our team. New contributors will be essential to the long-term success of our efforts.

Art Team

Andreas Nilsson

During the second quarter of 2009, the art team did:

- Work on the one-canvas branch of gnome-icon-theme, introducing new, big 256x256 icons and a new workflow. We hope this will land for 2.28

- Work on several issues requested by developers as part of Art Requests[1]

- Lots of small fixes here and there :)

For Q3 we did and plan to do:

- Art Meeting during GCDS, went well.

- Started a visual cleanup of GNOME, starting with reducing heavy overuse of icons #557469, #583352. This will continue during Q3 with more alignment fixes and visual noise reduction work.

- Start of new widget theme for 3.0

[1] http://live.gnome.org/GnomeArt/ArtRequests

GNOME Mobile

Dave Neary

During the second quarter of 2009, a lot of GNOME mobile related technologies were announced or released such as the Moblin release, oFono, ConnMan, SyncEvolution, and the announcement of the Nokia & Intel co-operation agreement.

Intel released Moblin 2, and a lot of work which had been done behind closed doors exploded into the public eye. Moblin includes a number of libraries specifically targeting mobile use-cases, including oFono and ConnMan, which were both developed in co-operation with Nokia, and SyncEvolution, which are promising additions to the GNOME platform on mobile devices.

GNOME Mobile at GUADEC:
The Gran Canaria Desktop Summit schedule was loaded down with mobile-related presentations this year - including the very successful mobile track on Wednesday. The mobile influence was also clear during the free desktop part of the conference, with keynote by Dr. Walter Bender on Sugar and Quim Gil on Maemo, and a number of lightning talks on mobile related projects including Anjal, a new mobile mail client.

Core GNOME technologies in use on mobile platforms were prominently featured throughout the conference. Notably, Telepathy, Tracker, Gstreamer and Clutter got prominent exposure. Newer technologies including ConnMan, SyncEvolution and GeoClue were also presented.

After three years of the GNOME Mobile initiative, we can clearly say that mobile is now well and truly part of the GNOME psyche.

GNOME Mobile at OSCON:
Paul Cooper and Dave Neary traveled to OSCON, where they represented GNOME Mobile in a well attended session. They outlined the two key use-cases where the GNOME stack has gained traction on mobile devices: as a great base on which to build general purpose operating systems with novel user interfaces adapted for small screen sizes and different input methods, such as Sugar, Maemo and Moblin, and in vertical embedded applications with restricted user interfaces, allowing ODMs to rapidly build and develop reliable and usable user interfaces for their devices, as was the case for Vernier's LabQuest, the Garmin Nüvi 860, Bug Labs' BUG and Subersonic Imagine's Aixplorer cancer detection system.In addition to Paul and Dave's presentation, Dirk Hohndel of Intel also presented the Moblin vision in a keynote, and there were a number of presentations on developing visually rich applications with Clutter.

GNOME Events

Dave Neary

A lot of planning and preparation went into the Gran Canaria Desktop Summit which was held right at the start of the third quarter. The Gran Canaria Desktop Summit was a great success, creative juices were stirred, progress was made on sticky problems, and great presentations were shared by our community members.

The collaboration with the KDE community went great. We overcame a number of organizational difficulties to pull off a conference which left almost all participants satisfied, and eager to repeat the experience. Pulling off a conference for 1000 attendees is a different problem to organising one for 500 to 600 attendees, and the organising team can be proud of the result. Many thanks must go to the Cabildo for their financial and institutional support, Agustín Benito Bethencourt and the other members of ASOLIF for their huge amount of work in ensuring we have the infrastructure we requested, and of course the organising committees from both

GNOME and KDE, and especially Claudia Rauch, Chema Casanova and Stormy Peters.

Also a great success was the spanish language content of the conference, GUADEC-es, with tutorials and presentations targeting local developers and user groups.

Other events from the second quarter of 2009 include:

- Solutions Linux, Paris: GNOME stand and presence -thanks to GNOME-fr Collaboration Summit, San Francisco

- Collaboration Summit, San Francisco, April 8 - 10: Substantial GNOME presence

- GNOME stand at LinuxTag, Berlin, June 24 - 27, sponsored by Lanedo, manned by GNOME-de

Future events include:

- GNOME-es organised GUADEC-es after GUADEC, July 8 - 10

- Community Leadership Summit (July 18 - 19): GNOME presence: Dave Neary, Lefty Schlesinger, Jono Bacon, Jorge Castro, Joe 'Zonker' Brockmeier, Bradley Kuhn, Simon Phipps

- FLOSS Foundations meeting (July 20): Dave Neary organising, Simon Phipps, Bradley Kuhn, Aaron Williamson present

- OSCON: GNOME presence included presenters: Stormy Peters, Dave Neary, Paul Cooper, Rob Bradford, Chris Lord, Karen Sandler (SFLC, GNOME's lawyers), Simon Phipps, and more.

- Open Source World, San Francisco, August 11 - 14: GNOME speakers: Stormy Peters, Jono Bacon, Joe 'Zonker' Brockmeier

- Red Hat Summit, Chicago, Sept 1 - 3: Substantial GNOME-related content

- OSiM World, Amsterdam: GNOME presence: Dave Neary,

Lefty Schlesinger, Ari Jaaksi, Imad Sousou presenting, LiMo, Moblin & Maemo related content.

- Software Freedom Day: There will be many free software related events, including a mini-summit on women's participation in the free software movement that the Free Software Foundation and the GNOME Foundation are co-hosting.

- LinuxCon, Portland OR, Sept 21 - 23

- Boston Summit, Cambridge MA, Oct 10-12

- Maemo Summit, Amsterdam, Oct 10-12: Substantial GNOME

Mobile related content

- "Jornadas Regionales de Software Libre"[1] Willie Walker will also be representing the GNOME project

- Boston Summit: In October, the GNOME Summit will once again be held in Boston, on the MIT campus. The location and dates have now been confirmed, and the summit will take place on October 10 - 12 in MIT's Sloan Building in Cambridge MA.

Organisation of the Boston Summit is being done by John Palmieiri again.

The call for proposals for GUADEC 2010 will also open soon!

Candidate towns who would be interested in hosting GUADEC next year are invited to send their proposals to the board at board@gnome.org. The closing date for applications will be announced soon.

Another GNOME related conference, the Maemo Summit, hosted by Nokia, will also be held in October, on the 10th to the 12th, in Amsterdam. Details are available on the Maemo wiki[2].

GNOME will be represented at the 2nd International Symposium on Computers and Arabic Language in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the period of 10-12 October 2009. Khaled Hosny is organizing the GNOME attendance.

[1] http://jornadas.opencommunity.cl/en/
[2] http://wiki.maemo.org/Maemo_Summit_2009

Finances

Income

$65,100	Desktop Summit sponsorship fees*
$20,000	advisory board fees (Sun, Novell)
$5,000	GNOME Asia
$175	interest
$12,392	Friends of GNOME

Expenses

$34,401	Wages + associated taxes and fees
$188	administrative costs
$190	bank fees
$10,439	Desktop Summit travel*
$3313	employee travel
$142	Friends of GNOME mailing
$900	community events and travel

* The Desktop Summit sponsorship costs, income and expenses will be split with KDE e.V. These numbers only represent a portion of those collected or spent and are not the portion that will be accredited to GNOME.

Travel Committee

The travel committee was formed in April 2009. Team members include:

- Germán Póo-Caamaño
- Chema Casanova
- Emily Chen
- Rosanna Yuen

They manage the travel budget for community events. The travel committee reviews applications for travel assistance, approves them within the budget and processes the receipts and reimbursements.

In the second quarter of 2009, they managed the GNOME Foundation travel budget for the documentation hackfest and for GUADEC.

For the documentation hackfest they sponsored 4 people's travel:

Airfare: $1500
Accommodation: $800
Total: $2300

The documentation team blogged about their experience and accomplishments.

For GUADEC they managed travel assistance for 39 people:
Airfare: US$ 23,399.64
Accommodation: US$ 8,438.32
Total: US$ 31,838

The travel committee is greatly improving the GNOME Foundation's efficiency in sponsoring travel. For example, by organizing lodging as well as approving airfare, they were able to substantially increase the number of people who received travel assistance. For GUADEC 2009 they managed travel assistance for 39 people for $31,838. Compare that to $41,000 in airfare alone for 36 people in 2008.

At GUADEC they arranged for sponsored GNOME Foundation members to blog about the event, wear a GNOME sponsored badge and to have their photo taken. This is key for showing sponsoring organizations the impact that their sponsorship has for GNOME.

During Q3 they will add a new member to the team, continue to work on reimbursements for the Desktop Summit and the documentation hackfest and manage the travel for Q3 GNOME related events.

For more information on the Travel Committee or for sponsorship for travel to a GNOME related event see http://live.gnome.org/Travel.

I18n Team

The GNOME I18n team coordinated the translation effort for GNOME 2.26, which was made available on March/April 2009. Linux distributions such as Fedora 11 and Ubuntu 9.04 offer the new localised GNOME.

GNOME 2.26 supports 48 languages in total, compared to 45 languages in the previous release.

After the release of GNOME 2.26, GNOME migrated to the Git version control system for the management of the source code. The GNOME I18n team is helping during the migration to Git with thorough documentation for translators and dedicated support through the mailing list.

During Q3, the GNOME I18n Team plans to:

- Complete implementation of git commit support through l10n.gnome.org.

- Complete implementation of git repository management program.

- Continue providing git help to translators as soon as asked".

- Contact team coordinators for languages that are about to slip from 'Supported' status, assist to stay in supported status.

Membership & Elections Committee

There are currently 368 members of the GNOME Foundation. Please remember that you must renew your membership every two years. New GNOME Foundation members:

Andrew Stormont	Bertrand Lorentz	Rouquier Philippe	Bharath Acharya	Pablo Sanxiao Roca
Jonny Lamb	James Liggett	Sébastien Granjoux	David Siegel	Brad Taylor
Li Yuan	Marina	Willie Walker	Emily Chen	Nils Faerber
Martin Picek	Zhurakhinskaya	Arun Raghavan	Frederic Muller	Paul Cutler
Alex Launi	Philip Withnall	Ava Zhang	Jonathan Matthew	Pockey Lam

You can see a full list of members at http://foundation.gnome.org/membership/members.php.

Elections

The annual elections for the GNOME Foundation Board of Directors were held in June. The following directors were elected by the GNOME Foundation members.

- Behdad Esfahbod
- Brian Cameron
- Diego Escalante Urrelo
- Germán Póo-Caamaño
- Lucas Rocha
- Srinivasa Ragavan
- Vincent Untz