GNU Guix — Blog

Latest 20 News Articles

10 YEARS OF STORIES BEHIND GUIX

2022-04-18T18:45:00Z

It's been ten years today since the very first commit to what was already called Guix—the unimaginative name is a homage to Guile and Nix , which Guix started by blending together. On April 18th, 2012, there was very little to see and no actual "project". The project formed in the following months and became a collective adventure around a shared vision. Ten years later, it's amazing to see what more than 600 people achieved, with 94K commits, countless hours of translation, system administration, web design work, and no less than 175 blog posts to share our enthusiasm at...

KEEPING ONE'S HOME TIDY

2022-03-21T15:30:00Z

How much effort to recreate your work environment when you switch to a new machine? What would it take to roll back to your previous environment once you've noticed a program no longer behaves as expected? What about sharing your environment with friends of yours? These are some of the things that Guix Home , which landed in Guix as a "technology preview" in September 2021, aims to make effortless, reliable, and fun. In a nutshell, Guix Home brings the fully declarative configuration of Guix System to home directories. With Guix System, users and administrators provide a configuration file that defines the...

ONLINE GUIX DAY CONFERENCE: SCHEDULE RELEASED!

2022-02-14T00:00:00Z

The Guix hackers are very happy to announce the second online Guix Days Conference on Saturday and Sunday, 19 & 20 February 2022 . This conference is open to everyone (no registration fee) and will be held entirely online. Want to know the schedule, read on! There will be no live talks during the Guix Days! Please watch the talks beforehand. Join us live on the 19 and 20 to participate in the various sessions! Live discussions will take place on Saturday and Sunday, and the...

Sunsetting gzip substitutes availability

2022-02-09T09:00:00Z

Starting next month (2022/03/01), the build farm known as ci.guix.gnu.org will no longer offer gzip-compressed binary substitutes. The Guix daemon has known to use lzip for substitutes since 2019 ; unless you are running a very outdated daemon, you have no need to worry about this change. This idea was first discussed about a year ago, when it was found that gzip-compressed substitutes accounted for about only 1% of the downloaded substitutes . Since then, the daemon has gained support for zstd on top of gzip and lzip, and the build farm has happily generated compressed substitutes for all of these compression schemes. …

Meet Guix at FOSDEM

2022-02-02T15:00:00Z

As usual, GNU Guix will be present at FOSDEM this week-end, February 5th and 6th. Due to the pandemic, FOSDEM takes place on-line for the second year, but we're confident the wires will be able carry enthusiasm to the homes of the thousands of attendees. This year's a bit special: we're celebrating 10 years of Guix, including 8 years sharing our excitement at FOSDEM ! This edition will also bring you several talks about Guix and related projects. Sunday morning, in the distributions track , co-maintainer and long-time hacker Mathieu Othacehe will present " Unify your distributions —…

Announcing the second online Guix Days

2022-01-12T00:00:00Z

The Guix hackers are very happy to announce the second online Guix Days Conference on 19 & 20 February 2022 . This conference is open to everyone and will be held entirely online. Want to speak? Submit your proposal! Important dates: February 8 : Deadline for talks proposal. February 12 : Deadline for releasing your pre-recorded talks. February 14 : Release of the schedule. February 19 : Conference day! February 20 : Conference day! The agenda of these…

GNU Guix maintainer rotation

2022-01-06T09:00:00Z

For some time already, Ludovic and Marius have voiced their desire to step down from the Guix maintainers collective. An email announcing the news and calling for new maintainers was sent more than 4 months ago. We're very happy to announce that Efraim Flashner has responded to the call and accepted to join the Guix maintainers collective! Efraim has been with Guix for a long time -- the first recorded Git history of their activity goes back to 2015 , and they have since authored more than 6000 commits! More importantly, Efraim has demonstrated traits we value for a co-maintainer, such as…

The Big Change

2021-12-15T15:00:00Z

Making cross-cutting changes over a large code base is difficult, but it's occasionally necessary if we are to keep the code base tidy and malleable. With almost 800K source lines of code, Guix can

reasonably be called a large code base. One might argue that almost 80% of this code is package definitions , which "doesn't count". Reality is that it does count, not only because those package definitions are regular Scheme code, but also they are directly affected by the big change Guix has just undergone. This post looks at what's probably the biggest change Guix...

From 'guix environment' to 'guix shell'
2021-10-26T15:00:00Z

There are times when what looked like the right design choice some years back comes out as an odd choice as time passes. The beloved guix environment tool is having that fate. Its command-line interface has become non-intuitive and annoying for the most common use cases. Since it could not be changed without breaking compatibility in fundamental ways, we devised a new command meant to progressively replace it; guix shell —that's the name we unimaginatively ended up with— has just landed after a three-week review period , itself a followup to discussions and hesitations on the...

Taming the 'stat' storm with a loader cache
2021-08-02T15:00:00Z

It was one of these days where some of us on IRC were rehashing that old problem—that application startup in Guix causes a " stat storm"—and lamenting the lack of a solution when suddenly, Ricardo proposes what, in hindsight, looks like an obvious solution: "maybe we could use a per-application ld cache?". A moment where collective thinking exceeds the sum of our individual thoughts. The result is one of the many features that made it in the core-updates branch, slated to be merged in the coming weeks, one that reduces application startup time. ELF files and their...