State of the X.Org Foundation
FOSDEM 2014

Martin Peres & others of the board of directors

February 1, 2014

Summary

The X.Org Foundation is a non-profit corporation chartered to develop and execute effective strategies that provide worldwide stewardship and encouragement of the X Window System and related projects (Mesa, DRI, Wayland, etc.).

http://www.x.org/wiki/XorgFoundation/

What the Foundation DOESN'T provide

- technical guidance;
- roadmaps/deadlines;
- releases;
- supervision of any kind.

What the Foundation does provide

- communication tools (in relation with Freedesktop);
- an annual physical meeting;
- money to help developing the Graphics stack.

X.Org Developer's Conference (XDC/XDS)

- Organized once a year, around September/October;
- Alternates between the US and Europe (in Europe this year!);
- Lasts 3 days;

Travel sponsorship

The board of directors can cover the travel and accomodation expenses to the developers who couldn't attend an X.Org-related conference (XDC or FOSDEM?) otherwise.

Google Summer of Code (GSoC)

- The X.Org Foundation is an approved org. of the GSoC;
- This allows students to participate to X.Org-related projects over the summer and get paid to flip bits, not burgers.

GSoC projects of 2013

- David Hermann (Dave Airlie): Render Nodes and security fixes
- Samuel Pitoiset (Martin Peres): Reverse engineering performance counters on NVIDIA cards and exposing Fermi MP counters in Mesa;
- Dylan Noblesmith (Ian Romanick): Implementing GL_EXT_direct_state_access.

Endless Vacation of Code (EVoC)

- EVoC is a GSoC-like project, funded by the X.Org Foundation;
- It allows students to participate to X.Org-related projects during their vacation, at any time of the year.

EVoC projects

- 2013: No projects;
- 2012:
  - Francisco Jerrez (None): Gallium/Nouveau - OpenCL support
  - Supreet Pal Singh (Martin Peres): Nouveau - Software scripting Engine for Fermi Architecture based GPUs;
  - Blaž Tomažič (Tom Stellar): OpenCL Testing Framework for Piglit. Project Overview
  - And more...

Communication: Google+ and Twitter

- Google+/Youtube: Store and/or link to talk videos, slides, blog articles or G+ posts related to projects under our umbrella (Martin Peres);
- Twitter: Mostly security issues, random updates (Alan Coopersmith).

X.Org developer guide

- Written by Alan Coopersmith, Matt Dew and the X.Org team;
- Edited by Bart Massey;
- http://www.x.org/wiki/guide/.

Summary

Members

People actively engaged in activities related to X.Org, support the goal of the Foundation and who signed the membership agreement.

Roles of the members

- Elect the members of the board of directors;
- Approve big changes proposed by the board (By-laws, corporate status, dissolution, unusual agreement, ...).

Current situation

- 79 members!
- Join us: http://www.x.org/wiki/Membership!

Elected in 2012, for 2 years

- Alex Deucher;
- Keith Packard;
- Matt Dew;
- Matthias Hopf.

Elected in 2013, for 2 years

- Alan Coopersmith;
- Peter Hutterer (Secretary);
- Stuart Kreitman (Treasurer);
- Martin Peres.

Re-election schedule, 4 slots (Martin)

- Nomination period opens: 13/01/2014;
- Nomination period closes: 12/02/2014;
- Publication of candidates: 13/02/2014;
- Membership application deadline: 18/02/2014;
- Election period opens: 17/02/2014;
- Election period closes: 09/03/2014.

Be a candidate!

Apply as a candidate to increase your help to this great community!

http://www.x.org/wiki/BoardOfDirectors/Elections/2014

Corporate Status

- The Foundation has the US IRS 501(c)(3) status (non-profit);
- Allows for tax-deductible donations in the USA;
- Irrelevant for non-USA doners.

History of the Foundation's 501(c)(3) status

- 2005: We deciced to apply for the 501(c)(3);
- 2012: The Foundation gained the status with the help of the SFLC (Software Freedom Law Center);
- 2013: We lost the status because we didn't fill a tax form (we had no income to declare and didn't get any info from SLFC);
- 2013: We got the status again after clearing up the issue.

Complete summary of what happened

```
http://who-t.blogspot.fr/2013/10/
the-xorg-foundation-and-501c3-status.html
```

Current balance

At the current rate, we have 4 to 5 years left before requiring a fund raise.

HSBC → Bank Of America (Stuart Kreitmann)

- The Foundation has been an HSBC client;
- We've had a $29/month "analysis fee" that wouldn't go away;
- HSBC changed rules and now closes out all small-time ($ < $5M/year) customers and this affected us;
- This is consistent with the heavyweight treatment we had been experiencing all along;
- We switched to Bank of America which for a better service.

Summary

Merging with SPI

- The 501(c)(3) status requires a lot of work to maintain;
- It was a technical achievement which has not proven itself;
- It requires work we aren't qualified to do (no US accountants);
- We don't get as much money as we used to, to justify paying for an accountant;
- There are umbrella corporations to help with that(SFLC, SPI);
- The board unanimously voted at XDC for SPI;
- We'll be contacting them and SLFC before requiring a members vote (Keith).

Software in the Public Interest (SPI)

- sets up donation infrastructures;
- manages our money and deals with the bank/state for us;
- keeps 5% of all donations in return;
- handles ArchLinux, Debian, FreeDesktop, LibreOffice, etc...

Updating the By-laws

- Merging with SPI requires changing the By-laws;
- They have been ported from OpenOffice to Latex/Git to help with reviewing the changes and improve versioning (Martin);
- It is also the occasion to account for Mesa/DRI and Wayland in the By-laws and make them really a part of the scope of the Foundation.

By-laws repo

```
http://anongit.freedesktop.org/git/xorg/foundation/
bylaws.git
```

Summary

1. Introduction
   - Role of the Foundation
   - Actions of the Foundation

2. Current situation
   - Membership
   - Members of the Board of Directors
   - 501(c)(3)
   - Bank

3. On-going projects
   - SPI merge
   - Updating the ByLaws

4. **Conclusion**

Conclusion

- Become a member now, we'll need your opinion!
- Become a board candidate!
- Get involved and improve the communication!
- Keep on coding and improving the graphics stack ;)