



Koha : history

Chris Cormack

Kiwi, involved in Koha since 1999, Koha Release Manager for Koha 1.0, 3.4, 3.6, CatalystNZ

Paul Poulain

Can't be here because he is ill.



1999-09: the origin

Some kiwis and a y2k bug

→ HLT Horowhenua Library Trust, in New Zealand

→ has a system with a y2k bug

→ Need low prices

→ Need to work on a dialup line

→ Easy to use for volunteers

(reference : <http://journal.code4lib.org/articles/1638>)

1999-09: the origin

Katipo, (a « web company ») start working on a full web ILS

- Work start on sep, 99
- Limited functional requirements (no serials, no acq, ...)
- Not full web in fact : circ was a vt100 app
- Agile development before Agile methods exists !
- Team leader : Chris Cormack



2000-01: the origin

1st version delivered on time

- HLT goes live with koha 1.0.0 on 2000, january 2nd
- 1st full-web ILS

Katipo is not a product vendor company

- Releasing Koha as OpenSource

2000-09: First version released

1st public release after :

- Some sleep for the developers
- Some bugfixes for the software
- Some work on the web for the rest of the world
www.koha.org Website, Project created on SourceForge

New developers :

- Glen Stewart (1st patch not from Katipo)
- Steve Tonnesen (web based circulation)



2001-05 : non english newcomers

1st non english developer (& maybe library) : Pawel Skuza

1st french developer & user: Paul Poulain (in 2002-01) & Dombes Abbey



2002 : the expansion

- Koha 1.2 released
- Wiki launched
- Bugzilla launched
- 2 major problems to fix
 - Translating Koha : Move to HTML::Template decided
 - MARC standards : Adding MARC support decided (1st sponsoring outside from HLT -Nelsonville Public Library-)
- 17th committer at the end of the year

2002 : the need for a structure

International software, hacked « 24/7 », by ppl all around the world. It's time to add some organization !

First elected team

- Kaitiaki : our Guardian : Pat Eyler
- Release Manager : for the next version 1.4/2.0 : Paul Poulain
- Release Maintainer : for the current version 1.2 : Chris Cormack
- QA manager : Ingrid, then no-one
- Doc manager : Nicolas Rosasco



2003-2005 : strengthening the software

New functionalities like

- MARC support (incl authorities)
- Serials
- Stats
- Advanced OPAC
- Bulkimport



2003-2005 : New team

Team elected in 2003 :

- Kaitiaki : Rachel Hamilton
- Release Manager 2.4/3.0 : Joshua Ferraro
- Release Maintainer 2.2 : Paul Poulain
- QA manager : Pierrick Le Gall, then no-one
- Doc manager : Stephen Hedges



2006-2007 : road to 3.0

The SQL MARC structure is limited, and can't deal efficiently with large size catalogues (+300k items)

→ Deciding to move to zebra

First KohaCon in France (KohaCon06)

→ 3 days user conference (more than 120 attendees, in Paris)

→ 5 days hackfest (15 developers from 4 countries, in Marseille)



2006-2007 : road to 3.0

Changing tools :

- Moving from sourceforge/CVS to savannah/CVS then git
- Mailing lists on lists.koha.org
- French website (www.koha-fr.org)



2008-2009 : Why Open Source is stronger

In 2008-2009, Koha faced a trouble. In a few words :

- In 2007, Liblime bought Katipo Koha activity & domain name
- A company called PTFS does some business in US around Koha. Liblime says they are dangerous
- Something happens at Liblime and they don't share any more
- A lot of Liblime developers resign
- Liblime announces « Liblime Enterprise Koha », hosted only, source-code is not shared, the community no longer has access to Koha.org domain & tools
- PTFS buy Liblime. It's now PTFS/Liblime (early 2010)



2008-2009 : Why OpenSource is stronger

Open Source is better (for users) because :

- No-one can « steal » the software. It's a « common good »
That's a huge guarantee for libraries/users !
- The software evolution doesn't depend on a single company success or decision !

Consequences of this crisis :

- For users (libraries) : nothing (Maybe a delay in releases)
- For developers : well, frankly, we spent a lot of time dealing with those problems that would have been better used in hacking. But we have learnt a lot of things.

End of the crisis

- Decision to move to koha-community.org, with all our tools (Jan 2010)
- KohaCon09 in USA (Texas), KohaCon10 in New Zealand (Wellington), KohaCon11 in India, KohaCon12 in UK
- ptfs-liblime and community relationship still not normalized : we've some contacts with one of the developer at PTFS/Liblime, but They walk their way, and the rest of the community walks their way
- At least 90 libraries have switched from Koha, support by PTFS to Koha, support by someone else last year (see <http://www.librarytechnology.org/libwebcats/>)



2010: back to hacking

2010 and 2011 workflow changes

- Monthly IRC meeting
- Well defined patch workflow
- QA manager position filled !
- Many new contributors

It's time for a new start : the team is highly motivated, there are exciting things to do, there are more and more users that uses Koha



2011: versions 3.4 and 3.6

Koha 3.4 was the 1st “time based release” (april 2011)

- Normarc support (welcome Magnus !)
- Fast add (add catalogue record from the circulation interface)
- Switch from H::T::P to T::T for template (presentation)
- Item removed from bibliographic MARC record

Koha 3.6 (oct 2011)

- Easier analytics record
- 365 bugfixes & improvement from 3.4



2012: version 3.8 and 3.10

Koha 3.8 (april 2012)

- Hourly loans
- Firefox offline circulation module (KOCT)
- New staff interface
- 130 enhancements (+ fixes)
- 71 different developers



2012: version 3.8 and 3.10

Koha 3.10 (nov 2012)

- Plack on OPAC & staff interface
- Responsive design OPAC
- 160 enhancements & new features, 433 fixes (since 3.8.0)
- Enhancement description document is 43 pages



2013: version 3.12 and 3.14

Koha 3.12 (may 2013, Jared Release Manager)

- Patron self-registration
- Link between subscription & acquisition
- Branch-limited authorized values

Koha 3.14 (Nov 2013, Galen Release Manager)

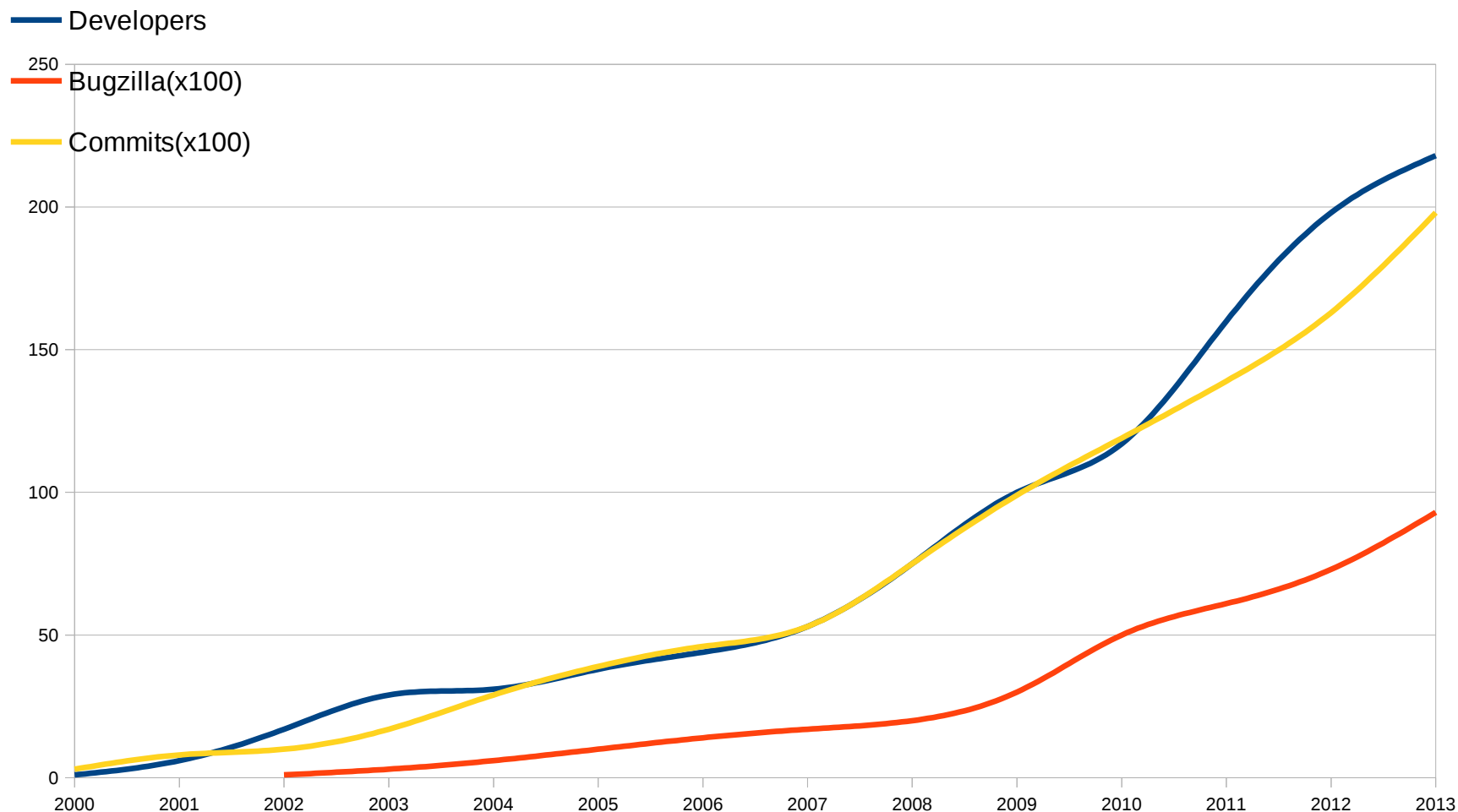
- Course Reserves
- Bootstrap theme for OPAC
- New offline circulation module

IPONZ decision

- Liblime/PTFS trademark application rejected
- Costs awarded to Te Horowhenua Trust and Catalyst
- Trademark awarded to Te Horowhenua Trust



Some numbers





2014: version 3.16 and 3.18

Koha 3.16 (May 2014, Galen Release Manager)

- Different templates for notice types, eg 1 for email, different for sms
- Experimental Plack support for OPAC

Koha 3.18 (Nov 2014, Tomás Release Manager)

- End of fiscal year rollover of open funds and orders
- On - site checkouts
- Automatic renewals
- SRU download



2015: Koha 3.20 and 3.22

Koha 3.20 (May 2015, Tomás Release Manager)

- Batch editing of records
- Discharge notice generation and management
- Several holds related preferences moved to circulation matrix

Koha 3.22 (Nov 2015, Tomás Release Manager)

- Full plack support
- ElasticSearch
- Browse interface
- Rest API (maybe)



2016 and beyond

Lots more patches from Africa?



Fireworks

10 years in 10 minuts.

A video, made for KohaCon10 in New Zealand

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TI1a2VN_pec