

Bug/Feature Proposal
Ryan Bomalaski
Due: 9/6/2017
SWE 5520

The GNUCash bug page on Bugzilla has over 1100 bugs currently listed. In order to narrow down to which bugs to prioritize, three criteria were applied. First, the bug needs to be of severity Normal or higher. Second, the bug needed to appear to be approachable and manageable. Third, the bug needed to be something that could be corrected, implemented and tested within the next 2 and a half months. This is a fairly tight set of constraints, but it helped to narrow down to the following three bugs as something potentially interesting to work on.

Bug 128772 – Account type docs should be more prominent; Help button doesn't work

In this bug, which dates back to 2003 and is still present in some form or another, the user points out that some help buttons in GNUCash don't work correctly, and the help given is often not useful. It appears that the gnuca-docs package either doesn't contain the relevant information or is not currently fleshed out so that each help button actually provides help information.

Implementing the necessary information for each help button is something that can be corrected, tested and ready for deployment in the 2 month period. Developers would need to find and flag each help button that is not displaying correct information, write up the correct information, and have it linked up. This is assuming the information is missing. If the information is present in gnuca-docs, then the developers should find the breakdown for where the information is not getting passed along.

Bug 427948 – Precision cut off at 2 digits for USD transfer between two 6-digit accounts

In this bug, which is again fairly old, the user complains of issues with not following user preference in decimal places for currencies. Rather than allow the user to work in fractions of a penny, as is common in loans and gas stations, GNUCash ignores the users selection and rounds to two decimal places. There are differences in rounding between versions (sometimes .005 rounds to .01 and others to .00), and the issue spans different currencies (jpy and usd). It is also tied into an enhancement request.

This bug could be problematic, as it entails getting into the nitty gritty of how GNUCash handles currency values. There is a large potential for major refactoring, depending on how GNUCash has been designed. That said, it is a very important function of accounting software to reflect the needs of the market being represented. Having the loan and fuel industries able to use GNUCash would be very useful.

Bug 635708 – No visual difference between Easy, Footer, Fancy and Technicolor style sheets

This bug reports the existence of the four style sheets and the lack of any distinction between them. The user reports that a new user might think there is an issue of reports not working correctly if none of the reports show a difference despite different names

The fix for this is one that can go two ways. In the bugzilla listing, it is recommended to narrow down to just the two reports that are used: Plain and Footer. Since Footer is backwards compatible with Fancy and Easy, the others are unnecessary. This is one route.

The other route would be to design and implement different report templates to fit the titles. This would require some requirements gathering of what is necessary in a financial report template, some design work to create the template, and then some implementation and testing work to ensure that the templates work correctly. In all, this could be done in 2 and a half months, but might be difficult depending on the route chosen.