

MAKING GENTOO TICK



Anant Narayanan
Malaviya National Institute of Technology

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What is Gentoo?

- Source based Meta-distribution (Not just for GNU/Linux anymore?!)
- An all-volunteer developer force - a true community effort
- Runs on most hardware you can think of

The Gentoo Way

- Flexibility
- Tools that don't take decisions on your behalf
- You can do useful things with a knife, but you could also cut yourself with it...

portage

- The critically-acclaimed package manager
- Modeled on BSD ports
- Does everything you would expect from a package manager
- Uses upstream sources (and applies patches occasionally), configures, compiles and installs the software for you

USEing Gentoo

- USE Flags are the envy of every distro out there...
- Adds, removes or modifies available functionality of software
- You “opt-in” instead of “opt-out” although sane defaults prevail via profiles

The portage tree

- Over 12,000 packages in the official tree
- Real packages, not variants
- Not to mention the numerous “overlays”
- If you found it on the internet, it must be in portage!

The eco-system

- Users need some software that isn't in the portage tree
- File a bug, (with a patch?)
- Ebuild goes into the tree or an overlay based on initial testing
- Arch testers decide which packages become stable
- Someone writes awesome documentation on the package and its usage

Top 5 Reasons to Work with Gentoo

- portage
- documentation
- customizability
- “old-school”
- Fun!

How you can help

- All developers start off as helpful users
- Multiple entry points:
 - Bugzilla / Bugdays
 - Forums
 - IRC
 - Mailing Lists

Roles that you can play

- ebuild Developer
- Architecture Tester
- Documentation Contributor
- Artwork Contributor
- Staff
- Proxy Maintainer

Choose your poison

- apache, base, bugday, desktop, eselect, gentoo-alt, hardened, java, kernel, kolab, lisp, perl, php, portage, python, qa, releng, scientific, scire, security, vps, web-apps
- council, devrel, documentation, forums, infrastructure, metastructure, ops, pr, userrel

Bridging the Gap

User Relations

- Project created specifically to improve developer-user communication
- Works closely with:
 - Forums, Bugdays, Bugzilla and Overlays
- *The force that rewards helpful users*

Bugzilla

- Bug reports are monitored by the recruitment team
- Start squashing bugs, and *you will be noticed*
- First saturday of each month, everyone gathers in #gentoo-bugs for Bugday
- One of the best ways of interacting with developers and understanding more about the development process

Documentation

- We are proud of our documentation, and so are our users
- Users are welcome to contribute new articles, HOWTOs and fixes to existing documentation
- Documentation is written in GuideXML (an easy-to-learn subset of docbook)
- Plenty of people will be ready to GuideXMLify your docs, so don't let that stop you from writing!

Gentoo Weekly Newsletter

- A weekly summary of what's going on in the Gentoo world
- Our users are naturally the best source of information
- You can help the GWN team as a:
 - Contributor
 - Translator

IRC

- #gentoo, another one of our hallmarks
- You are encouraged to help out fellow users
- Developers frequent the channel too

Overlays

- Project Sunrise - a starting point for users wanting to write ebuilds for Gentoo
- Every project or developer may have an overlay under the Overlays project and selected users are allowed to commit
- An excellent testing ground before the ebuilds make it to the portage tree

User Representatives

- Elected each year by the Gentoo user community to represent them to the developers
- Serve for a period of 1 year and are bound by the social contract
- A unique way of influencing how Gentoo works without becoming a full-time developer

Forums / Mailing Lists

- Famous for its quick response time and helpful community
- Become a part of it, not very different from offering help on the #gentoo channel
- Recruiters are on the lookout for future Gentoo Staff

Need Help?

- Visit `#gentoo-dev-help` for help on writing ebuilds and other ebuild-related *technical* doubts
- <http://devmanual.gentoo.org/>
 - A comprehensive manual on the process of writing and maintaining ebuilds

The Recruitment Process

A Summary

Stage I: Helping Out

- One of the numerous ways discussed so far
- Technical: ebuild development, arch. testing, infrastructure
- Non-technical: documentation, artwork, forums, mailing lists, IRC (staff)

Stage II: Mentoring

- An existing Gentoo developer who is willing to help you with any questions you might have
- Will outline your Gentoo responsibilities and *show you around*
- Files your development bug and assigns it to the recruitment team

Stage III: Waiting

- Waiting period of upto 1 month
- You should complete the *recruitment quiz* during this time
- Two quizzes are offered: the ebuild quiz and the staff quiz, depending on your proposed role
- Your mentor will review the quiz and submit it to the recruiters when it is deemed to be of appropriate quality

Stage IV: Probation

- A period of 30 days when your mentor is responsible for your actions
- Also the period during which you complete your *end quiz* (ebuild developers only)
- Once you complete the end-quiz to the recruiters satisfaction, you become a full-fledged developer!

Stage V: Profit!

- Subscribed to the developer-only *core* mailing list
- Shiny new @gentoo.org email address
- Given appropriate CVS and Shell access privileges
- Marked as developer on:
 - Bugzilla, IRC and Forums

Remember

Being a Developer
is not the only way to
contribute to Gentoo

Questions? Thank you!

Do visit the Gentoo stall at the Expo for more information
and cool Gentoo swag :)

Feel free to contact me:
<anant@gentoo.org>

<http://www.kix.in/>