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Meeting C++ 2023



Helping open communities thrive

Lessons from Free Software and Open Knowledge

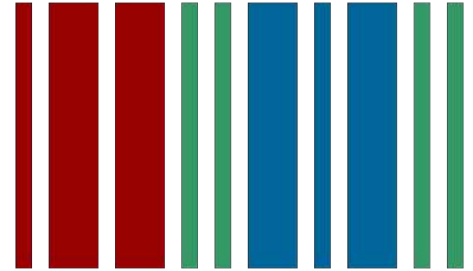
Disclaimer

What follows is:

- a subjective view from a particular vantage point
- by necessity just a part of the story

A bit about me

-
- Free Software and Open Knowledge enthusiast and advocate
 - Studied computer science at KIT
 - Contributing to various projects for the past 17 years
 - KDE: Vice president and past president of KDE e.V.
 - Wikidata: Wikimedia's knowledge graph - portfolio lead
 - VideoLAN: the folks behind VLC - advisor
 - Good view into several fairly different open communities
 - Focused on community management, governance, organizing, strategy and product management over technology



KDE: a quick recap

How it all started...

- The Kool Desktop Environment □
- 1996
- **A GUI for endusers:** *“The idea is to create a GUI for an ENDUSER. Somebody who wants to browse the web with Linux, write some letters and play some nice games.”*
- **Qt:** *“really a very easy-to-use powerful C++-library”*
- **Getting people on board:** *“I don't have the time to do this all alone (also since LyX is my main project). But a thing like a Desktop Environment can easily be cut into lots of parts. There is very probably a part for you, too! If you want to learn some X-programming, why not doing a small, neat project for the KDE?”*

New Project: Kool Desktop Environment. Programmers wanted!



Matthias Ettrich

to

New Project: Kool Desktop Environment (KDE)

Programmers wanted!

Motivation

Unix popularity grows thanks to the free variants, mostly Linux. But still a constant, nice looking free desktop-environment is missing. There are several nice either free or low-priced applications available, so that Linux/X11 would almost fit everybody needs if we could offer a real GUI.

Of course there are GUI's. There is the Common Desktop Environment (much too exansive), Looking Glas (not too expensive but not really the solution), and several free X-Filemanagers that are almost GUI's. Moxfm for example is very well done, but unfortunately it is based on Motif. Anyway, the question is: What is a GUI? What should a GUI be?

First of all, since there are a lot of missunderstandings on this topic, what is NOT a GUI:

- the X-Window-System is NOT a GUI. It's what its name says: A Window system
- Motif is NOT a GUI. They tried to create a GUI when they made Motif, but unfortunately they couldn't really agree, so they released Motif as Widget-Library with a Window-Manager. Much later they completed Motif with the CDE, but too late, since Windows already runs on the majority of desktops.

“I admit the whole thing sounds a bit like fantasy. But it is very serious from my side. Everybody I'm talking to in the net would LOVE a somewhat cleaner desktop. Qt is the chance to realize this. So let us join our rare sparetime and just do it!”

Takeaways

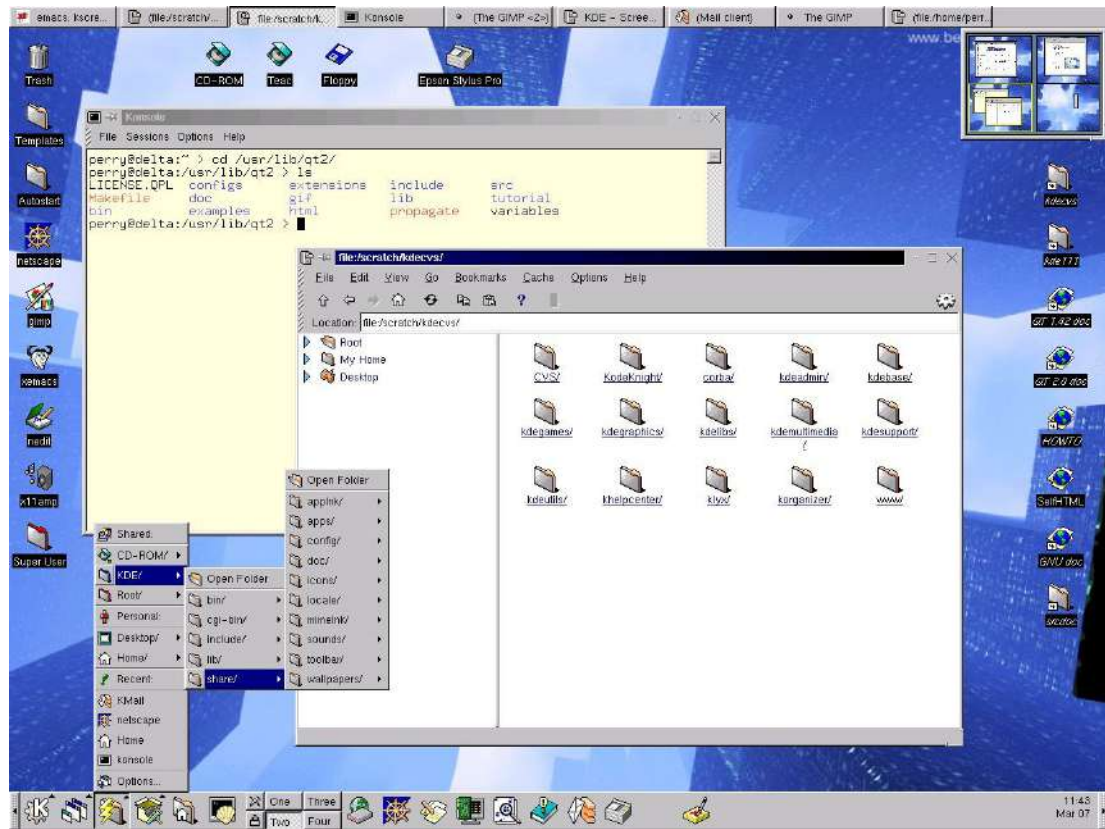
- Matthias is an unusual founder
- KDE always considered itself a technically excellent and pragmatic community
- Close to Qt from the start
- A place to learn
- Enduser focus from the start



KDE e.V.

- Established relatively early to support the community in legal, organisational and financial matters
- For many years extremely careful to not influence or do any development
- Has provided continuity to the project and community ever since

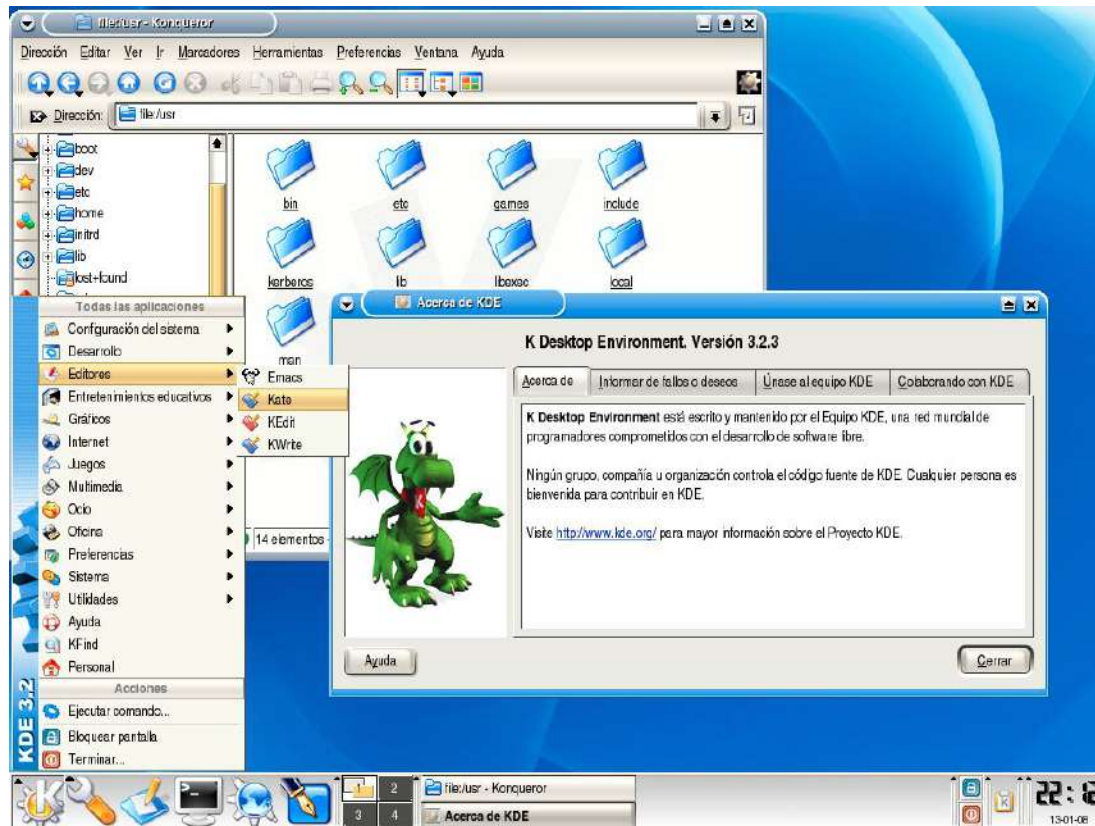




KDE 1.1



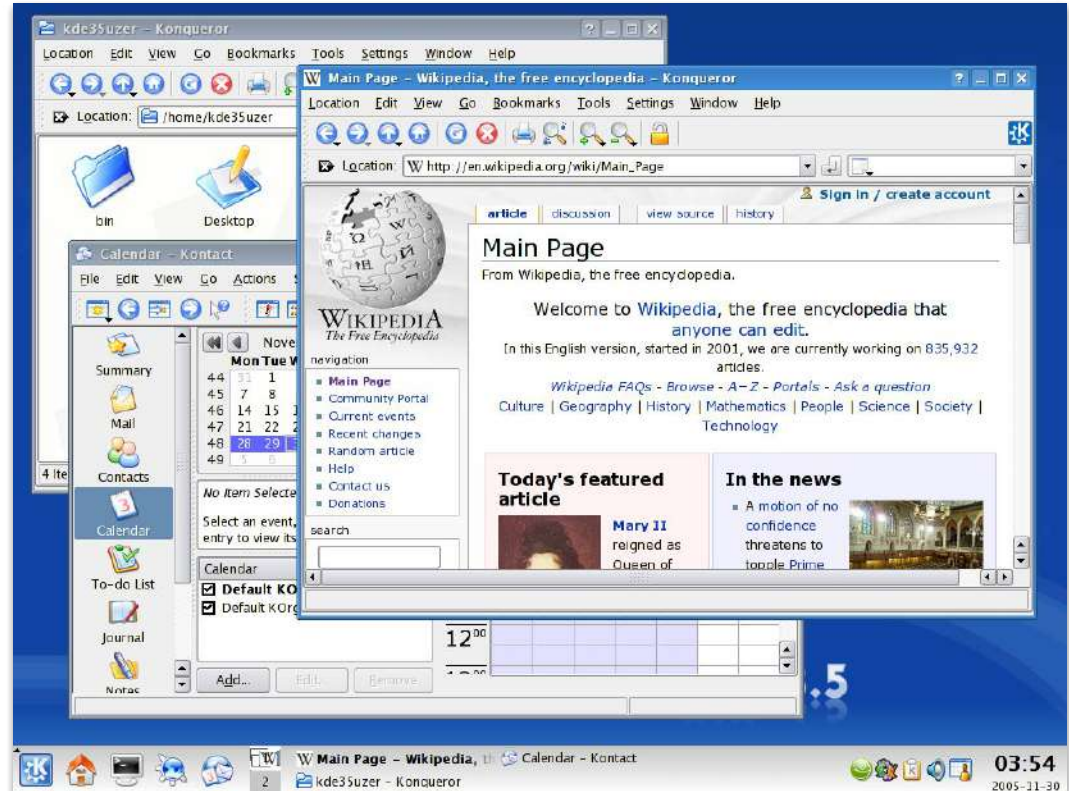
KDE 2.2.2



KDE 3.2.3

Crossroads

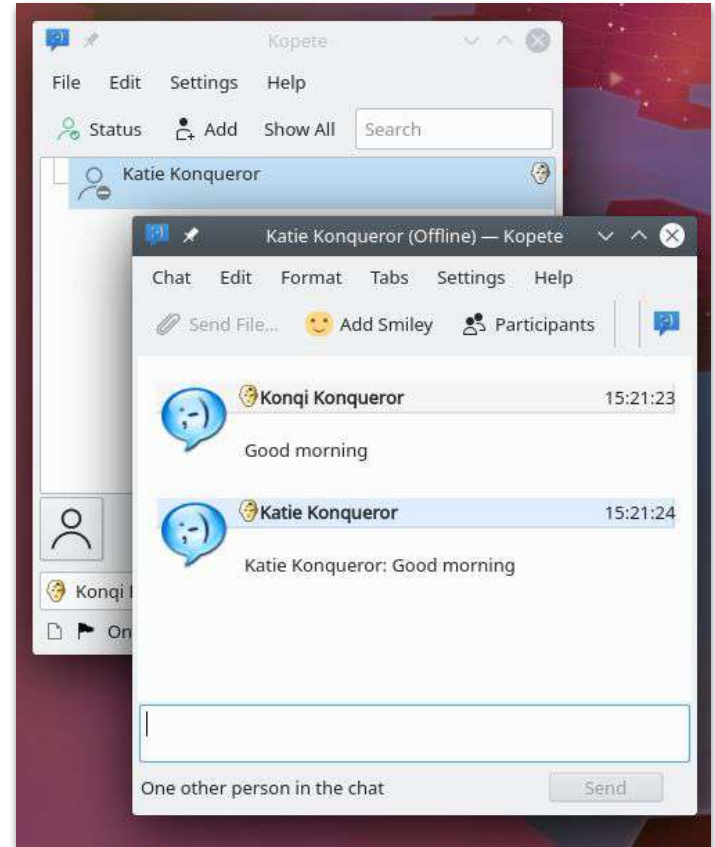
- KDE 3 series coming to an end
- Qt moving to Qt 4



Why KDE?

How did I end up here?

- Interested in computers relatively early - loved the idea of openness and tinkering
- Studying computer science
- Giving this Linux thing a try
- Integration, baby! 🤖





What made me stay?

- People!
- People having faith in me and allowing me to try things out
- Learning!



Come for the code,
stay for the community!



KDE's troubled years

It's all coming together

- SVN to Git
- Qt 3 to Qt 4
- KDE 4 and the public perception
- Initial vision achieved and not achieved
- Does anyone even need a desktop anymore?
- Move from KDE being the software to KDE being the community

-> Splintering, unhappy community and identity crisis



What now?

- **Create Manifesto**
-> Who are we?
- **Reset the vision and mission**
-> Why do we exist?
- **Set and socialize goals**
-> What do we work on now?



-
- **Open Governance** to ensure engagement in our leadership and decision processes
 - **Free Software** to ensure the result of our work is available to all people for all time;
 - **Inclusivity** to ensure that all people are welcome to join us and participate;
 - **Innovation** to ensure that new ideas constantly emerge to better serve people;
 - **Common Ownership** to ensure that we stay united;
 - **End-User Focus** to ensure our work is useful to all people.

Values from KDE's Manifesto

Being part of the international KDE community conveys certain benefits:

- To stand on the shoulders of giants:
 - Make use of KDE infrastructure for project hosting
 - Benefit from the experience of the KDE sysadmins
 - Get support from the larger community with development, documentation, translation, testing, bug handling, etc.
 - Use opportunities to integrate with a large ecosystem of end-user products
 - Interaction with teams that have common values, leading to the cross-pollination of ideas and innovations
- Enjoy representation and support by KDE e.V.
- Increase your visibility through the reputation of the KDE community and KDE promotion tools

Benefits from KDE's Manifesto

The KDE Project designation carries with it certain commitments:

- Respect the KDE Code of Conduct
- Support the KDE Vision and KDE Mission
- There is no mandatory Contributor License Agreement

Commitments from KDE's Manifesto

-
- Technical requirements
 - The project stays true to established practices common to similar KDE projects
 - All source materials are hosted on infrastructure available to and writable by all KDE contributor accounts
 - Online services associated with the project are either hosted on KDE infrastructure or have an action plan that ensures continuity which is approved by the KDE system administration team
 - Copyrights, trademarks and patents
 - KDE licensing policy and branding guidelines are respected
 - If the authors of the software abandon it or disappear, they agree to transfer the trademark to the next maintainer
 - If the code is covered by patents registered by the project itself, those patents must be licensed freely

Commitments from KDE's Manifesto

What now?

- Create Manifesto
-> Who are we?
- **Reset the vision and mission**
-> Why do we exist?
- Set and socialize goals
-> What do we work on now?



**A world in which everyone has control
over their digital life and enjoys freedom
and privacy.**

KDE's vision

To fulfill our Vision, KDE has taken on the mission to:

- create software products which give users control, freedom and privacy
- provide users with excellent user experience and quality
- enable users regardless of their location, background, abilities, operating system and device
- promote the Free and Open-Source ecosystem

KDE's mission

What now?

- Create Manifesto
-> Who are we?
- Reset the vision and mission
-> Why do we exist?
- **Set and socialize goals**
-> What do we work on now?



Backlog (Default)

5 ▼

T15607 Goal template (copy this when creating new ones)

T15732 Make KDE a one stop shop



T15689 Goal

T15636 state of the art KDE apps and beyond

T15632 Better Organize third party themes and icons store



Not ready for voting

6 ▼

T15797 Make Contributing to KDE Easier

T15652 Create mechanisms that allow inter-project collaboration.

T15653 Making KDE NEON the official KDE distro

T15643 Support for Gamepad-Input

T15647 Keep it light, make it lighter

T15621 Documentation that stands out

Ready for voting

3 ▼

T15613 Human-Centered KDE



T15624 Unplugged: Optimize KDE for Long-Term Offline Computing

T15633 Make Flatpak a first class delivery method for KDE Apps



Selected

3 ▼

T15611 KDE For All: Boosting Accessibility



T15676 Sustainable Software



T15627 Automate and systematize internal processes



2017

- Top-notch Usability and Productivity for Basic Software
- Privacy Software
- Streamlined Onboarding of New Contributors

2019

- Consistency
- Wayland
- Apps

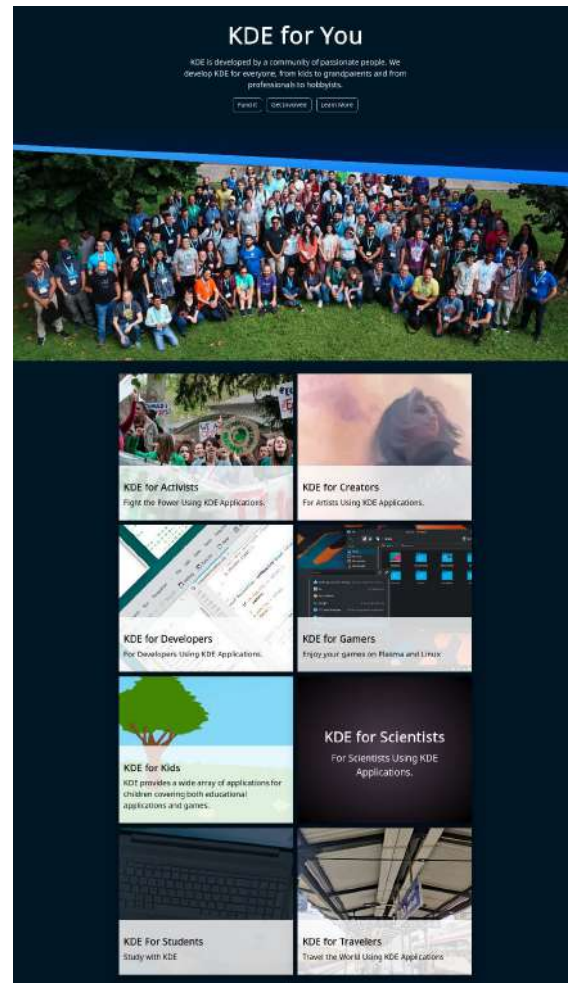
2022

- KDE For All
- Sustainable Software
- Automate And Systematize Internal Processes

KDE today

Today we have...

- Clear goals
- Better software
- Partnerships to get our software to users more directly
- Stayed true to our values
- More cohesive community
- Ability to more clearly articulate who we are and what we do



-
- About 600 active developers + about as many in non-developer roles all around the world
 - Almost 15 Million lines of code (~79% C++)



KDE's software in use

- CERN
- NASA
- Hollywood (Gravity, Avatar, The Hobbit, ...)
- Steam Deck by Valve
- ...



— Most successful applications and more

- Plasma
- Krita
- Kdenlive
- Kate
- GCompris
- KDEConnect
- KDE Frameworks



KDE and the hype of the day

-
- KDE rarely runs after the latest tech hype (Bitcoin, LLMs, ...)
 - Focus on what is actually going to improve people's lives without catastrophic consequences
 - Hype is sucking up a lot of oxygen
 - Clear people-centered vision without a profit mindset as an antidote



**Lessons I learned over the
past 17 years so you don't have
to**

—

You

... need to care but not
make it the center of your
universe.



You

... need to train your
successor and have a
succession plan.

Or don't be the SPOF in
the first place.



—

You

... need to leave space for
others to be the first.



—

You

... need to develop
patience and be able to let
it go.

*“Good enough for now; save
enough to try.”*



—

Free and Open projects
are the ultimate
leadership test.

You can very rarely tell
someone what to do. You
really need to take them
along.

Mastery, autonomy and
purpose!



Trust people to positively
surprise you. Take a
chance on people.



It can be lonely at the top -
find someone in another
project and similar
position to be your buddy.



Community

Culture matters!



And you are advertising it!



Everywhere!



—

Everywhere!



Everywhere!

Douglas Adams

(Q42) ...

ORES predicted quality: A (4.94)

ItemDiscussion

ReadView history★Page

E10

Check

☐Automatically check schema

English author and humourist (1952–2001)

Douglas Noël Adams | DNA

edit

▼ In more languages

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
English	Douglas Adams	English author and humourist (1952–2001)	Douglas Noël Adams DNA
German	Douglas Adams	britischer Science-Fiction-Autor und Humorist	Douglas Noël Adams
Spanish	Douglas Adams	escritor y humorista británico	Douglas Noel Adams Douglas Noël Adams
Latin	Duglassius Adams	scriptor, scriptor scaenicus, et mythistoricus (1952–2001)	Duglassius Noëlus Adams Douglas Adams Duglassius Natalis Adams

—

Everywhere!



Piper Kerr, a member of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, plays the bagpipes for an indifferent penguin, March 1904



Alan Ferrier @alanferrier · 15h

Who would have believed that the perfect Wikipedia photo caption could have been

↩ 242

🔗 26K

❤ 40K

...

—

Everywhere!



Piper Kerr, a member of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, plays the bagpipes for an indifferent penguin, March 1904



Piper Kerr (right), a member of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, plays the bagpipes for an indifferent penguin, March 1904



Alan Ferrier @alanferrier · 15h

Who would have believed that the perfect Wikipedia photo caption could have been improved upon?

↩ 242

🔗 26K

❤ 40K

...

Community

People come for the code
but stay for the
community!



Community

Discussions in the open
always advertise to
bystanders what kind of
community you have.



Community

Initial tone-setting of a community is important!



Community

A community needs a
clearly articulated why!



Community

That why can't just be dictated but needs to be worked out together to get buy-in!

The process is the goal!

Can someone who is not invested in the outcome lead it?



Community

Listen to understand, not
to respond!



Community

People should never be
surprised by what you do!



Community

You need to repeat something at least 3 times. Preach it till you can't hear it anymore!

Don't expect people to know what you're talking about even though you feel like you've explained it to literally everyone already.



Community

Provide easy ways to keep
up-to-date with what matters!

Keep it short and concise.



Wikidata weekly summary #601

One comment • 5 days ago

MediaWiki message delivery

Here's your quick overview of what has been happening around Wikidata over the last week.

Discussions

- #[arabizi](#) (Task: adding site links, especially from ckbiki) and [kuwiki](#) to Wikidata.

Events

- [Pall: Search Platform / QueryService Team office hour log](#) — November 1, 2023
- [This Week:](#)
 - [Wikidata for Digital Humanities workshop](#) hosted by Brown University Library, Nov. 6th 19:00 - 20:00 CEST.
 - [Wiki Loves Monuments Learning Clinic #43](#) hosted by WM Sweden in partnership with WM Uganda, Nov. 6th
 - [Upcoming: Data Modeling Days, November 30-December 2](#). You can propose a session until November 15. If you are running another event or meetup and would like to connect it to the Data Modeling Days, you can add it to the [satellite events](#) section.

Press, articles, blog posts, videos

- [Elogs](#)
 - [Wikidata Arabic Community](#).
 - [ULTRA: Foundation Models for Knowledge Graph Reasoning](#).

Papers

- [Prohibition: From Spored Databases to Linked Open Data via Wikibase: Proof of Concept A White Paper](#) released from Charles Faulhaber
- [Using Pragma to Create Knowledge Graphs Subsets](#) Described by Non-recursive Shape Expressions by A. Pristamo & J. Gayo
- [Knowledge Graphs and Semantic Web](#) is a collection of preceedings from [Tikiri & C. Bobed](#)

Videos

- [OpenHPI Querying Wikidata with SPARQL](#)
- [OpenHPI Wikidata as a Knowledge Graph](#)
- [Wikidata 11th Birthday Celebrations](#) (YouTube shorts) are celebrated by the Community
- [Live Editing with Wikidata in Italian \(Italy\)](#)
- [Intro to Wikibase Cloud \(Italy\)](#)

Tool of the week

- [subclass of](#), new Observable tool to test which item is a subclass of another

Other Noteworthy Stuff

- [SMWCon 2023 Call for Contributions](#) on the topic: 'MediaWiki in the age of AI'
- [The Wikidata Leveine Forms](#) tool was upgraded to autogenerate the different forms, of a regular word with functions from Wikifunctions

Did you know?

- [Newest properties:](#)
 - [General datatypes:](#) none
 - [External identifiers:](#) [Playdate Catalog ID](#)
- [New property proposals to review:](#)
 - [General datatype:](#)
 - [linguistic family of place name](#) (Relates directly a placename to its original language family, it's not the language in which the toponym is written, but the language from which the word (place name) comes from.)
 - [according to](#) (to be used together with P248 if the statement is taken from an aggregator rather than directly from the source)
 - [counterexample](#) (qualifier for deprecated P279 statements; example instance or subclass of the item class for which a "subclass of" statement does not hold (alias: "item belonging to the subject class but not the value class")

Query examples

- [List of pposies in French](#)
- [Interviewees who were part of the Suffragette Movement](#) and [Interviewers who had a relative or friend in the Suffragette Movement](#) as part of the [LSE Suffrage Interviews Project](#)
- [Newest WikiProjects: 'Source Reliability' is an effort to identify and aggregate online sources of assessments of the reliability and credibility of sources'](#)

Development

- [You can now toggle between the Wikidata and the Wikidata Internationalized Project Page](#) ([ghab:T337371](#)), [PATCH: testcases/properties/property_id/values](#) ([ghab:T342582](#)) and [PATCH: testcases/properties/property_id/labels](#) ([ghab:T342580](#))
- [We started working on the new endpoints for POST: \[testcases/items/item_id/values/language_code\]\(#\) \(\[ghab:T335842\]\(#\)\) and DELETE: \[testcases/items/item_id/values/language_code\]\(#\) \(\[ghab:T342581\]\(#\)\)](#)
- [Language codes:](#)
 - [We made Special:NewLexeme more Italy to guess the spelling variant for you by changing the Property we use to get the language code. Now you will see the spelling variant input pop up less often.](#) ([ghab:T349652](#))
 - [We started work towards allowing many more languages by default for Wikibase Leveine and monolingual text statements. This will remove the need for a lot of requests for new language codes to be added.](#) ([ghab:T341499](#))
- [Query Service UI:](#) We've fixed a small issue in the Query Service UI that was introduced when updating CSS variables. Content of selected cells in the query result should be readable again. ([ghab:T201133](#))
- [EntitySchemas:](#) We are continuing the work on the new data type for linking to EntitySchemas, working on overcoming architectural issues.

You can see all open tickets related to Wikidata here: If you want to help, you can also have a look at the tasks needing a volunteer.

Monthly Tasks

- [Add labels, in your own languages, for the new properties listed above.](#)
- [Comment on property proposals: all open proposals](#)
- [Contribute to a Showcase item.](#)
- [Help translate or proofread the interface and documentation pages, in your own language!](#)
- [Help merge identical items across Wikimedia projects.](#)
- [Help write the next summary!](#)

Read the full report: [Introduction](#) • [Chaos, BingeFest \(W&ME\)](#) 16:21, 6 November 2023 (UTC)

Reply

5 days ago

This week in KDE: Wayland by default, de-framed Breeze, HDR games, rectangle screen recording

Yep you read that right, we've decided to throw the lever and go **Wayland by default!** The **three remaining showstoppers** are in the process of being fixed and we expect them to be done soon—certainly before the final release of Plasma 6. So we wanted to make the change early to gather as much feedback as possible.

But that's not all, of course. This was another big week! Read on to see the rest:

Plasma 6

(Includes all software to be released on the February 28th merge-release: Plasma 6, Frameworks 6, and apps from Gear 24.02)

[General info](#) — [Open issues: 118](#)

The Breeze app style has gotten the visual overhaul you've all dreamed of: no more frames within frames! Instead Breeze-themed apps adopt the clean design of modern Kirigami apps, with views separated from one another with single-pixel lines! (Carl Schwan, [link 1](#), [link 2](#), [link 3](#), [link 4](#), [link 5](#), [link 6](#), [link 7](#), [link 8](#), [link 9](#), and [link 10](#)):

Community

Communities need rituals
and rhythm!

(Birthdays, awards,
conferences, ...)





Wikidata's distributed birthday | October 2023 | [#WikidataBirthday](#)

[Eleventh birthday](#)

[Birthday presents](#)

[WikidataCon 2023](#)

[Distributed events](#)

[Birthday messages](#)

Wikidata turns eleven! The project went live on 29 October 2012. Just like every year, we're celebrating its birthday together in late October. On this page, you can discover how to contribute to the anniversary and participate in the celebrations.

Prepare a birthday present [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

The **birthday presents** is a tradition to celebrate Wikidata and its community by preparing a gift to be offered to all editors, data reusers and everyone involved with Wikidata. At this occasion, some people develop new tools, add features to existing tools, create logos or templates. But a birthday present can be a lot of other things! You can be creative and produce a piece of art, a song, a poem... anything that is celebrating Wikidata or that is useful for its community is very welcome.

You can participate! Now is a good time to start working on a birthday present. You're encouraged to find other people to create something with you, but you can also work on your own project. If you're looking for inspiration, you can check what was done for the previous anniversaries in [2015](#), [2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#) and [2022](#).

When your birthday present is ready, you can add it to [this page](#). Don't forget to add the relevant links, and your username.

If you would like to present your gift to the community, you also have the opportunity to **present it during the birthday celebration at WikidataCon 2023**. See more information in the section below.





Community

Connectors are invaluable people on your project.



Community

Entry barriers are killer
and a huge one is in
people's heads.



Society

We need more tinkering!




Society

We need more open infrastructure to build our life on.

Don't just complain about issues with proprietary software, actually do the hard thing and use the open alternatives.



Michał "rysiek" Woźniak · 

@rysiek@mstdn.social

For every shitty, user-hostile change to a Big Tech service, there exists a small, independent service that could offer a viable replacement, but continues to be ridiculed by the very users who complain about the shitty Big Tech service change.

Oct 30, 2023, 11:08 · Edited Oct 30, 11:09 ·  ·  81 ·  5

Society

Most open projects are held together by a small number of people (even if it looks different from afar).



Society

There is always something to do!

A thank you to the team behind your favorite project is in order ;-)



Get in touch!

See you in KDE!



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