

Whitepaper: How are the openSUSE Weekly News?

Sascha Manns - saigkill@opensuse.org

Abstract

The Article tries to make our Weekly News better, fresher and more interesting for our People who are regular reading the planet and Mailinglists.



On June 11 2006 our editorial team member Sebastian Schöbinger started an Poll and Survey in openSUSE Forums [1]. Since that Day we recieved some Mails, Comments and Replies. The next Lines tries to give an Overview about that.

Feedback

Comments in Survey and Poll

- 1.) Maybe they need to be more interesting, from a marketing point of view. Basically, it's really nice, but as you already mentioned on planetsuse, we need more content.
- 2.) If the only people who read weekly news are the same who read PlanetSUSE and follow a few mailing-lists, then it probably makes no sense to write the weekly news. Personally, as I'm subscribed to most lists and reading PlanetSUSE all the time, I usually don't read the weekly news as they "only" rehash things I already saw elsewhere (which is the whole point of the weekly news).
- 3.) The news are only really useful if they are read by an audience that typically does **not** read PlanetSUSE and the mailing-lists. Or the forums, for that matter. If there was more forum related content in the weekly news (hint, hint to the forum contributors).
- 4.) A newsflash-category: just short comments {160char?} with (outside-)links to news around Linux, kernel, and apps. Not necessarily bound to openSUSE, a view beyond the soup-dish would be welcome.
- 5.) A version-update-category: short comments on the type of program and changes in the new version, links to further info and 1-click-installs
- 6.) A event-category: what events are newly announced? outside-links to further Info an the upcoming events. Comments on done events, outside-links to further comments/info
- 7.) Make it a point/portal for the users weekly news-fix without the need to subscribe to around 20 or so feeds and another 15 or more mailing lists.
- 8.) How about including reference to an openSUSE wiki of the "week" report? ie each week one refers to a wiki, and it does not have to be a great wiki ... instead it can be a bad wiki that desperately needs updating, and this is a way to advertise a request for help ... or just a wiki that is useful ... etc ...
- 9.) I think overall pretty good. I would like to see more original content for the weekly news other than highlights from planetSUSE etc. Perhaps the people of openSUSE should be saved for the weekly news? Maybe an update from the openSUSE ambassadors? Anyway keep up the good work. Ambassador Events included in upcoming events [2]
- 10.) Creating an own Space for Packager-News. Maybe Bugzilla Number as Reference, and what is fixed in the new Package.
- 11.) Wiki of the Week
- 12.) unclear Structure

Statusreport

What is Work in Progress? The following Numbers means the Proposalnumber from the top of this Paragraph.

1.) and 2.) More Content. We have added new sources, so we can give an good Overview. The New Sources:

- Slashdot
- The Register
- The Lunatic Fringe
- Linux.com
- tuxmachines.org
- BNET
- LinuxTech.NET
- TechRepublic
- Linux Gazette
- Computerworld
- Internet.com
- Hacktux
- Linux Journal
- Tips4Linux
- h-online
- ZDNET
- and other private Blogs.

4.) Newsflash (160 chars): Under review.

5.) Update Section & Links:

There we try to give for each Download one Download Link.

6.) Event Section: ATM we use upcoming Events. But it is an interesting Idea. (→ What is planned for future releases?)

7.) Asked User

8.) Too many redactional work.

9.) More exclusive content. To make this we have contacted other Community Managers to write from time to time about their Project (Amarok, Education and so on). As next step we started to make an own short Interview with interesting Persons around Linux. We're started with Greg Kroah-Hartmann. And we contacted „Jon 'Maddog' Hall“ for an Interview.

10.) Packagers Space: Good Idea. Topic moved to -packaging and -buildservice.

11.) Wiki of the Week. That should be an Ad for our intern Subwikis. That could integrated in our „openSUSE“ Forums Section.

12.) That is been discussed in the Meeting. The new Structure is explained in „What is planned for future releases?“

What is planned for future releases?

The editorial team create a new Job into the editorial Team. The new Job includes making the Past and Upcoming Events Section. But the Guy who makes this Job should also check the Ambassador/Events Page and adds that. The new Guy should visit the Blogs and Mailinglists for Minutes maybe from LinuxTag or LinuxWorldExpo.

We also have changed our release cycle. The issues are bigger than earlier. So we have changed the release time. Our editorial deadline is each Saturday at 10:00 UTC. After then we run our scripts and HeliosReds makes the proofreading. If he is finished we make the release of the English language Weekly News. We make the Announcements and send the „Ready for Translation“-Mail to our translators through the opensuse-marketing List. The Translators haven't a deadline. That means that they release their Translation if it's ready. This Arrangement allows the Translation Teams to add their own stuff with local needs.

In the Meeting HeliosReds proposed a new Structure for our „Tips & Tricks“ and „On the Web“ Section. We change the following:

- Tips and Tricks
 - For Desktop Users
 - For Commandline/Script Newbies
 - For Developers and Programmers
 - For System Administrators
- On the Web
 - Announcements
 - # Announcements on new release, improvements etc. from upstream or companies/organizations.
 - Call for participation
 - # Call for participation to newly launched project, program, survey, event, etc.
 - Reports
 - # Status reports from upstream or companies/organizations and reports on past events, etc.
 - Reviews and Essays
 - Warning!
 - # Security related issues which readers should know.

The new structure is used since issue 86. So we can fix the 12th Comment (unclear structure).

Input/Output

As I written, we have many Sources. But we make an output too. At the Moment we publishing our Announcement in:

- news.opensuse.org
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Linux.com and
- linux-community.com (German News Platform).

It is planned to search for more options for our Announcements. If you have an Idea on which place we can announce just write an Email to: saigkill@opensuse.org.

Epilogue

We thank all User who are leave comments in forums.opensuse.org for our Survey. Only through Feedback we can make the Weekly News better.

Reference

[1] <http://forums.opensuse.org/surveys-polls/416228-how-opensuse-news.html>

[2] <http://en.opensuse.org/Ambassador/Events>

This is version 1.0 of the openSUSE Weekly News Whitepaper and was published on 17.08.2009. The most recent version of this document can be found at <http://saschamanns.gulli.to/whitepapers>.



The openSUSE Weekly News Whitepaper by [Sascha Manns](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike 3.0 Germany License](#).