Portmgr — Behind the Scenes

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EuroBSDCon

2021-09-19
Overview

- What is portmgr? (briefly)
- History
- Technical
- People
- Closing
What is portmgr?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Ports Management Team is responsible for overseeing the overall direction of the Ports Tree, building packages, and personnel matters</td>
<td>portmgr owns all of Mk/ portmgr is intentionally evil portmgr sets policies unilaterally</td>
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Twentieth anniversary of the FreeBSD Ports Tree (2014):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiFq5D-zmBs
Information from Kirill Ponomarev (krion@)

- create the packages for all releases on tinderbox,
- support and maintain pkg(8) and its predecessor in base
- test all critical changes in ports/Mk before committing them.
was a package build tool written in PHP before its successor Poudrière was written in Shell

was run decentralized on hardware managed by volunteers, Poudrière is run centralized in the FreeBSD cluster
repository copies with CVS, mimicking Subversion

tree locks (for preparing releases, or large updates like GNOME)

no quarterly branches

no public pre-built packages, except at release time

no license framework
For ports themselves:

- no staging
- no USES (e.g. `kmod`, to abstract away common boiler plate code)
- no flavors (variations of the same port still restricted to FreeBSD, e.g. A4 vs letter or full-blown vs lightweight)
- imperative instead of declarative style
controlled at
https://www.freebsd.org/portmgr/charter/ by core

turned into a set of policies at
https://www.freebsd.org/portmgr/policies/

package building, documentation, security, legal aspects, overall direction of the Ports Tree, arbitrate disputes related to ports
automated tasks in the package building cluster for main and quarterly, for all supported FreeBSD releases + main on Tier 1 and some Tier 2 architectures

packages updates are built multiple times a week
Adam Weinberger (adamw@): human resources
Antoine Brodin (antoine@): package building, package cluster configuration
Baptiste Daroussin (bapt@): pkg(8), framework, core@ liaison
Bryan Drewery (bdrewery@): package building, poudriere(8), re@ liaison
Mathieu Arnold (mat@): framework, documentation clusteradm@ liaison
René Ladan (rene@): secretary, grim reaper, garbage collector
Steve Wills (swills@): miscellaneous
Tobias Berner (tcberner@): lurker (trainee)

All the alumni: https://docs.freebsd.org/en/articles/contributors/#contrib-portmgralumni/
People → Other Teams

- accounts: to notify about new/retiring developers aka committers
- clusteradm: for hardware, e.g. package builders
- re: to synchronize package sets for FreeBSD releases
- core: above committer updates, but also ...
The core Team is a group of FreeBSD developers elected bi-yearly by active FreeBSD developers. They are the internal representation of the FreeBSD Project and communicate both "upwards" with the FreeBSD Foundation and "downwards" with delegate teams, such as portmgr.
People → Personnel Handling

- Voting on new committers and their mentors
- Safekeeping idle committers
- Welcoming back safekept committers
people retire
ask new people
draw in new lurkers
Communication could be better — social media is high maintenance

Split off into new teams (e.g. pkgmgr), otherwise re-organize?
Closing → Audience

Questions & Answers