

Archlinux Weekly Newsletter

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1 Opening

Welcome to the ArchLinux Newsletter. It attempts to give you an “at a glance” look at the world of ArchLinux.

2 News

1. As some of you have noticed, we now have an Arch Linux Wiki for various user-contributed documentation. It’s quickly becoming a good resource for Arch information, so check it out if you have any questions or if you’ve got a document you’d like to share with other Archers. <http://wiki.archlinux.org>

<http://archlinux.org/news.php#51>

2. Arch Linux 0.6 (Widget) is released!

We’ve made a lot of improvements over the last seven months, and hope you enjoy our efforts. We’ve seen a surge of activity in the Arch community, and it’s resulted in more documentation, a huge increase in packages, and tons of useful information in our forums. Keep it up everyone, Arch Linux is slowly becoming the mature distribution we want it to be.

A big thank-you to everyone that has donated to help support our server costs. Seriously, we rely on your contributions and you haven’t let us down. Thank you.

And another big thanks to all the developers and users who have contributed to this project. You all have something to be proud of.

Changelog, Documentation, and Download mirrors are at their usual locations.

<http://archlinux.org/news.php#50>

2.1 This Week in Dev Land

1. damir has added a number of xmms plugin packages and created a few more groups: xmms-effect-plugins, xmms-general-plugins, xmms-ic-plugins, xmms-plugins, and xmms-visualization-plugins. He also learned that pacman -Sg displays all of the available groups.
2. CVS was moved from moon to dragon. If any of you had problems accessing abs, this is why. The problems would have continued till your DNS caught up with the changes.
3. The iso on linuxisos.org is only 0.5. Judd sent them an email to update to 0.6.
4. It was proposed to split up multimedia into sound and graphics. I opposed the idea because some packages wouldn’t fit in either and multimedia is explanatory enough.
5. Arjan is getting ready to upgrade Gnome to 2.6. He is going to do his best to fix up dependencies and clean up the group layout. The new groups will be gnome (just enough packages to have a working Gnome DE), gnome-extra (everything else Gnome), and possibly gnome-everything (it was proposed and Arjan has yet to respond).

2.2 ArchStats Updates

To participate visit: <http://archstats.coding-zone.com>

Number of registered systems: 240

Date first system was registered: 20031017

Most recent update occurred: 20040307

Longest recorded uptime: 175 days, 22 hours, 51 minutes, 55 seconds.

Average uptime: 5 days, 2 hours, 39 minutes, 20

seconds.

Least packages installed on a system: 44

Average installed packages: 253

Most packages installed on a system: 563

3 Discussions

3.1 Forum Highlights

1. Calexico started writing a section in the Arch WIKI about ABS usage. Many people offered to help out. Read the thread at: <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=3059>
2. Comete raised the question of INCOMING usage/organization. He thought that there was a better way to do things because many packages were being ignored and never being tested. Participate in the discussion at: <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=3037>
3. Robot5x wrote a little tutorial on how to use ATAPI CD burning in the 2.6 kernel. This is the system that replaces the ide-scsi burning method. Read the tutorial at: <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=2856>

3.2 Mailing List Highlights

1. Volker Lormmann wanted to know if there was much of a difference between the 0.6 BETA2 ISO and 0.6 final ISO, and whether he should reinstall. The answer was that there were no major changes and any updates could be received via a "pacman -Syu". Read the thread here: <http://www.archlinux.org/pipermail/arch/2004-March/000948.html>
2. David Barron among other people wanted to know when Mozilla Thunderbird would be updated in the repositories. It was finally updated this week. The problem was that because of some development changes, the thunderbird package was left without a maintainer. Read the thread at: <http://www.archlinux.org/pipermail/arch/2004-March/000969.html>

3.2.1 TUR Mailing List

The TUR system is currently undergoing a complete renovation. There were problems with the old system where packages would not enter the repos properly and/or the database wouldn't get updated. This new system should solve that and allow for a very large TUR system down the road. Expect completion soon.

4 Packages

4.1 Package Highlights

1. Pacman 2.7.5 was released this week. Changes include:
 - "replaces" packages were ignoring IgnorePkg in pacman.conf
 - fixed another bug in conflict handling
 - found an out-dated reference to /usr/abs, fixed
 - added a -recursive option for package removal, which removes all deps of a target that aren't required by other packages

4.2 New Packages

mplayer 1.0pre3-3
amarok 0.9-1
gentoo 0.11.46-1
audiofile 0.2.6-1
madplay 0.15.2b-1
libmad 0.15.1b-1
libid3tag 0.15.1b-1
gaim 0.75-3
kolourpaint 1.0.1-1
ding 1.3-3
tkcvs 7.2-1
ntop 3.0pre2-1
gkrellm 2.1.28-1
aspell 0.50.5-1
kdoc 2.0a54-3
dialog 0.9b-4
gammu 0.94.0-1
bogofilter 0.17.2-1
dcraw 1.176-1
dbp 0.5.7-2
ogle 0.9.2-4

xdrawchem 1.7.8-1
 codecs 20040304-1
 gnutls 1.0.8-1
 openssl 0.5.4-1
 libtasn1 0.2.7-1
 libpgp-error 0.6-1
 libgcrypt 1.1.92-1
 gimp 2.0pre4-1
 cdrtools-devel 2.01a26-1
 conglomerate 0.7.12-1
 mlview 0.6.2-1
 archstats 3.5-1
 sweep 0.8.2-3
 clamav 0.67.1-2
 cssed pre0.1.5-1
 mozilla-thunderbird 0.5-1
 grip 3.1.5-1
 magicdev 1.1.6-1
 gthumb 2.2.1-1
 libusb 0.1.8-2
 totem 0.99.9-1
 xmms-ladspa 0.7-1
 swh-plugins 0.4.3-1
 ladspa 1.12-1
 cmt 1.15-1
 liblrdf 0.3.5-1
 fftw 3.0.1-1
 xmms-arts 0.7.1-1
 dvgrab 1.5-1
 libraw1394 0.10.1-1
 kdegraphics 3.2.0-2
 wvdial 1.54.0-1
 wvstreams 3.74.0-1
 alsa-utils 1.0.3-1
 alsa-lib 1.0.3-1
 alsa-oss 1.0.3-1
 alsa-driver 1.0.3-1
 tk 8.4.6-1
 tcl 8.4.6-1
 foomatic-db 3.0.1-1
 foomatic-db-engine 3.0.1-1
 foomatic-db-ppd 3.0.1-1
 foomatic-filters 3.0.1-1
 nautilus-media 0.3.4-1
 sqlite 2.8.12-1
 inlib2 1.1.0-1
 gstreamer 0.6.5-1
 xscreensaver 4.15-2
 pacman 2.7.5-1
 qt 3.3.1-1

 esd 0.2.33-1
 gqview 1.4.1-1
 clusterit 2.2-1
 k3b 0.11.6-1
 mplayer-plugin 2.40-2
 gdesklets 0.26-1
 rox 2.1.1-1
 xmms-sid 0.7.4-1
 libsidplay 1.36.57-1
 xmms-crossfade 0.3.4-1
 xmms-mp3cue 0.94-1
 xmms-lava 0.7-1
 xmms-waterfall 0.11-1
 xmms-blursk 1.3-1
 xmms-infinity 0.2-1
 xmms-iris 0.11-1
 mpck 0.09-1
 avidemux 2.0.22-2
 user-mode-linux 2.4.24-2

4.2.1 STAGING Listing

To get access to this repository and the TURs, go to: <http://tur.berlios.de/>

 amule 1.2.6-s1
 j 0.20.2-s1
 gnome-alsamixer 0.9.6-s1
 abcm2ps 3.7.3-1
 potracegui 0.3-s1
 conglomerate 0.7.12-s1
 fftw3 3.0.1-1
 logjam 4.3.1-s1
 gp 0.26-1
 fox 1.0.50-s1
 ion-devel 20030814-1
 labplot 1.2.2-1
 hwd 1.6-2
 libchipcard 0.9.1-1
 libksba 0.4.7-1
 libofx 0.6.4-1
 gtk-smooth-engine 0.5.6-s1
 cups-pdf 1.4.1-s1
 liblrdf 0.3.5-s1
 mage 6.30.030607-1
 pixieplus 0.5.4-1
 potrace 1.2-1
 prekin 6.30.030607-1
 tla 1.1-2
 lwm 1.2.0-1

tse3 0.2.7-1
 windowlab 1.21-s1
 universalkopete 0.1-1
 xv 3.10a-1
 smclone 0.55-1
 kbarcode 1.6.1-s1
 mp3burn 0.3.1-1
 shaaft 0.5.0-1
 monopd 0.9.0-s1
 giftui 0.3.1-1
 ttf-cheapskate 0.1-2
 libxml++ 1.0.0-1
 chromium 0.9.12-1
 passepartout 0.4-1
 gnome-cups-manager 0.17-1
 libgnomecups 0.1.6-1
 gweled 0.4-s1
 xpenguins_themes 1.0-1
 libmath++ 0.0.3-1
 texmacs 1.0.3.3-s1
 gtkatlantic 0.3.2-1
 ms-sys 1.1.1-1
 smb4k 0.3.1-1
 ksambaplugin 0.5b2-1
 matern 0.1-1
 seahorse 0.7.3-2
 parse-yapp 1.05-1
 xml-dom 1.43-1
 xml-regexp 0.03-1
 xml-xql 0.68-1
 prizm 0.2-s1
 liferea 0.4.6b-1
 panorama-tools 2.6bml12-s1
 sylpheed-gtk2 0.9.8a-s1
 amarok 0.8.3-s1
 mlview 0.6.2-1
 gossip 0.7.1-s1
 loudmouth 0.15.1-s1
 gtodo 0.13.5-s1
 scribus-devel 1.1.5-s1
 source-highlight 1.8-s1
 xtermset 0.5.1-s1
 cdw 0.2.2-s1
 gnotime 2.1.7-s1
 xfce4-fsguard-plugin 0.2.0-s1
 xfce4-xmms-plugin 0.1.1-s1
 gksu 1.0.3-s1
 pychecker 0.8.13-s1
 gtkglext 1.0.5-s1
 gtkglextmm 1.0.1-s1

pygtkglext 1.0.1-s1
 spe 0.4.2c-s1
 gmnecoder 0.1.0-s1
 scribus-docs 1.0.1-s1

5 Problems

5.1 FAQ of the Week

Q: Why doesn't Arch have a GUI package manager, automatic hardware configuration and other niceties?

A: Arch is a distribution for the slightly more advanced linux user (or the beginner who really wants to learn). We will try to help you in any way you can, but do not expect hand-holding. There is a plethora of beginner distributions, and we aren't trying to compete with them. Most of us feel that editing config files is actually easier than GUI tools.

This has probably been answered before, but it gets asked a lot.

5.2 Bugs

5.2.1 Bugs Closed This Week

518. mplayer alsa is disabled - should be enabled now kernel is 2.6
 517. Gaim fails to connect msn due to ssl error.
 496. mplayer/Skin/default/icons folder has wrong permissions
 245. kdoc fails with ERROR 404
 513. dbp must be recompiled against gimp2.0pre4
 510. printing broken (foomatic maybe)
 509. foomatic-db-engine-3.0.1-1 upgrade fails
 508. k3b required cdrtools 2.01a12 for creating iso from disc
 511. some more mirrors
 494. Unresolved dependencies for Evolution.
 505. kooka: libusb-0.1.so.4: cannot open
 324. dvgrab fails when libraw1394 fails
 483. kdegraphics fails building [depends on bug 482]
 482. libusb fails building
 306. wvdial segmentation fault
 500. kernel26 PKGBUILD has two md5sum lines and fails

5.2.2 Bugs Opened This Week

- 519. pacman-2.7.5 fails to build
- 516. flashplugin has to be reinstalled after each mozilla update
- 515. KDE's KSVGplugin searching for missing libcms.so.1 lib
- 514. ffmpeg needs fixing
- 512. /arch/setup uses the wrong URL to download 2.6.x kernels
- 507. APR conflicts with APACHE
- 506. KDE package missing esd
- 504. xfree86 fails to build
- 503. module-init-tools fails to build
- 502. Makefile for kernel26
- 501. mplayer-plugin missing dep
- 499. url="" must be a list

6 Closing

That's all for this week. Stay tuned for more exciting ArchLinux development.