

Archlinux Weekly Newsletter

Jason Chu and Ben Mazer

March 14, 2004

1 Opening

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

2 News

No front page news this week

2.1 This Week in Dev Land

- ArchLinux has an IRC bot. Its name is archbot. It's an infobot (<http://www.infobot.org/>). Right now we're testing it to see if it can help answer some of the simpler questions on IRC.
- Damir has suggested we start having incoming-cleanup waves: where the oldest packages in incoming can be talked about and dealt with. It was suggested that he take the idea to the TUs, because it's more their job now. Developers will still join the discussion though.
- Aurelien found a bug in our db update scripts and blew up the package database. A number of packages were accidentally orphaned because of this. If anyone sees packages that used to be adopted by one of the developers, feel free to bring it to their attention.

2.2 ArchStats Updates

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

Number of registered systems: 281

Date first system was registered: 20031017

Most recent update occurred: 20040314

Longest recorded uptime: 175 days, 22 hours, 51

minutes, 55 seconds.

Average uptime: 4 days, 13 hours, 25 minutes, 41 seconds.

Lowest kernel version: 2.4.21

Highest kernel version: 2.6.4

Least packages installed on a system: 44

Average installed packages: 253

Most packages installed on a system: 563

3 Discussions

3.1 Forum Highlights

- Drz wanted to know if all the 0.6 packages were compiled with GCC3.3.3 (the included compiler). The answer was no. Arch uses a rolling release cycle where the ISO releases are just snapshots of the current tree. The focus is on making the trees perfect, not making a good CD release. Read the thread here:<http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=3155>
- LB06 posted his suggestion for the /opt folder. He did not like the idea of separate binary folders. The thread turned into a debate with no clear answer. Some people suggested that it helped organization, and others did not care either way. Participate in the thread here: <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=3084>
- Rasat made a request for a web downloading interface to the TUR system. Xentac, the TUR developer was against this idea, because the goal with the TUR system was to interface with pacman. This way users wouldn't have to manually update packages themselves. The suggestion is still being discussed, so participate here: <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=3191>.

3.2 Mailing List Highlights

- Brent Pitman wanted to know if it was possible to have pacman automatically update (unattended). There were a few solutions including a cron script and simply `yes|pacman -Syu`. This is not recommended though, because you may want to be notified of important package updates. Read the thread here:
<http://www.archlinux.org/pipermail/arch/2004-March/001075.html>

3.2.1 TUR Mailing List

The TUR system has been completely redone. The web interface has now been replaced with a SFS/Subversion combination. This system will scale much better and is hosted on the ArchLinux servers now. Because of the downtime, many packages became out of date. Please be patient while the TUs adjust to the new system and update packages. Please note that the mailing list address has changed to this:
tur-users@archlinux.org.

4 Packages

4.1 Package Highlights

- KDE 3.2.1 was released and packaged this week. This is an important bugfix release, so all KDE users should upgrade. You can read the announcement here:
<http://kde.org/announcements/announce-3.2.1.php>
- XFCE 4.0.4 was released this week. This is a bugfix release as well, and all XFCE users should upgrade. The changelog is located here:
http://sourceforge.net/project/shownotes.php?release_id=222635

4.2 New Packages

kde-i18n-xh 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-zu 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-vi 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-zh_tw 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-zh_cn 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-sv 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-th 3.2.1-1

kde-i18n-ven 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-ta 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-tr 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-uk 3.2.1-1
kdeaccessibility 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-fr 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-es 3.2.1-1
cvs 1.11.14-1
kde-i18n-ss 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-sk 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-sl 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-sr 3.2.1-1
acpi 0.07-1
acpid 1.0.3-1
postgresql 7.4.2-1
kernel26-scsi 2.6.4-1
gweled 0.4-1
j 0.20.2-1
kde-i18n-ru 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-se 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-ro 3.2.1-1
ices 2.0.0-1
kde-i18n-pl 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-pt 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-pt_br 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-be 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-bn 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-br 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-cy 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-az 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-nso 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-nn 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-nl 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-mk 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-mt 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-hr 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-is 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-ja 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-lt 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-he 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-hu 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-it 3.2.1-1
kde-i18n-nb 3.2.1-1
calculator 1.2.0-1
patchutils 0.2.28-1
xfce4-diskperf-plugin 1.4.1-2
wine 20040309-1
mlterm 2.8.0-3
kde-i18n-et 3.2.1-1
dnsmasq 2.3-1

sylpheed-claws 0.9.10-1
 kernel26 2.6.4-1
 kde-i18n-eu 3.2.1-1
 kde-i18n-fa 3.2.1-1
 kde-i18n-fi 3.2.1-1
 kde-i18n-eo 3.2.1-1
 kde-i18n-en_gb 3.2.1-1
 quanta 3.2.1-1
 xfwm4-themes 4.0.4-1
 xffm 4.0.4-1
 xffm-icons 4.0.4-1
 xfprint 4.0.4-1
 xfwm4 4.0.4-1
 xfce-mcs-manager 4.0.4-1
 xfce-mcs-plugins 4.0.4-1
 xfce-utils 4.0.4-1
 xfdesktop 4.0.4-1
 xfce4-themes 4.0.4-1
 xfce4-toys 4.0.4-1
 xfce4-trigger-launcher 4.0.4-1
 xfcalendar 0.1.6-1
 xfce4-iconbox 4.0.4-1
 xfce4-mixer 4.0.4-1
 xfce4-panel 4.0.4-1
 libxfce4util 4.0.4-1
 libxfcegui4 4.0.4-1
 kdetoys 3.2.1-1
 kdeutils 3.2.1-1
 kdenetwork 3.2.1-1
 kdepin 3.2.1-1
 kdesdk 3.2.1-1
 kdegraphics 3.2.1-1
 kdelibs 3.2.1-1
 kdemultimedia 3.2.1-1
 kdeedu 3.2.1-1
 kdegames 3.2.1-1
 kdeartwork 3.2.1-1
 kdebase 3.2.1-1
 kdebindings 3.2.1-1
 arts 1.2.1-1
 kdeaddons 3.2.1-1
 kdeadmin 3.2.1-1
 xfce4-minicmd-plugin 0.2.0-2
 xfce4-netload-plugin 0.2.2-2
 xfce4-datetime-plugin 0.3.0-2
 xfce4-showdesktop-plugin 0.3.0-2
 xfce4-battery-plugin 0.2.0-2
 xfce4-clipman-plugin 0.4.0-2
 xfce4-systemload-plugin 0.3.4-2
 xfce4-notes-plugin 0.9.7-2

emboss 2.8.0-1
 archstats 3.6-1
 tidyhtml 20040308-1
 emovix 0.9.0pre1-1
 mp3splt 2.0-2
 abiword 2.0.5-1
 xmms-speex 0.9.1-1
 vnc 3.3.7-1
 automake 1.8.3-1
 mp3wrap 0.5-1
 k3b-i18n 0.11-1
 xmms-kde 3.1-1
 cdrtools-devel 2.01a27-1
 audacity 1.2.0-1
 squid 2.5.STABLE5-1
 sfs 0.7.2-1
 gnomemeeting 1.00-1
 openh323 1.13.2-1
 pwlib 1.6.3-1

4.2.1 STAGING Listing

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

abcm2ps 3.7.3-1
 fox 1.0.51-s1
 amule 1.2.6-s1
 cdw 0.2.2-s1
 chromium 0.9.12-1
 cups-pdf 1.4.1-s1
 fftw3 3.0.1-1
 cln 1.1.6-1
 giftui 0.3.1-1
 gksu 1.0.3-s1
 gmencoder 0.1.0-s1
 gnome-alsamixer 0.9.6-s1
 gnome-cups-manager 0.17-1
 gnotime 2.1.7-s1
 gossip 0.7.1-s1
 gp 0.26-1
 gtk-smooth-engine 0.5.6-s1
 windowlab 1.23-s1
 gtkglext 1.0.5-s1
 gtkglextmm 1.0.1-s1
 sylpheed-gtk2 0.9.9-s1
 hwd 1.6-2
 ion-devel 20030814-1
 kbarcode 1.6.1-s1
 ksambaplugin 0.5b2-1

labplot 1.2.2-1
 libchipcard 0.9.1-1
 libgnomecups 0.1.6-1
 libksba 0.4.7-1
 libofx 0.6.4-1
 liferea 0.4.6d-s1
 logjam 4.3.2-s1
 loudmouth 0.15.1-s1
 lwm 1.2.0-1
 mage 6.30.030607-1
 materm 0.1-1
 mlview 0.6.2-1
 monopd 0.9.0-s1
 mp3burn 0.3.1-1
 ms-sys 1.1.1-1
 panorama-tools 2.6bml12-s1
 parse-yapp 1.05-1
 pixieplus 0.5.4-1
 potrace 1.2-1
 potracegui 0.3-s1
 prekin 6.30.030607-1
 prizm 0.2-s1
 pychecker 0.8.13-s1
 pygtkglext 1.0.1-s1
 scribus-devel 1.1.5-s1
 scribus-docs 1.0.1-s1
 seahorse 0.7.3-2
 shaaft 0.5.0-1
 smb4k 0.3.1-1
 smclone 0.55-1
 source-highlight 1.8-s1
 spe 0.4.2c-s1
 texmacs 1.0.3.3-s1
 tla 1.1-2
 tse3 0.2.7-1
 ttf-cheapskate 0.1-2
 universalkopete 0.1-1
 xfce4-fsguard-plugin 0.2.0-s1
 xfce4-xmms-plugin 0.1.1-s1
 xml-dom 1.43-1
 xml-regexp 0.03-1
 xml-xql 0.68-1
 xpenguins-themes 1.0-1
 xtermset 0.5.1-s1
 xv 3.10a-1
 xymms 0.9.1-s1
 sip 3.10.1-s1
 qscintilla 1.2-s1

5 Problems

5.1 FAQ of the Week

Q: I'm having a problem. What should I do, where should I turn? Help me!

A: ArchLinux has many places you can turn for help. First, you should try reading the many forms of documentation. Arch has a nicely filled WIKI available at <http://wiki.archlinux.org/>. There are a set of guides located here: <http://www.archlinux.org/docs/>.

If your question wasn't answered in the documentation, you can search/post in the forum located at <http://bbs.archlinux.org> or you can catch people in our IRC room located at [#archlinux](irc.freenode.net). Lastly, you can join the mailing list, located at: <http://www.archlinux.org/mailman/listinfo/arch/>.

So you see, you are not alone with a problem. Although this may not seem like a FAQ, we are receiving lots of questions from distressed newcomers.

5.2 Bugs

5.2.1 Bugs Closed This Week

- 534. K3b crashes due to mime type error.
- 527. Aide does not compile
- 529. root autologin or somewhere mention that root has no password
- 530. Arch Installation/Rescue CD is not capable of mounting vfat and/or ntfs
- 495. Pacman ignores IgnorePkg field for packages that "replace" other packages
- 502. Makefile for kernel26
- 498. Add other codepages to kernel
- 506. KDE package missing esd
- 487. kdelibs must be patched for kmail to print (kdebug: 72775)
- 522. kde html/text printing broken
- 526. No text in widgets for gqview, xscreensaver, and GIMP
- 525. XF86config template
- 524. bluefish needs gnome-common
- 523. gnome-vfs: libgnomevfs-2.so.0 missing
- 519. pacman-2.7.5 fails to build

5.2.2 Bugs Opened This Week

- 538. gettext with c-sharp enable
- 537. JFS mounted read only after crash
- 536. gnome terminal missing dependency
- 535. gnuplot in science or multimedia ?
- 533. kget (kdenetwork) has threading deadlock (kdebug: 74597)
- 532. Ideas for the installer
- 531. kernel updates brake pcmcia.cs
- 528. kernel pkgs MUST have an echo saying:
"WARNING: If you use lilo, do 'lilo -v'

6 Closing

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