

Arch Linux Weekly Newsletter

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1 Opening

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

2 News

2.1 Front Page News

1. There's a new glibc in the Testing repository, version 2.3.3 (pulled from gnu's CVS). It includes the Native POSIX Thread Library (NPTL), as well as the kernel headers from 2.6. This means that people running a 2.4.x kernel cannot use this glibc, or else they'll face the dreaded “FATAL: Kernel too old” message after upgrading.

If you'd like to use the testing repository, it is here:

testing

Server = <ftp://ftp.archlinux.org/testing>
<http://archlinux.org/news.php#73>

2. Hi Archers!

There is a nasty bug in the current version of the daemontools (0.76-1) package. The bug will be triggered if you remove or upgrade the daemontools package. If triggered, your `/etc/inittab` file may be emptied and you could essentially be booted off your machine, forcing you to reboot with a rescue CD and manually restore your `/etc/inittab`.

The latest release (0.76-2), will fix this bug, but by upgrading, you run the risk of triggering the bug. To protect yourself, make

a copy of your `/etc/inittab` file, temporarily rename `/sbin/telinit`, do the daemontools upgrade, restore `/sbin/telinit` and verify that your `/etc/inittab` file is intact. The shell commands below can be used to perform this procedure.

1) make a backup of your `/etc/inittab` file
`cp /etc/inittab /etc/inittab.bak`

2) ignore any 'telinit: command not found' errors
`mv /sbin/telinit /sbin/telinit.off`
`pacman -Sy daemontools`
`mv /sbin/telinit.off /sbin/telinit`

3) restore your `/etc/inittab` if it got emptied during the upgrade. # you might be better off doing a visual inspection of `/etc/inittab` # just to be safe. if

`! - s/etc/inittab`

; then `cp /etc/inittab.bak /etc/inittab`; fi

4) if all has gone well, inform init of the new service
`/sbin/telinit q`

If you currently have daemontools installed, and just want to remove it without doing the upgrade, use the shell commands above except replace 'pacman -Sy daemontools' with 'pacman -R daemontools' in step number two.

<http://archlinux.org/news.php#73>

2.2 This Week in Dev Land

1. Discussion continues about the implementation of the new TUR system.

2.3 ArchStats Updates

To participate, visit <http://archstats.coding-zone.com> Number of registered systems: 425

Date first system was registered: 20031017
Most recent update occurred: 20040530
Longest recorded uptime: 175 days, 22 hours, 51 minutes, 55 seconds.
Average uptime: 4 days, 20 hours, 24 minutes, 31 seconds.
Least packages installed on a system: 44
Average installed packages: 260
Most packages installed on a system: 733

3 Discussions

3.1 Forum Highlights

1. Xentac released a beta of his new pacman wrapper, srcpac, this week. It allows for you to easily mix source compiled and official packages. Read all about it in this thread: <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=4804>.
2. The-maniac wanted to know if it was possible to run Arch with dialup. There are differing opinions, but many people (including myself) have run Arch on 56K without issue. If you have a dedicated line that you can leave on overnight, you should be fine. <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=4827>

3.2 Mailing List

1. Dennis Herbrich has built ISOs for the i586 port of Arch. Obviously it needs testing, so feel free to try it out. <http://www.archlinux.org/pipermail/arch/2004-May/001541.html>.
2. It seems that a few KDE apps have broken since the recent kdelibs upgrade. There currently is no solution. Hopefully the application developers will release fixes soon. <http://www.archlinux.org/pipermail/arch/2004-May/001539.html>.

4 Packages

4.1 Package Highlights

1. Macromedia released version 7 of it's flash plugin for linux. This is a major upgrade, including new features and large speed increases.

Now only if there was an open source alternative...

2. Python 2.3.4 was released this week. This is strictly a bug fix release. You can read all about it here: <http://python.org/2.3.4/>.
3. CVS version 1.11.16 was released this week. This fixes a serious security hole recently found. Read about it here: <https://ccvs.cvshome.org/servlets/NewsItemView?newsItemID>

4.2 New Packages

xfce4-xkb-plugin 0.3.1-1
xfce4-weather-plugin 0.3.9-1
jikes 1.21-1
bincimap 1.2.7-1
net-tools 1.60-7
bash 2.05b-12
iputils 021109-2t1
iputils 021109-1
glib 1.2.10-4
unzip 5.51-1
cvs 1.11.16-1
python 2.3.4-1
flashplugin 7.0.25.0-1
apollon 0.9.4-2
koffice 1.3.1-1
fontconfig 2.2.90-1
libsvg 2.6.5-1
trm 0.2.1-2
streamtuner-live365 0.3.4-1
snd 7.4-1
audacity 1.2.1-1
gkrellm 2.2.0-1
lftp 3.0.4-1
gmp 4.1.3-1
libglade 2.4.0-1
daemontools 0.76-2
bzflag 1.10.6.20040515-1
epiphany 1.2.5-1
galculator 1.2.3-1
bash-completion 20040526-1
kdelibs 3.2.2-3
kdemultimedia 3.2.2-2
qiv 2.0-1
amaya 8.5-1
libtiff 3.6.1-3
mysql 4.0.20-1
groff 1.19.1-2

man-pages 1.67-1
dhcp 3.0pl2-3
gtk 1.2.10-4
mplayer 1.0pre4-2
fmlib 0.5-3
kmpayer 0.8.2-1
cdrtools-devel 2.01a30-1
eclipse 3.0M9-1
xname-sdl 0.82.1-1
xmms-skins 0.2-2
xsane 0.94-2
k3b 0.11.10-1
liferea 0.4.9-1
subversion 1.0.4-1

4.2.1 STAGING Listing

*To get access to this, and other repos, visit
<http://tur.archlinux.org>*

giftui 0.4.1-s1
briquolo 0.4.2-1
tutris 1.0.1-s1
straw 0.23-1
qtparted 0.4.4-s1
workrave 1.4.1-s1
sim 0.9.3-s1
gxine 0.3.3-s1
gmencoder 0.1.0-s1
aspell-fr 0.50.1-1
cmf 1.4.2-s1
gnotime 2.1.7-s1
smb4k 0.4.0-s1
gp 0.26-1
gtk-smooth-engine 0.5.6-s1
windowlab 1.23-s1
crypto++ 5.1-s1
gtkglexmm 1.0.1-s1
libgnomecups 0.1.6-2
hwd 1.6-2
ion-devel 20030814-1
gocr 0.39-s1
kbarcode 1.6.1-s1
ksambaplugin 0.5b2-1
libchipcard 0.9.1-1
plone 2.0-s1
kmyfirewall 0.9.6.2-s1
ether-wake 1.09-1
gxname 0.34b-1
libofx 0.6.4-1
fortune-mod-dune-quotes 2.0.1-s1

gtk-sharp 0.91.1-s1
lwm 1.2.0-1
nvidia 1.0.5336-s1
matern 0.1-1
lablgtk 1.2.6-s1
monopd 0.9.0-s1
mp3burn 0.3.1-1
ntfsprogs 1.9.2-s1
ocaml 3.07pl2-s1
parse-yapp 1.05-1
kshutdown 0.1.7-s1
pixieplus 0.5.4-1
ooqstart 0.8.3-s1
muine 0.6.1-s1
replace 2.22-s1
prizm 0.2-s1
pychecker 0.8.13-s1
pygtkglext 1.0.1-s1
bittornado 0.3.1-s1
scribus-docs 1.0.1-s1
seahorse 0.7.3-2
shaaft 0.5.0-1
supertux 0.1.1-s1
synaptics 0.13.2-s1
spe 0.4.2c-s1
gifsicle 1.40-1
texmacs 1.0.3.3-s1
tse3 0.2.7-1
unison 2.9.1-s1
universalkopete 0.1-1
streamtuner-xiph 0.1.0-s1
streamtuner-python 0.1.1-s1
xml-dom 1.43-1
xml-regexp 0.03-1
xml-xql 0.68-1
logjam 4.4.0-s2
xtermset 0.5.1-s1
xv 3.10a-1
xymms 0.9.1-s1
sip 3.10.1-s1
qscintilla 1.2-s1
tnftp 20030825-1
imms 1.1-s1
adns-python 1.0.0-1
digikam 0.6.1-s1
htmldoc 1.8.23-1
si3d 1.2-1
xfree86-freefonts-fonts 0.10-1
pil 1.1.4-s1
esmtip 0.5.0-1

gkrellm_amicomected 0.6-1
gkrellmseti 0.7.0b-1
meld 0.9.1-1
msmtp 0.7.1-1
nautilus_thumbnailers 0.0.3-1
njam 1.00-1
dosemu 1.2.1-s1
digikamplugins 0.6.1-s2
scribus-devel 1.1.6-s1
pyxml 0.8.3-s1
skencil 0.6.16-s1
bfilter 0.9.3-1
opera 723-2
wtf 0.0.4-s1
amule 1.2.6-s2
jack-audio-connection-kit 0.91.1-2
fbpager 0.1.4-s1
mpd 0.10.3-s1
py-libmpdclient 0.10.0-s1
cups-pdf 1.4.2a-s1
3ddesktop 0.2.5-s1
sip 4.0rc3-s1
pyqt 3.11-s1
qalculate 0.5.1-s1
soundtracker 0.6.7-s1
tla 1.2-s1
pycrypto 1.9a6-s1
emelfm2 0.0.7-s2
sylpheed-gtk2 0.9.9-s2
gnome-cups-manager 0.17-2
lyx-qt 1.3.4-s1
kradio 0.3.0-2
eric 3.4.1-s1

5 Problems

5.1 FAQ

Q: Where can I get the kernel source? Is there an Arch Package?

A: Arch uses the vanilla kernel source. That means that you can go to <http://kernel.org> and download the full kernel source (and place it in `/usr/src/linux` or a directory that's symlinked there). There is no package, because the developers feel there's no need to add another mirror of the kernel source. The official homepage has 10x more bandwidth than we do. ;-)

5.2 Bugs

5.2.1 Bugs Closed This Week

948. imap and imaps missing from `/etc/services`
928. net-tools does not build
927. bash does not build with gcc3.4.0
949. Include the utility name "dig" in description of bind package
946. GLib 1.2.10-3 does not build with GCC3.4 (w/ fix)
945. xfree86 needs additional 'libpng' library to build
744. Moon-lander: No read/execute permissions
940. mozilla-thunderbird fails to download
668. enable kde start new sessions for kdm
639. dhcp world readable
929. gcc340.patch file has wrong MD5SUM in PKGBUILD
935. FSTAB: need to change USBDEVFS to USBFS
944. net-tools fails to build even with revised parch from #928 in PKGBUILD file
872. lvm2 error on startup
937. daemontools install file
889. JuK requires 'trm'
533. kget (kdenetwork) has threading deadlock (kdebug: 74597)
909. librsvg unstable version
452. Install Documentation - pacman
939. shadow won't build
938. net-tools fails to build
680. amaya 8.3-1 doesn't start
700. Add deflate (ZIP) support to libtiff (again)
913. mplayer wrong download of skin and fonts was wrong linked
894. k3b crashes when adding mp3s to an audio cd project
930. Vulgar Language in xmms-skins package
931. xsane 0.94 segfaults.

5.2.2 Bugs Opened This Week

956. iputils won't build
955. add `/etc/rc.d/mysql` to backup for the mysql package
954. arts needs to be recompiled
953. k3b doesnt work with libartskde.so.1
952. kmenu problem with regular user
951. openoffice fonts
950. kde soundserver problems

- 947. libglade 2.4.0-1 dependency
- 943. etherreal and xscreensaver: non-root ownership
- 942. httpd can't find suexec
- 941. mozilla-firefox fails to build
- 936. gcc 3.4 breaks c++ compiles with templates, and other problems
- 934. apollon dependencies
- 933. egenix-mx-base segfaults

6 Closing

That's it for this week, stay tuned for more exciting Arch Linux news.