

A KDE Software Store

Rethinking Software Distribution

Opendsktop.org (1/2)

- Around for 15 years
- Serves "add-ons" (wallpapers, scripts, themes, etc.)
- Binary content was always problematic
- Not much maintenance in the last years
- Very innovative when it launched, taken over left and right by Appstore and Google Play
- While ocs is an opendsktop api, webservice was proprietary
- Run by a 3rd party

Opendesktop.org (2/2)

- Pling GmbH, a Blue Systems sister company, acquired the site in early 2016
- Goal was to opensource a big formerly closed technology stack KDE depended on, thereby bringing it back to life and have it flourish
- Turn kde-look.org and kde-files.org into a KDE branded Store, also making the associated data available to KDE
- Solve problems in the process

Announcement

A KDE Software Store

KDE now has a
Free-as-in-Freedom
software store.

KDE Store: The Service

- Worked on modernizing the backend (ended up replacing it)
- Migration to the new backend finished (some categories may still need to import, but thats quick)
- Some content cleaned up during migration
- Aside from some minor mishaps, went smoothly
- Maintained by PLING GmbH
- Service operation secured by a "sustainability agreement" with KDE e.V.
- No more ads, no fees, no percentage model from donations

KDE Store: The Service

- New code base
- Free software now (AGPL)
- Actively developed under the KDE umbrella
- Incubation process

KDE Store: The Features

- Currently serves addons: themes, wallpapers, icons, cursors, plasmoids, etc.
- Creators can receive donations
- Categories are in principle "cross desktop", continued content sharing with other opendesktop sites like gnome-look.org, xfce-look.org, etc.

KDE Store: Possible Plans

- Review processes for vetted content
- Signed assets
- More social features (such as "*a friend of you rated this 5 stars*")
- Growing the ecosystem
- Distribution mechanism for containerized apps

Appstores vs. Repositories

Appstore & Google Play

- Integrated user experience
- Trustful source
- Mostly directly uploaded by creator
- Payment options
- Social stuff
- All devices access the same store, more or less
- Mostly apps
- More and more content
- Feedback channel from user to creator
- Users get updates pretty quickly

Software Repositories

- Much software available
- Software must go through packaging process
- Trustful source (packages have been audited in the ideal world)
- No registration / social stuff / tracking
- Different per distro
- User can add own sources
- Apps, libraries, systemcomponents
- Zero feedback, not even number of installations
- Updates can take long or will never arrive

Conclusion

- More Freedom for KDE products
- Revenue model for your creations
- Interesting options for app distribution
- It's in your hands now

Let's talk!