

Archlinux Weekly Newsletter

Jason Chu and Ben Mazer

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1 Opening

Welcome to the ArchLinux newsletter. Here we attempt to give you an “at a glance” look at what’s happening with everyone’s favorite Linux distribution. There was lots of activity this week, and lots of user’s requests were answered.

2 News

1. A new beta for the ArchLinux 0.6 ISO was released this week. We need people to test the ISO so we can make 0.6 smooth for all the new Arch users out there. Grab the ISO from the 0.6/iso/i686/ directory of your favorite mirror.
2. Well, ArchLinux finally has a Wiki. Here you can edit and write documentation concerning Arch and Linux in general. Everyone can make changes, so please help out. <http://wiki.archlinux.org>

2.1 This Week in Dev Land

1. Aurelien has started work on a Pacman library.
2. The naming conventions of `cvs/unstable/developmental` packages was debated. The argument was that `-devel` made Debian/RPM users think of dev headers. It was decided that we will stick with `-devel` because nothing covers as many bases as well as that.
3. Judd has made changes to the official docs for 0.6. He still has some pending changes, but feel free to look at what’s changed (<http://www.archlinux.org/docs/en/guide/install/arch/install-guide.html>) and offer suggestions.

4. The developers talked about possibly adding support for Debian’s menu program. For those who don’t know, Debian’s menu program can dynamically generate menus for most window managers. We will look at implementing this after 0.6 is released. No one will be forced to use it, but it will be there if you want it.

2.2 ArchStats Updates

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

Number of registered systems: 194

Date first system was registered: 20031017

Most recent update occurred: 20040229

Longest recorded uptime: 173 days, 22 hours, 51 minutes, 55 seconds.

Average uptime: 5 days, 22 hours, 28 minutes, 50 seconds.

Lowest kernel version: 2.4.21

Highest kernel version: 2.6.3

Least packages installed on a system: 44

Average installed packages: 258

Most packages installed on a system: 563

3 Discussions

3.1 Forum Highlights

1. Pink Chick created a draft for a how-to on installing ArchLinux via FTP when you only have PCMCIA wireless access available. <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=2897>
2. Tannjew wrote a beginner’s How-to for German speakers. He is still waiting on feedback from those fluent in German. <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=2841>

3.2 Mailing List Highlights

1. Gerald Frick wanted to know if it was possible to install ArchLinux from an already existing installation on a second harddrive. The answer was yes, although it was a little more complex than the normal ISO install. The 0.6 release will contain a “quickinst” script that makes this process easier. Read the thread at <http://www.archlinux.org/pipermail/arch/2004-February/000912.html>

3.2.1 TUR Mailing List

The TUR Mailing list was down for an unknown reason most of this week. The big news is that many packages from STAGING were moved to the official repositories this week. If you don't already, help get packages into the repositories quicker by testing out STAGING or your favorite user's TUR.

4 Packages

4.1 Package Highlights

1. Mono finally made it to the official repositories this week. It is a free implementation of C# and the CLR. It's been gaining a lot of buzz within the GNOME community and may become their language of choice. <http://www.gomono.org/>
2. Subversion 1.0 was released this week and also has an Arch package. This release shows that Subversion now has every feature of CVS, and some more. If you're having trouble with your VCS, check out Subversion. <http://subversion.tigris.org/>
3. A new version of the Init Scripts were released this week. This update adds full LVM2 compatibility.

4.2 New Packages

sylpheed 0.9.10-1
initscripts 0.6-7
e2fsprogs 1.35-1
namcap 1.2.4-1
lyx 1.3.4-1
drscheme 206.0p1-1

xmame-sdl 0.79.1-1
xine-ui 0.9.23-1
xine-lib 1rc3a-1
gkrellm 2.1.27-1
flex 2.5.31-1
gtk-doc 1.1-2
openjade 1.3.2-1
libwnck 2.4.0.1-1
linc 1.1.1-1
opensp 1.5-2
libidl 0.6.8-1
librep 0.16.1-1
w3m 0.4.2-2
imagemagick 5.5.7-8
bs 2.7-1
avidemux 2.0.22-1
gkx86info 0.0.2-2
gkrellm-xkb 1.05-1
gkrellmms 2.1.14-1
bglibs 1.015-1
adzapper 20040104-1
psiconv 0.9.3-1
faad2 2.0-4
dnsmasq 2.2-1
xscreensaver 4.15-1
osiris 2.4.4-1
kdebase 3.2.0-3
grip 3.1.4-1
passepartout 0.4-1
mono 0.30.1-1
gtodo 0.13.5-1
gtkatlantic 0.3.2-1
dmalloc 5.3.0-1
patchutils 0.2.27-1
erlang R9C.0-2
snort 2.1.1-1
libavc1394 0.4.1-1
lvm 1.0.8-1
libcapsinetwork 0.2.5-1
libmath++ 0.0.3-1
libnids 1.18-1
libxml++ 1.0.0-1
cdtool 2.1.5-2
archstats 3.3-1
kdepim 3.2.0-3
k3b 0.11.5-3
menumaker 0.16-1
gimp-print 4.2.6-1
openssh 3.8p1-1
tcdr 2.1-4

raidtools 1.00.3-3
 gnokii 0.6.0-1
 tcsh 6.12-3
 iptables 1.2.9-5
 sdl 1.2.7-1
 ethereal 0.10.2-1
 kdevelop-devel 3.1.0.snap040221-3
 kdevelop 3.0.1-4
 xmms 1.2.10-1
 libxml2 2.6.7-1
 procps 3.2.0-1
 gpsdrive 2.08-1
 filelight 0.6.4-1
 gwenview 1.1.0-1
 kdelibs 3.2.0-2
 lsof 4.70-2
 subversion 1.0.0-1
 lua 5.0.1-1
 obconf 1.5-1
 rox-system 1.9.0-1
 bogofilter 0.17.0-1
 gurlchecker 0.6.5-1
 inkscape 0.37-1

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
 xmms-crossfade 0.3.1-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
 libsidplay 1.36.57-s1
 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
 mpck 0.04-1
 pixieplus 0.5.4-1
 potrace 1.2-1
 prekin 6.30.030607-1
 tla 1.1-2
 xmms-sid 0.7.4-s1
 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
 materm 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
gmencoder 0.1.0-s1
scribus-docs 1.0.1-s1

5 Problems

5.1 FAQ of the Week

1. Q: I have an AMD K6(-2) or a Transmeta processor, can I install ArchLinux on it?
A: No. ArchLinux requires an i686 processor, and neither of those conform to that. You need at least a Pentium2 or AMD K7.
2. Q: I get a dependency error when trying to run a program (“foobar.so is missing”). What should I do? A: You should file a bugreport on the ArchLinux Bug Tracker, available at: <http://bugs.archlinux.org/>

5.2 Bugs

5.2.1 Bugs Closed This Week

- 490. w3m errors soloved by removing the `-disable-mouse` parameter
- 297. Need Arch icon for Mozilla Address Bar and Tabs
- 488. faad2 error
- 486. System Notifications settings window crashes on startup
- 481. erlang package is broken
- 484. alsa-xmms does not install
- 468. missing dependency for kdegraphics: fribidi, lcms
- 462. kpilot missing from KDEPIM
- 354. cdtool fails to build
- 349. ogle fails to build
- 476. tcsh should be added to `/etc/shells`
- 470. IP Forwarding in iptables pkg
- 474. kdevelop misses dependency

- 477. kdelibs missing documentation made by doxygen (breaks kdevelop - docs for kdelibs)
- 475. patch in lsof PKGBUILD fails
- 411. k3b and kdelibs both own files

5.2.2 Bugs Opened This Week

- 497. man pacman behaves improperly
- 496. mplayer/Skin/default/icons folder has wrong permissions
- 495. Pacman ignores IgnorePkg field for packages that “replace” other packages
- 494. Unresolved dependencies for Evolution
- 493. xdvi in tetex package needs ghostscript for displaying eps in .dvi files
- 492. kdvi needs ghostscript for displaying eps in dvi files
- 491. Auto-Notify Bug-Opener
- 489. `/var/run/utmp` not correctly updated with kernel 2.6.3
- 487. kdelibs must be patched for kmail to print (kdebug: 72775)
- 485. Test addslahes
- 483. kdegraphics fails building
- 482. libusb fails building
- 480. Add Suexec to httpd
- 479. usb-scanner module no longer needed in kernel 2.6
- 478. j2sdk won’t find .class files in same dir

6 Closing

As a sidenote, we’d like to know whether you’re happy with the current Newsletter format. Do you prefer the LaTeX (html/pdf) system, or the old plaintext/html format? Also, we want to know if there are any sections you don’t like or want added.

That’s it for this week, stay tuned for more exciting ArchLinux development.