

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. `srcpac` to support source building: Imagine if you could use `pacman` to install binary packages as well as build those same packages from source (with your own optimizations). Not only that, but upgrades remembered which packages were precompiled and which were compiled on the spot.

Now, imagine that `pacman` didn't actually handle it, because the hard-core KISS people would complain too much and you wouldn't be able to think while you watch `gcc` output fly by. Imagine instead a wrapper around `pacman` that handled it for you.

Enter `srcpac`. Lights brighten, music comes to a peak, close up!

`srcpac` acts exactly the same as `pacman` (well, it should anyway), except you get this little extra flag `-b` (or `-build`) tacked on to `-S` (`-sync`) to build from source instead of install from a binary package.

Let's see an example:

`srcpac -Sb w3m` will compile `w3m`, install it, and remember that it was compiled

`srcpac -Sybu` will upgrade all the packages that need upgrading by building them and remember that they were compiled (be careful with this one, it will include packages that weren't previously compiled).

`srcpac -Syu` will upgrade all binary packages by installing binaries and upgrade all source packages by compiling from source.

`srcpac -Qi w3m` adds an extra line too, "Source", with a simple yes or no.

You can install `srcpac` with `pacman -S srcpac`. From then on you want to use `srcpac` instead of `pacman`.

I've also added the support for package configs. Have a look at the example `/etc/srcpac.conf` entry.

The released version also adds the `-o` option to `-S`. This will apply config changes and less the `PKGBUILDs` without doing any building.

BEWARE: the `-r` option isn't fully implemented and may install to `/` in some cases, I'm pretty sure I don't ever write to `/` when `-r` is specified, but I can't be sure.

<http://www.archlinux.org/news.php#75>

2.2 This Week in Dev Land

1. Implementation discussion continues related to the new package submittal system.
2. A remote install document has been added to the wiki. Tobias wrote it.
3. Lou rolled back the old working `kde` packages, so `kde` is fixed. He is also trying to get access to the new 3.2.3 packages to upgrade to those.

2.3 ArchStats Updates

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

Number of registered systems: 440

Date first system was registered: 20031017

Most recent update occurred: 20040606

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

Average uptime: 4 days, 22 hours, 25 minutes, 44 seconds.

Least packages installed on a system: 44

Average installed packages: 261

Most packages installed on a system: 733

3 Discussions

3.1 Forum Highlights

1. JGC has started a GNOME 2.7 repository. It's unofficial, but JGC has a good reputation for stability. Try them out here: <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=4866>.
2. KalephOne has created Waimea and lib-svg PKGBUILDS for use with Cairo. Waimea is the recently resurrected window manager that now uses Cairo for rendering. Read the thread here: <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=4944>.
3. Rasat has released an update to HWD, the Knoppix hardware detection scripts. Grab the packages here: <http://bbs.archlinux.org/viewtopic.php?t=580>.

4 Packages

4.1 Package Highlights

1. Blender 2.33a was packaged this week. It adds many new enhancements, such as the return of the game engine. Read all about it here: http://www.blender3d.org/cms/Blender_2.33.664.html

2. Mono Beta 2 was released this week. This mostly fixes bugs, attempting to bring more stability to the 1.0 release. Read the Release Notes here: <http://www.gomono.com/archive/beta2/beta2.html>.

4.2 New Packages

pal 0.3.4-1
cdrtools-devel 2.01a31-1
srcpac 0.2-1
php 4.3.7-1

kismet 2004.04.R1-1
tpb 0.6.2-1
kdemultimedia 3.2.2-3
kdelibs 3.2.2-4
vsftpd 1.2.2-2
fam 2.6.10-3
clamav 0.72-1
nicotine 1.0.8rc1-1
openvpn 1.6.0-1
mono 0.95-1
gaim 0.78-1
eclipse 3.0RC1-1
galeon 1.3.15-1
sane 1.0.14-3
i8kmon 1.25-2
gkrellmms 2.1.20-1
xscreensaver 4.16-2
ethereal 0.10.4-3
mysql 4.0.20-2
net-tools 1.60-8
samba 3.0.4-2
alsa-oss 1.0.5-1
alsa-utils 1.0.5-1
alsa-driver 1.0.5-1
alsa-lib 1.0.5-1
binutils 2.15-1
gimp-rawphoto 0.7-1
gimp-refocus 0.9.0-1
ftgl 2.0.9-1
bogofilter 0.91.0-1
dcraw 1.194-1
blender 2.33a-1
binutils 2.15-2t1
cgoban2 2.6.1-1
sylpheed-iconset 20040525-1

4.2.1 STAGING Listing

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

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
 ntfsplogs 1.9.2-s1
 ocaml 3.07pl2-s1
 parse-yapp 1.05-1
 kshutdown 0.1.7-s1
 pixieplus 0.5.4-1
 oostart 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
 esmtp 0.5.0-1
 gkrellm_amiconnected 0.6-1
 gkrellmseti 0.7.0b-1
 meld 0.9.1-1
 msmtplib 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 Bugs

5.1.1 Bugs Closed This Week

976 Include boot splash to kernel
 975 Incorrect dependencies definitio in m4 and bison packages
 950 kde soundserver problems
 954 arts needs to be recompiled
 969 Error when launching k3b after kdelibs update
 904 kernel 2.6.5-2 locks on boot hdc IRQ lost
 972 add demaon startscript to vsftpd
 965 Wrong homepage for iptables
 960 fam 2.6.10 fails to build with gcc3.4 (w/ fix)
 806 Pinball game is hardcoded and doesn't load
 971 k3bsetup requires kdesu
 902 Kaffe and j2re can't co-exist
 968 galeon pkg depends on linc pkg
 925 Critical packages not in perl @INC

943 etherreal and xscreensaver: non-root ownership
891 Segfault with pacman -S
961 samba 3.0.4-1 is missing samba.pam in source
array
957 netstat -M does not work
956 iputils won't build
955 add /etc/rc.d/mysql to backup for the mysql
package
959 Cgoban2 needs update

5.1.2 Bugs Opened This Week

974 screem dependencies and build patch
973 Most packages shouldn't depend on linc
970 k3bsetup requires kdesu
967 gnome-spell crash
966 xscreensaver not available in gnome desktop
preferences menu
963 avm capi drivers for stock kernel 2.6
962 kdelibs-3.2.2-3 doesn't apply patch correctly
before build

6 Closing

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