Minutes of the General Assembly on 31th October, 2015

Minute taker: Colin Finck

The General Assembly of the Association "ReactOS Deutschland e.V." took place in the internet (SSL secured IRC server) on 31th October, 2015 at 16:37 (local German time).

Attendant members:
- Matthias Kupfer (President of the Association)
- Daniel Reimer (Vice President of the Association)
- Colin Finck (Treasurer)
- Thomas Faber
- Danny Götte (from 17:30)
- Timo Kreuzer
- Christoph von Wittich

Summary of the decisions
- The Board has been discharged of its responsibilities.
- Colin Finck reported about the ReactOS Hackfest 2015 he organized in Aachen, Germany and possible alternative locations for 2016. Due to the time-consuming planning, he cannot take over these responsibilities next year though. Unless somebody else steps in, there will not be a ReactOS Hackfest in 2016.
- The Association seeks to attend the events "Chemnitzer Linux-Tage", "FOSDEM" and possibly local ones like "Kieler Open-Source und Linux-Tage" next year.
- Colin Finck reported about the lack of suitable candidates for scholarships in 2015. As an alternative model to enable paid development, the Assocation seeks to accept contract work by IT freelancers.
- Apart from the annual General Assembly, the Association likes to hold another informal meeting every year to plan events more easily.

The original wordings of all attendant members can be read in the attached IRC Log.

Aachen, 31th October, 2015
For the correctness of the minutes

(signed Colin Finck)   (signed Matthias Kupfer)
(Minute taker)   (President)

Attachments
- Automatically created IRC Log of the General Assembly
- Annual Report 2014

Automatically created IRC Log of the General Assembly

Notice: The time is given in UTC. For getting the German time on that day, add one hour.

[15:37] LogBot has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[15:37] VoteBot has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[15:40] Colin_Finck has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[15:43] Thomas_Faber has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[15:46] Matthias_Kupfer has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[15:50] Christoph_von_Wittich has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[15:59] Timo_Kreuzer has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[16:00] <Matthias_Kupfer> Shall we keep the assembly in english even with german native speakers only?
[16:01] <Matthias_Kupfer> So, it's time to start
[16:01] <Matthias_Kupfer> First of all, let me welcome your to our general assembly 2014!
[16:02] <Colin_Finck> well, 2015 :P
[16:02] <Matthias_Kupfer> sorry, 2015 of course
[16:02] <Matthias_Kupfer> I confused it with the annual report year
[16:03] <Matthias_Kupfer> First of all, everyone of you got the annual report for 2014
[16:03] <Matthias_Kupfer> According to the agenda you got in the inivitation mail are there anny additional topics from your side?
[16:03] <Christoph_von_Wittich> yes, got it
[16:04] <Matthias_Kupfer> are there any questions regarding the annual report?
[16:05] <Christoph_von_Wittich> no
[16:05] <Thomas_Faber> No questions here, looks good
[16:05] <Colin_Finck> Daniel is about to join us
[16:06] <Colin_Finck> just had him on the phone
[16:06] <Timo_Kreuzer> I don't think I got the report
[16:06] <Timo_Kreuzer> or rather when should I have gotten it?
[16:06] <Colin_Finck> Timo_Kreuzer: went to your @reactos.org address
[16:07] <Timo_Kreuzer> when?
[16:07] <Colin_Finck> two days ago
[16:07] <Matthias_Kupfer> Timo_Kreuzer: thursday evening
[16:07] <Christoph_von_Wittich> https://ev.reactos.org/temp/Annual_Report_2014.pdf
[16:07] <Colin_Finck> yeah, thanks for the link
[16:07] <Colin_Finck> that should solve it :)
[16:07] <Timo_Kreuzer> thanks. I didn't get an email
[16:08] <Matthias_Kupfer> Timo_Kreuzer: but you e-mail ...@reactos.org is working properly?
[16:08] <Matthias_Kupfer> to avoid this problem in future...
[16:08] <Timo_Kreuzer> yes
[16:09] <Matthias_Kupfer> is there anyone else missing the report?
[16:09] <Thomas_Faber> nope, got it
[16:10] <Matthias_Kupfer> It doesn't seem to be so, okay, then I'll move on to the discharging of the responsibilities of the board, please Colin set up the VoteBot
[16:10] <Colin_Finck> okay, will do
[16:11] <Colin_Finck> Daniel, Matthias and me as Board members will be excluded from voting anyway
[16:11] <Timo_Kreuzer> what is "Specific Research and Development Activitie"?
[16:11] <Colin_Finck> so we don't have to wait for Daniel for this point
[16:11] Daniel_Reimer has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[16:11] <Daniel_Reimer> test?
[16:11] <Colin_Finck> Timo_Kreuzer: It's one of the former development contracts we had before we could issue scholarships
[16:12] <Timo_Kreuzer> ok
[16:13] <VoteBot> Colin_Finck has set up a vote and I'm asking all participating members in private messages now.
[16:13] <VoteBot> Excluded from voting:
[16:13] <VoteBot>   Colin_Finck
[16:13] <VoteBot>   Daniel_Reimer
[16:13] <VoteBot>   Matthias_Kupfer
[16:14] <VoteBot> The vote is over. Here are the results!
[16:14] <VoteBot> Question: Do you agree with discharging the responsibilities of the Board? (for German authorities: "Sprechen Sie dem Vorstand Entlastung aus?")
[16:14] <VoteBot> Answers:
[16:14] <VoteBot>   Abstention - 0 votes
[16:14] <VoteBot>   Yes - 3 votes
[16:14] <VoteBot>   No - 0 votes
[16:14] <VoteBot> Total number of votes: 3
[16:14] <Colin_Finck> Thank you guys!! :)
[16:14] <Matthias_Kupfer> great
[16:15] <Matthias_Kupfer> next point is current and future presentation activities, maybe Colin can give a very short summary on Hackfest afterwards I would like to drop a note to future activities
[16:16] <Matthias_Kupfer> because Hackfest was a new type of event, wasn't it?
[16:16] <Colin_Finck> yes indeed
[16:16] <Colin_Finck> as stated in the 2014 report, the idea came at Kieler Linux-Tage, where four of us were together and had some time to hack on ReactOS
[16:17] <Colin_Finck> so it was time to make a big event out of this, going for a week, which exclusively focuses on ReactOS development instead of merely presenting it to interested people
[16:18] <Colin_Finck> in collaboration with my university, I could get a room, electricity and Internet for the event for free
[16:18] <Colin_Finck> but as most of you attended, you certainly know about this ;)
[16:19] <Colin_Finck> this shouldn't be our last Hackfest, but as you can imagine it involved a lot of planning, so I can't promise to have another one next year
[16:19] <Colin_Finck> maybe someone else also takes the initiative to organize one
[16:19] <Matthias_Kupfer> Forgive me, but I just want for the protocol a short summary
[16:19] <Colin_Finck> there were suggestions at least by Jan Blomqvist-Kinander (Sweden) and Victor Martinez (Spain)
[16:19] <Colin_Finck> we will see how that's going to evolve
[16:20] <Colin_Finck> well, that's it from my side regarding Hackfest
[16:20] <Colin_Finck> any open questions?
[16:21] <Colin_Finck> doesn't seem so
[16:21] <Colin_Finck> so, it's your turn, Matthias_Kupfer
[16:21] <Matthias_Kupfer> Beside Hackfast, we attend (as always) at Chemnitz Linux-Days 2015, but as you already noticed the LinuxTag is gone and will not come back again
[16:22] <Colin_Finck> We should do so again for 2016
[16:22] <Matthias_Kupfer> So you should be aware that with Chemnitz it's and will be the largest free and open source event in Germany
[16:22] <Matthias_Kupfer> We should keep that (and use this as a reminder for the call of presentation)
[16:22] <Colin_Finck> And Pierre (who couldn't make it today) told me, he wants us to attend FOSDEM next year
[16:23] <Colin_Finck> which will already be in January
[16:23] <Matthias_Kupfer> But, nevertheless we should look for other events as well
[16:23] <Colin_Finck> keep in mind, if everything goes well, we have ReactOS 0.4 to show off by the beginning of next year :)
[16:24] <Matthias_Kupfer> January looks for me at short notice

[16:24] <Matthias_Kupfer> but if there are members willing and able to atttend, then it's fine with me
[16:25] <Colin_Finck> I definitely can't make it to Brussels in January, as I will be at the totally opposite side of the earth
[16:25] <Colin_Finck> maybe some of our French-based project members can do. We should ask them outside this General Assembly
[16:26] <Daniel_Reimer> I will have to check for my holidays, but I am quite sure that I wont be able to
[16:26] <Matthias_Kupfer> So, I think for next year we should at least consider Chemnitz Linux-Days, FOSDEM (if possible) and some local events like Kiel
[16:27] <Colin_Finck> FrOSCon is also an option, mid-August in Bonn
[16:27] <Matthias_Kupfer> And we shoudln't give up any idea like Hackfest or similiar for another get-together even abroad
[16:27] <Colin_Finck> unless we have another Hackfest around this time
[16:27] <Matthias_Kupfer> Colin_Finck: Bonn would be easy to reach for you?
[16:28] <Colin_Finck> definitely
[16:28] <Colin_Finck> and I'll also be back in Aachen in August
[16:28] <Matthias_Kupfer> To be honest, I would prefer a kind of Hackfest over some weekend days, e.g. Fri-Son/Mon, which is for all easier to attend
[16:29] <Colin_Finck> let's consider this when planning for next Hackfest begins
[16:30] Danny_Goette has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[16:30] <Colin_Finck> Ah, hi Danny!
[16:30] <Matthias_Kupfer> do we want to vote for the events next year?
[16:31] <Matthias_Kupfer> Does anyone insist of a vote?
[16:31] <Colin_Finck> I doubt anybody can definitely say yet if he can or cannot make it to an event
[16:31] <Christoph_von_Wittich> vote? doesn't make sense
[16:31] <Colin_Finck> so not sure what we shall vote about
[16:32] <Matthias_Kupfer> okay, so we all agree to attend at least the events we attend all the years (ans still exist)
[16:32] <Colin_Finck> I think if nobody has any more questions, this point is clear
[16:32] <Colin_Finck> and we will later plan attending events together with all project members
[16:32] <Colin_Finck> it should just be emphasized that events next year will be very important to us, considering that the 0.4 release will be out by then
[16:33] <Matthias_Kupfer> good point, but we should have some time betwwen relase and presentation if there are some issues left
[16:34] <Matthias_Kupfer> release and presentation shouldn't be to close
[16:34] <Daniel_Reimer> indeed
[16:34] <Colin_Finck> release is loosely planned to occur around Christmas
[16:34] <Matthias_Kupfer> anyway, I would like to proceed to the next topic
[16:34] <Matthias_Kupfer> Colin how many students are currently under scholarschips?
[16:36] <Colin_Finck> one
[16:37] <Colin_Finck> as the 2014 report says, this model roughly ended by the end of last year
[16:37] <Colin_Finck> we simply didn't get any more people, who could work under the scholarship model
[16:38] <Colin_Finck> some of our developers would like to work on specific tasks and be financed through a scholarship
[16:38] <Colin_Finck> but either they require a real work contract instead of a scholarship (like some of our French-based people who asked)
[16:38] <Colin_Finck> or local laws would tax their scholarship till only half of the money is left (like it would happen with one of our Greece-based people)
[16:40] <Matthias_Kupfer> Therefore we have to make a more general decision about paid work in general
[16:40] <Colin_Finck> so if we want to financially support people working for ReactOS, we sooner or later have to issue real contracts or check how we deal with freelancers
[16:41] <Matthias_Kupfer> To fulfill all rules we don't have enough money right now, and reactos Deutschland e.V. as a employer is a real tough thing
[16:41] <Matthias_Kupfer> Are there any suggestions
 or ideas?
[16:42] <Daniel_Reimer> I really should check how some of our local e.V. are realizing that.
[16:42] <Colin_Finck> Matthias_Kupfer: special-order contracts (aka "Werkverträge") ?
[16:42] <Daniel_Reimer> One local Sportverein has employees afaik
[16:43] <Matthias_Kupfer> Colin_Finck: right, but as you know, there are quite controversial in Germany and a real mine field, but we'll not become a employer in the usual sense of the word
[16:43] <Colin_Finck> Matthias_Kupfer: or leaving up everything to IT freelancers, who simply bill us for their work?
[16:43] <Danny_Goette> we did that once in a local e.V. and our external accountant did most of the legal work for us
[16:44] <Matthias_Kupfer> Danny_Goette: employee?
[16:44] <Danny_Goette> yep
[16:45] <Matthias_Kupfer> okay, to sum up for the public, we can pretend to offer scholarships furthermore, but we know, they are almost dead now
[16:45] <Matthias_Kupfer> we can try to proceed with freelancers or we pay for the legal advices of an external accountant
[16:45] <Colin_Finck> well, everyone who contributes to ReactOS and would do that even more under a scholarship is still welcome to join that model of course
[16:46] <Colin_Finck> Matthias_Kupfer: so freelancers are okay? provided that they supply a correct invoice?
[16:46] <Matthias_Kupfer> yes, they are, we have to bere careful with the range of monay to spent, but in general, yes it's okay
[16:47] <Colin_Finck> perfect!
[16:48] <Matthias_Kupfer> let's start with a low profile, we are not intend to pay like a professional multinetional hight-tech company
[16:48] <Colin_Finck> we also cannot
[16:48] <Colin_Finck> but you have the financial data in the 2014 report
[16:49] <Colin_Finck> consider that this will probably be the report with most income for a long time (due to the fundraising campaign on Indiegogo)
[16:49] <Matthias_Kupfer> I mentioned that for clarification only, I already knew that for the current situation
[16:49] <Colin_Finck> 2015 has been a year with many expenses and low donation income so far
[16:49] <Colin_Finck> I hope the situation gets better with 0.4
[16:49] <Matthias_Kupfer> But we have acquired our first supporting memebr
[16:50] <Matthias_Kupfer> this year
[16:50] <Matthias_Kupfer> Colin_Finck: did we already get some money?
[16:50] <Colin_Finck> yes, we already got the money for a full year of supporting membership
[16:51] <Matthias_Kupfer> I encourage all of you to get some students involved e.g. operation system departments if possible
[16:51] <Colin_Finck> this gives us some steady income apart from donations
[16:52] <Matthias_Kupfer> and some donors make monthly donations via paypal
[16:52] <Matthias_Kupfer> this is a low, but steady income
[16:55] <Matthias_Kupfer> So, if anyone of you has some ideas regarding paid work/developmnet, please let us know, because we mustn't keep that amount money for several years (authorities regulation)
[16:55] <Matthias_Kupfer> and if you have some ideas please don't feel offended by any "No" or "But", because we have always to take the regulations into account
[16:56] <Matthias_Kupfer> So, then it's enough for this point and I can move on to the last one
[16:57] <Matthias_Kupfer> Has any adress or contact information been changed since our last assembly?
[16:57] <Colin_Finck> Not on my side
[16:57] <Danny_Goette> mine is probably outdated
[16:58] <Colin_Finck> certainly
[16:58] <Colin_Finck> please tell me in PM and I will update
[16:58] <Daniel_Reimer> Mine is still the same
[16:58] <Matthias_Kupfer> anyone alse?
[16:58] <Colin_Finck> Christoph_von_Wittich's as well, I just sent him a package ;)
[16:58] <Thomas_Faber> Yeah mine changed too, PMing you Colin_Finck
[16:59] <Matthias_Kupfer> We will use the @reactos.org e-mails furthermore, so e-mail shoudln't be an issue
[17:00] <Matthias_Kupfer> so, then I would like to thank you for being here and your time
[17:01] <Matthias_Kupfer> I hope you allow me a last wish, would it be very difficult to meet at least twice a your in virtual meetings
[17:01] <Matthias_Kupfer> one for the official stuff (general assembly) and one for preparing such stuff, events and planing
[17:02] <Daniel_Reimer> I dont see a problem in it. (Next time I might even manage to post the dates corrctly in my Google calendar...)
[17:02] <Timo_Kreuzer> mine is the same

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[17:02] <Matthias_Kupfer> both roughly equidistant from each other
[17:03] <Matthias_Kupfer> The unofficial one needs not a fixed invitation time, and we see this year it takes an hour only
[17:03] <Colin_Finck> yeah, let's do that
[17:03] <Timo_Kreuzer> I'm fine with that
[17:04] <Matthias_Kupfer> So, I would like to invite you around April/May next year at the latest for another meeting
[17:05] <Colin_Finck> ok
[17:05] <Colin_Finck> then that's it for today I think
[17:05] <Matthias_Kupfer> I meant "to meet at least twice a YEAR in virtual meetings"
[17:06] <Matthias_Kupfer> yes, anyone left with questions or suggestions or remarks?
[17:07] <Daniel_Reimer> Hm, noting to add from my side
[17:07] <Matthias_Kupfer> It deosn't seem to be the case, so I thank you for your time again and wish you a nice weekend
[17:08] <Timo_Kreuzer> bye
[17:11] <Daniel_Reimer> I wish a nice weekend to all attending, too. bye
[17:11] Christoph_von_Wittich has quit the server (Quit)
[17:11] Daniel_Reimer has quit the server (Quit)
[17:19] Matthias_Kupfer has left #generalassembly
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ReactOS Deutschland e.V.
Am Bach 11
33378 Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Germany
deutschland@reactos.org

Annual Report 2014

As stipulated in the Articles of Assocation of ReactOS Deutschland e.V., the Annual Report gives an overview of the work of the Association in the year 2014. It is separated into Activities, Outlook and Finances. The primary purpose of the Assocation lies in the support of the ReactOS Project. In 2014, the main tasks were:

- Presenting the project on popular exhibitions/events
- Organizing the largest fundraising campaign in the history of the project
- Awarding scholarships to eligible students working on ReactOS

Activities

The following annual activities, which directly contribute to the Association's purpose, are not presented in detail. These were in particular:

- Continued development on the operating system ReactOS and related components (like RosBE), also by non-members
- Receiving donations and managing the collected funds
- Accounting and managing the members

By the end of 2013, all legal requirements had been fulfilled to let ReactOS Deutschland e.V. award scholarships. The selection of potential candidates began in January 2014, resulting in the first scholarship being awarded in March. By supporting individual students working on ReactOS, the operating system greatly improved in substantial areas such as the Shell.

Two of Germany's largest Open-Source exhibitions, the Chemnitzer Linux-Tage and the LinuxTag Berlin, took place in the months of March and May. As every year, members of ReactOS Deutschland e.V. attended these events to represent the ReactOS Project there and introduce it to interested people.

In order to enable more financial support and get opinions from ReactOS supporters, the ReactOS Project launched a fundraising campaign on the Indiegogo platform in April. This happened in collaboration with ReactOS Deutschland e.V. By the end of the campaign in June, the total sum of 25,141$ had been raised. While the ultimate target of 50,000$ was not reached, this step generated much PR and greatly improved the financial situation of ReactOS Deutschland e.V.

Around June, Association member Christoph von Wittich got hold of a lot of

decommissioned laptops from his organization. These were shipped to various ReactOS developers to let them improve the hardware support of the operating system. ReactOS Deutschland e.V. supported this initiative by taking over the shipping costs.

In September, four members of ReactOS Deutschland e.V. attended the Kieler Linux-Tage exhibition for the first time. Although the number of visitors there was significantly lower compared to Chemnitz, Kieler Linux-Tage was a huge success for the project. Board members Daniel Reimer and Colin Finck delivered a detailed 45-minutes presentation of the project, which was recorded and published on various news websites. The meetup in Kiel was also used to work collaboratively on the ReactOS Project itself.

Another ReactOS contributor could be won for a scholarship in October. Both of our students supported by a scholarship successfully completed their ReactOS-related tasks by December. Due to a lack of time to work on subsequent tasks, these scholarships were mutually terminated by the end of the year.

While infrastructure investments represented a large part of the 2013 budget, none were planned for 2014. This changed around December though, when a central server of the Sweden data center failed. Due to technical reasons, the new server ordered in 2013 could not take over all of its tasks, so either a new server or a repair had to be tried. Although the failed server was from 2007 and therefore represented the oldest machine in that data center, the administrators decided for a repair. This decision resulted from the fact that spare parts were cheaply available and a new server would have involved additional setup work.

Outlook

The collaboration on ReactOS development at Kieler Linux-Tage showed that an exclusive development event could be highly beneficial for the project and its members. Therefore, it is planned to organize such an event in 2015, which exclusively focuses on advancing the project instead of merely presenting it to interested people.

Nevertheless the Association also looks forward to present ReactOS on popular exhibitions again.

Finances

Incomes

Donations:	24,917.93 €
Interests:	88.97 €
Unfinished account transfers from 2013:	201.11 €

Expenses

Travel expenses:	642.84 €
Notary and Tax consulting:	25.61 €
Advertising costs:	233.52 €
Infrastructure costs (Servers):	234.97 €
Infrastructure costs (Domains):	25.45 €
Infrastructure costs (Other):	105.46 €
Shipping costs:	143.88 €
Specific Research and Development Activities:	947.00 €
Scholarships:	10,764.00 €

Totals

Total incomes:	25,006.90 €
Total expenses:	13,122.73 €
Reserves from 2013:	14,840.07 €
Balance on 2014-12-31:	26,925.35 €

Matthias Kupfer (President of the Board)
Daniel Reimer (Vice President)
Colin Finck (Board Member/Treasurer)