Minutes of the General Assembly on 28th June, 2014

Minute taker: Colin Finck

The General Assembly of the Association “ReactOS Deutschland e.V.” took place in the internet (SSL secured IRC server) on 28th June, 2014 at 16:38 (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
- Timo Kreuzer
- Pierre Schweitzer
- Christoph von Wittich (from 17:22)

Summary of the decisions

- The Board has been discharged of its responsibilities.
- All three members of the Board were reelected and keep their positions.
- A possible participation at the “Kieler Open-Source und Linux-Tage” in Kiel, Germany on 19th and 20th September has been discussed with Timo Kreuzer, Daniel Reimer and Colin Finck being interested and checking further if they can make it. Additionally, the Association tries to attend more exhibitions in the next year, with FrOSCon in Bonn, Germany being one of them.
- The Association continues to present ReactOS to universities and interested companies to spread the word about the project.
- After the successful fundraising campaign, the Association seeks to provide more scholarships and check with a tax consultant what other ways are possible for enabling paid development.

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

Done at Aachen, 28th June, 2014
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 2013
LogBot has joined #generalassembly with voice status

VoteBot has joined #generalassembly with voice status

Thomas_Faber has joined #generalassembly with voice status

Pierre_Schweitzer has joined #generalassembly with voice status

Colin_Finck has joined #generalassembly with voice status

Pierre_Schweitzer: I’m surprised I’m the third one

Colin_Finck: D:

Colin_Finck: detected many German-isms in our IRC service in the last minute, so I had to tweak some things and resend an English mail

Colin_Finck: you certainly noticed ;)

Pierre_Schweitzer: Good thing Colin_Finck is that you got it working with SSL

Pierre_Schweitzer: We should move this to monthly meetings as well

Colin_Finck: It has always been working with SSL here, just always used a self-signed certificate so far

Colin_Finck: that was another thing I just fixed, it now uses the same *.reactos.org certificate we use throughout the website

Pierre_Schweitzer: I could see that yeah

Colin_Finck: I’m open to do that for monthly meetings as well. It’s just that some IRC clients still in use don’t support SSL....

Thomas_Faber: Fascinating... Church bells are ringing. Seems they know about the start of our meeting

Danny_Goette: hi

Colin_Finck: hi Danny!

Matthias_Kupfer has joined #generalassembly with voice status

Colin_Finck: hi Pierre

Pierre_Schweitzer: ok

Matthias_Kupfer: I reply by phoning them and it’s okay if I return the results of today back, just for your information

Matthias_Kupfer: Colin_Finck: ok

Colin_Finck: if you don’t support SSL... -o Really!!

Pierre_Schweitzer: And we can have both together, I guess?

Pierre_Schweitzer: I mean SSL + non-SSL?

Pierre_Schweitzer: Hey Danny

Colin_Finck: Pierre_Schweitzer: think I didn’t implement that

Colin_Finck: I think we have to wait at least for Daniel, haven’t we?

Colin_Finck: Matthias_Kupfer: we should

Colin_Finck: I’ll text him

Daniel_Reimer has joined #generalassembly with voice status

Daniel_Reimer: phone

Daniel_Reimer: Hi, sorry.

Colin_Finck: texting seems to work :D

Daniel_Reimer: You texted me?

Colin_Finck: just did

Daniel_Reimer: I was buying bbq stuff right now. Did not check the mobile yet

Pierre_Schweitzer: That’s nice to offer us BBQ ;-p

Matthias_Kupfer: So let’s wait the 3 minutes, otherwise we have to start once again

Pierre_Schweitzer: Feel free to join me ^^

Daniel_Reimer: Colin_Finck: Did not get a message

Matthias_Kupfer: Does anyone know, whether or not Christoph will appear?

Colin_Finck: he sent me an unrelated E-Mail this morning

Colin_Finck: just gave him a heads-up on Skype, but no response yet

Matthias_Kupfer: okay, then let’s start

Daniel_Reimer: Alright

Matthias_Kupfer: I welcome you to our yearly general assembly. It’s the first one held in English due to our foreign members

Matthias_Kupfer: If there is some lag I’m looking for words in the dictionary...

Daniel_Reimer: Same here....

Timo_Kreuzer: thanks to Thomas :)

Matthias_Kupfer: before we start with the announced topics I would like to inform you, that the court sent me a letter and asks if the board is still in charge

Colin_Finck: ok?

Colin_Finck: The board?

Matthias_Kupfer: I reply by phoning them and it’s okay if I return the results of today back, just for your information

Colin_Finck: ok

Matthias_Kupfer: so, now let’s start with the planned topics

Matthias_Kupfer: For the annual report I would like to handover to (Colin

Matthias_Kupfer: I hope everybody has read the Annual Report I sent by E-Mail


Colin_Finck: if not, please get a short overview now as this will be the base for discharging the Board in the next step

Colin_Finck: if there are any questions concerning the report, don’t hesitate to ask

Matthias_Kupfer: No questions from my side

Matthias_Kupfer: I suggest that everyone say okay, so that we don’t need to wait to long, here is my okay

Thomas_Faber: Okay

Danny_Goette: okay

Pierre_Schweitzer: okay

Colin_Finck: I hope that everybody knows what “discharging the responsibilities of the Board” means

Colin_Finck: this is directed especially at Pierre_Schweitzer, because the others already did so in the last General Assemblies

Pierre_Schweitzer: Yup

Matthias_Kupfer: Fine

Colin_Finck: then I’ll set up a vote

Colin_Finck: I have set up a vote and I’m asking all participating members in private messages now.

Colin_Finck: Excluded from voting:

Colin_Finck: Colin_Finck

Colin_Finck: Daniel_Reimer
Colin_Finck: The vote is over. Here are the results!

<VoteBot>: Question: Do you agree with discharging the responsibilities of the Board? (For German authorities: ’Sprechen Sie dem Vorstand Entlastung aus’?)

<VoteBot>: Answers:

<VoteBot>: Total number of votes: 4
<VoteBot>:    No - 1 votes
<VoteBot>:    Yes - 2 votes
<VoteBot>:    Abstention - 1 votes

<VoteBot>: Excluded from voting:

<Matthias_Kupfer> Uh, I think it’s a majority, which is what counts
<Daniel_Reimer> apart from that, this means the board isn’t discharged

<Thomas_Faber> Hmm
<Matthias_Kupfer> Abstention counts as No
<Daniel_Reimer> ah
<Matthias_Kupfer> Uh, ok
<Matthias_Kupfer> And how do we proceed here?
<Colin_Finck> Colin_Finck: what’s to do in such case?
<Timo_Kreuzer> you’re all fired :-(
<Daniel_Reimer> Maybe someone should have said that before
<Matthias_Kupfer> Like what happens in case of Abstention
<Colin_Finck> well, we currently need to find out what’s proposed for this case. This definitely comes as a surprise...

<Colin_Finck> maybe it was a “mistake”, so we could explain it again, and redo the vote?
<Colin_Finck> well, only if the person publicly speaks up here
<Pierre_Schweitzer> Ah yes :x. My mistake, I misread options
<Pierre_Schweitzer> (hum)
<Pierre_Schweitzer> Colin_Finck, properly sort your vote options :p
<Timo_Kreuzer> or we wait for Christoph
<Colin_Finck> with Abstention being 0, Yes being 1, No being 2
<Pierre_Schweitzer> yup
<Pierre_Schweitzer> But I swapped No & yes
<Pierre_Schweitzer> Read too fast :-(
<Pierre_Schweitzer> (No being closer to Abstention in my mind :-()
<Colin_Finck> ok
<Thomas_Faber> Do we vote about voting again? :D
<Colin_Finck> Matthias_Kupfer, Daniel_Reimer: I think we can redo the vote then, ok?
<Matthias_Kupfer> yes, try again
<Timo_Kreuzer> can we wait for Christoph?
<Timo_Kreuzer> he might join in a minute
<Thomas_Faber> Did he say so?
<Matthias_Kupfer> Colin_Finck: Timo_Kreuzer: Do you know he will come?
<VoteBot>: Colin_Finck has set up a vote and I’m asking all participating members in private messages now.
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<VoteBot>: Question: Do you agree with discharging the responsibilities of the Board? (For German authorities: ’Sprechen Sie dem Vorstand Entlastung aus’?)

<VoteBot>: Answers:

<VoteBot>: Abstention - 0 votes
<VoteBot>: Yes - 4 votes
<VoteBot>: No - 0 votes
<VoteBot>: Total number of votes: 4
<Thomas_Faber> Much better. Thanks to the board members for their good work.
<Colin_Finck> thank you all, this saved our day! :)
(Matthias_Kupfer) okay, thank you
<Daniel_Reimer> hmm
<Christoph_von_Wittich> has joined #generalassembly with voice status
<Christoph_von_Wittich> hello
<Colin_Finck> ah, hello Christoph!
(Matthias_Kupfer) Christoph_von_Wittich: hello
<Christoph_von_Wittich> hi
<Christoph_von_Wittich> sorry, have to take care of the baby ate,
<Colin_Finck> so, next point might be a little tricky
<Christoph_von_Wittich> Board has just been discharged of its responsibilities with 4 Yes votes
<Christoph_von_Wittich> ok
<Matthias_Kupfer> Who wants to run for board election?
<Matthias_Kupfer> we have to elect the board every 3 years and this year we have to do so
<Matthias_Kupfer> Are there any volunteers?
<Daniel_Reimer> Can I volunteer for my Vice status again?
<Colin_Finck> Or is it up to the number of votes that I am Nr 2?
<Colin_Finck> charter says, we first elect Board members and then assign the positions to them
<Daniel_Reimer> ok
<Colin_Finck> not based on votes, but by internal Board decision
<Colin_Finck> I’ll run for a Board position again as well
<Colin_Finck> and I guess Matthias too
<Daniel_Reimer> Me too
<Colin_Finck> any other candidates?
<Daniel_Reimer> Anyone else?
<Daniel_Reimer> Otherwise say, no
<Matthias_Kupfer> Is there anyone interested in, otherwise I will candidate again
<Timo_Kreuzer> no
<Christoph_von_Wittich> no, I don’t have any time left for this
<Thomas_Faber> No interest
<Matthias_Kupfer> then Colin setup the vote for the reelection of the board
<Pierre_Schweitzer> no
<Colin_Finck> good that we’re small enough to ask everybody here :)
<Colin_Finck> and Timo, Daniel and me will talk about Kieler Open-Source and Linux Days in the upcoming days.

<Timo_Kreuzer> I would attend, but I don't know if I have much time for organizing.

<Daniel_Reimer> I think it would be fine to attend there. Problem is as always... the time. I have no real yes regarding my holidays yet.

<Timo_Kreuzer> Matthias_Kupfer: If you have time and are willing to present ReactOS there?

<Matthias_Kupfer> Do we want to attend the Kieler Open-Source and Linux Days 2014?

<Colin_Finck> Here is the date and place please:


<Colin_Finck> so all 3 board members are reelected.

<Colin_Finck> I'll take over the Treasurer position again.

<Colin_Finck> No objections against that.

<Matthias_Kupfer> pro

<Colin_Finck> perfect

<Matthias_Kupfer> Matthias_Kupfer, you want to proceed?

<Matthias_Kupfer> Formal part of the agenda seems to be over now :)

<Matthias_Kupfer> Do we want to attend the Kieler Open-Source and Linux Tage 2014?

<Colin_Finck> taking place 19. + 20. September 2014

<Matthias_Kupfer> And if so, Timo Kreuzer do you have time and are willing to present ReactOS there?

<Colin_Finck> two more to go.


<Colin_Finck> Bonn is very close to my place.

<Daniel_Reimer> South I mean

<Colin_Finck> It's 6 days before an important exam... but hey :)

<Matthias_Kupfer> I'm guessing that depends on whether Timo finds time for it. I would potentially come, but don't really want to organize.

<Colin_Finck> definitely

<Pierre_Schweitzer> This should give us high visibility.

<Colin_Finck> I've been to the biggest event in France: RML2014

<Pierre_Schweitzer> Which is quite a major success for ReactOS.

<Pierre_Schweitzer> this should give us high visibility.

<Colin_Finck> I'm talking about the biggest events over the year in Germany.

<Colin_Finck> definitely

<Pierre_Schweitzer> So far, we are only represented in March and May only in the East of Germany (Chemnitz and Berlin).

<Colin_Finck> would be great to grow bigger and be present at more exhibitions throughout the year in other areas of Germany and Europe.

<Daniel_Reimer> Sad we have no Linux days in the east here.

<Colin_Finck> South I mean

<Colin_Finck> I would attend, but I don't know if I have much time for organizing.

<Matthias_Kupfer> Colin_Finck: be fair, both are the biggest events over the year in Germany.

<Matthias_Kupfer> definitely

<Pierre_Schweitzer> While we're at it, Pierre_Schweitzer, are there any big interesting exhibitions in France we have to join?:)

<Pierre_Schweitzer> So far, I'm having a talk to the biggest event in France: RML2014.

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<Matthias_Kupfer> I suggest to provide more scholarships if possible.

<Colin_Finck> I suggest to do a little more research and align with several regulations.

<Colin_Finck> Amine recently presented a nice candidate to me, but he needs a real job to conform with several regulations. The sum being paid as a scholarship can be another problem.

<Matthias_Kupfer> That's very complicated due to governmental and tax regulations.

<Colin_Finck> Even if some people would do excellent work for this amount, it's still a bad hourly wage.

<Colin_Finck> We just can't achieve all of this with 897 EUR/month.

<Colin_Finck> And regarding other projects, we were next to Mandriva and some BSD.

<Matthias_Kupfer> I feel like there wasn't as much traffic as the year before. But it's still worth it -- especially since we only brought laptops, which made setup and teardown really easy.

<Thomas_Faber> But 2 people should be the absolute minimum.

<Matthias_Kupfer> Next time everyone's going to appear with the same Dell D531 thanks to Christoph_von_Wittich! :D

<Matthias_Kupfer> Colin_Finck: I expect a large increase after the campaign.

<Colin_Finck> To give you an idea: We're at 34700 EUR now!

<Colin_Finck> But the reality is much different after our fundraising campaign this year.

<Colin_Finck> German regulations regarding them.

<Colin_Finck> And ravelo if anybody still remembers him.

<Daniel_Reimer> According to him, yes.

<Matthias_Kupfer> Let's give it a try in Germany. It would be nice if we had some preparation.

<Matthias_Kupfer> I suggest to contact universities (operating system groups) for thesis and similar stuff to combine public relation and unpaid development.

<Colin_Finck> I might be able to write my Bachelor thesis about implementing a ReactOS component.

<Colin_Finck> Like Aleksey in Russia.

<Matthias_Kupfer> I suggest to give a look abroad --> Switzerland, Austria.

<Matthias_Kupfer> (almost) no languages problems.

<Colin_Finck> But just almost.

<Matthias_Kupfer> Johannes in Graz.

<Danny_Goette> frikk5, janderwald.

<Matthias_Kupfer> It's worth to attend LinuxTag in Berlin again next year, because they have changed a lot (as far as I have heard). Who was there this year?

<Colin_Finck> There is an old ROS presentation of Johannes (janderwald) and Alexander (ravelo) in our press-media SVN.

<Matthias_Kupfer> Matthias_Kupfer: Thomas Faber and me.

<Colin_Finck> Matthias_Kupfer: Are you the man I'm speaking about?

<Matthias_Kupfer> And regarding other projects, we were next to Mandriva and some BSD.

<Matthias_Kupfer> We collect donations and we try to pay some developer for specific implementation tasks, there are any ideas how to extend our.

<Matthias_Kupfer> activities.

<Matthias_Kupfer> ?

<Daniel_Reimer> Hmm.

<Matthias_Kupfer> I suggest to contact universities (operating system groups) for thesis and similar stuff to combine public relation and unpaid development.

<Colin_Finck> I might be able to write my Bachelor thesis about implementing a ReactOS component.

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<Matthias_Kupfer> I suggest to get the user in this, but let's move on to the paid activities, Colin_Finck can you give us a short overview?

<Colin_Finck> Christoph_von_Wittich could shortly present ReactOS to a German network equipment manufacturer (whose name I don't want to state here, as this log is going to be published in public).

<Colin_Finck> Christoph_von_Wittich: or is "shortly present" already exaggerated?

<Colin_Finck> It's in Germany. It can get a lot of traffic, even if it doesn't work, so what.

<Matthias_Kupfer> at least, I made the experience that my university can rather throw stuff away than giving it away.

<Matthias_Kupfer> According to him, yes.

<Matthias_Kupfer> I tried with my university, not much success.

<Matthias_Kupfer> People don't really get the challenge behind.

<Matthias_Kupfer> Pretty poor French mind state.

<Matthias_Kupfer> 'OH! Unpaid? Let's don't do it'.

<Tom_Kreuzer> Pay them in 'roscorns'.

<Matthias_Kupfer> Being able to write my thesis about ReactOS is the most thing I could get out of my university, this is not official yet though. My lecturer already uses a simple self-written operating system for demonstration purposes, ROS is already too big for this task.

<Matthias_Kupfer> Gluing and getting material support from universities is also no option due to their policies.

<Matthias_Kupfer> I suggest to give a try in Germany and if it doesn't work, so what.

<Colin_Finck> I was focusing on Microsoft Windows things without signing a NDA.

<Matthias_Kupfer> At least, I made the experience that my university can rather throw stuff away than giving it away.

<Thomas_Faber> Can a guy at my uni's OS group as well. Though they have way more many topics for students to choose from already. :D

<Colin_Finck> Thomas Faber: that would be great!

<Matthias_Kupfer> Spreading the word can result in many things.

<Matthias_Kupfer> What the foundation can also try is attracting interested companies in ReactOS, even at its current state.

<Matthias_Kupfer> Interested companies? We know some!

<Matthias_Kupfer> We already get a few company donations from time to time.

<Matthias_Kupfer> Pierre_Schweitzer: oh, great.

<Matthias_Kupfer> Okay, I would like to keep an eye on this, but let's move on to the paid activities, Colin_Finck can you give us a short overview?

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<Matthias_Kupfer> Okay, I would like to keep an eye on this, but let's move on to the paid activities, Colin_Finck can you give us a short overview?
Colin_Finck: people who can work for the same hourly wage, but need this money denoted as a salary of a real job

Matthias_Kupfer: In general I don’t think we can handle this on a employer basis, maybe self-employed people are possible

Matthias_Kupfer: otherwise it’s to complicated

Matthias_Kupfer: Are you 100% sure there is absolutely no option for us to function as an employer? Can you check this with your tax consultant?

Colin_Finck: even if these advices can be costly, we’re sitting on much money now, which makes it worthy in my and Amine’s opinion

Matthias_Kupfer: There is an option, but it’s a effort, I can’t believe it’s that worth

Matthias_Kupfer: Pierre_Schweitzer: yes

Colin_Finck: Matthias_Kupfer: even if it’s an effort, I like to have all details written down

Colin_Finck: you once suggested that matrix where we check what our candidate is (student, freelancer, etc.) and how we can pay him for ROS development

Colin_Finck: so far, we only have the student -> scholarship option

Matthias_Kupfer: Colin_Finck: I don’t mean the effort regarding the tax consultant but the effort for organizing the job itself

Matthias_Kupfer: bear in mind we have to alter the constitution as well for this ways

Matthias_Kupfer: Some of the complicated work for job contracts and their regulations might be doable by consulting companies as well

Colin_Finck: I talked with some guys from FSFE and The Document Foundation (both German) and they told me about it

Colin_Finck: in general, we need more options in this matrix to pay people for development work

Colin_Finck: and well, if charter changes are necessary again, we can decide them here

Colin_Finck: Okay, the tax consultant becomes mother within the next weeks, I will ask as soon as possible

Colin_Finck: let’s just start somewhere

Colin_Finck: perfect

Colin_Finck: Matthias_Kupfer: I don’t want to start with a new consultant

Matthias_Kupfer: Colin_Finck: just wanted to ask, if you think it’s worth trying out other consultants at my or Daniel’s side

Colin_Finck: if that could speed up things

Colin_Finck: you once suggested that matrix

Matthias_Kupfer: Colin_Finck: don’t really know how much a regular tax consultant is into writing actual job contracts and dealing with issues from the employer’s side

Matthias_Kupfer: even for a paid job, we have to consider 30k€ hold out only 10 month

Daniel_Reimer: 30k€

Matthias_Kupfer: Colin_Finck: depends on the salary we propose

Daniel_Reimer: yeah I know, but we don’t have that much

Colin_Finck: and some jobs may be short time

Matthias_Kupfer: And I will not allow, that we spend all the money in a salary

Daniel_Reimer: read up

Daniel_Reimer: Oh oops, I got it

Matthias_Kupfer: So we can talk this outside the general assembly - I will ask and we have to talk about the required modifications of the constitution

Colin_Finck: ok

Matthias_Kupfer: after that we have to make a new assembly for the changes and can go into details

Colin_Finck: guess if there are any more questions regarding this, someone would have spoken up already

Matthias_Kupfer: so, we can finally move to the last topic, any address changes to announce?

Thomas_Faber: no change

Danny_Goette: no change

Daniel_Reimer: nope

Christoph_von_Wittich: no change

Matthias_Kupfer: Colin_Finck: you have a real postal address of all (including Pierre)?

Colin_Finck: yes

Matthias_Kupfer: Pierre_Schweitzer: any address change?

Pierre_Schweitzer: nope

Matthias_Kupfer: Fine, so the topics of the agenda are completed, any further things that are need to be discussed?

Colin_Finck: think we’re done

Daniel_Reimer: Think so too.

Matthias_Kupfer: It doesn’t seem so, the thank you all for your apperance, I wish you a nice weekend and we will meet again next year

Daniel_Reimer: Thx.

Colin_Finck: or when the constitution needs to be changed sooner ;)

Matthias_Kupfer: Colin_Finck, Daniel_Reimer: I will send back the court letter with, the board remains unchanged

Colin_Finck: ok, IRC Server will be closed now

Christoph_von_Wittich has quit the server (Quit)

Daniel_Reimer: cya

Thomas_Faber has quit the server (Quit)
Annual Report 2013

As stipulated in the Articles of Association of ReactOS Deutschland e.V., the Annual Report gives an overview of the work of the Association in the year 2013. It is separated into Activities, Outlook and Finances. The primary purpose of the Association lies in the support of the ReactOS Project. In 2013, the main tasks were:

- Presenting the project on popular exhibitions/events
- Financing and maintaining the server infrastructure of all project services

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

The ReactOS Project has been represented at two exhibitions in 2013, namely the Chemnitzer Linux-Tage in March and the LinuxTag in May. This required preparing custom ReactOS CDs for merchandising and installing the software on laptops of booth staff.

An old sponsored server in our Sweden data center failed in the middle of the year. Instead of going with another decommissioned computer, we decided to invest some of the collected funds from last year into a major infrastructure upgrade in Sweden. This resulted in another brand-new server along with a managed switch. The new server features redundant and remotely manageable components along with an exclusive usage of solid-state drives. It is also equipped with six cores and 32GB of RAM (with upgrade possibilities) to be able to take over the work of other servers in case they suddenly fail. All in all, the new hardware increases the performance and reliability of our online services while reducing the risk of failures.

In March, the foundation began to work out procedures for awarding scholarships in collaboration with a tax consulting firm. This required us to write and agree on official Financial Regulations for the foundation as well as guidelines for awarding scholarships. Finally, some changes to the charter were necessary, which have been approved in the General Assembly in December.
Outlook

As all requirements for awarding scholarships have been fulfilled by the end of the year, the foundation seeks to grant scholarships to suitable candidates in 2014. This will further the development even more, particularly in difficult areas such as the shell.

Additionally, the project will be represented at popular events again, like the Chemnitzer Linux-Tage or LinuxTag in Berlin.

Finances

Incomes
Donations: 2871.19 €
Interests: 79.56 €

Expenses
Travel expenses: 296.10 €
Notary and Tax consulting: 221.64 €
Infrastructure costs (Servers): 5069.32 €
Infrastructure costs (Domains): 14.55 €
Bank fees: 2.48 €
Other exhibition costs: 105.20 €
Shipping costs: 14.75 €
Unfinished account transfers: 201.11 €

Reserves from 2012: 17814.47 €
Balance on 2013-12-31: 14840.07 €