

Minutes of the General Assembly on 17th December, 2020

Minute taker: Colin Finck



ReactOS Deutschland e.V.
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The General Assembly of the Association “ReactOS Deutschland e.V.” took place in the internet (TLS-secured IRC server) on 17th December, 2020 at 20:00 (local German time).

Attendant members

- Matthias Kupfer (President of the Association)
- Daniel Reimer (Vice President of the Association)
- Colin Finck (Treasurer)
- Mark Jansen
- Amine Khaldi

Summary of the decisions

- ReactOS Deutschland e.V. seeks to attend FOSDEM and Chemnitzer Linux-Tage in 2021, even if they only happen as virtual events due to the ongoing pandemic.
- Daniel Reimer is going to use these opportunities to hold short presentations about ReactOS.
- The Board has been discharged of its responsibilities.

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

Aachen, 17th December, 2020

For the correctness of the minutes

(signed Colin Finck)
(Minute taker)

(signed Matthias Kupfer)
(President)

Attachments

- Automatically created IRC Log of the General Assembly
- Annual Report 2019

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.

[16:16] LogBot has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[16:16] VoteBot has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[16:22] Colin_Finck has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[16:59] Mark_Jansen has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[18:37] Daniel_Reimer has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[18:41] Matthias_Kupfer has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[18:45] Amine_Khalidi has joined #generalassembly with voice status
[18:45] <Amine_Khalidi> Hi everyone!
[18:45] <Daniel_Reimer> :waves:
[18:45] <Colin_Finck> Hi Amine_Khalidi! Nice to see that you made it :)
[18:45] <Amine_Khalidi> thanks :)
[18:45] <Amine_Khalidi> how's everyone doing?
[18:46] <Colin_Finck> pretty ok considering the overall situation
[18:46] <Daniel_Reimer> Still fine, still no Corona and happily sitting in lockdown. So... Well I guess ^^
[18:46] <Amine_Khalidi> just a few more months, let's hang in there!
[18:46] <Colin_Finck> let's hope it's just a few more months..
[18:48] <Matthias_Kupfer> Hi all
[18:48] <Daniel_Reimer> Hii
[19:00] <Colin_Finck> Christoph is expected to join in a few seconds
[19:00] <Colin_Finck> then we can start I guess
[19:00] <Colin_Finck> deviating just a little from our usual 15-minute rule ;)
[19:02] <Mark_Jansen> hi
[19:03] <Daniel_Reimer> 'lo
[19:03] <Colin_Finck> let's already start with the basic stuff at this point. Christoph is still having technical trouble :(
[19:03] <Matthias_Kupfer> So, now I want to welcome you to our general assembly 2020
[19:04] <Matthias_Kupfer> for the late people let's move the first two points of the agenda to the end or at least to later
[19:04] <Matthias_Kupfer> Therefore lets now start with presentation of the activities
[19:05] <Matthias_Kupfer> I would like to start with 2 remarks: the tax office was unable to address our "issues" this year for very obvious reasons
[19:06] <Matthias_Kupfer> but in the most recent appointment (this month) I clarified, that we are not in any danger situation so far
[19:06] <Matthias_Kupfer> due to the covid-19 situation I don't expect any further notice, because foundations have trouble all over the country (and over the world)
[19:06] <Daniel_Reimer> Explain issues please. I guess you mean income vs money spent?
[19:07] <Matthias_Kupfer> issues, means we got a small hint, that we have to spend more money for the goals of the foundation and we cannot save that amount of money for a longer time
[19:08] <Daniel_Reimer> I see.
[19:08] <Daniel_Reimer> So the two paid freelancers are a good start I hope...
[19:08] <Colin_Finck> exactly
[19:09] <Matthias_Kupfer> anyway, we are quite safe so far, and I'm aware of it and track any possibilities for a new appointment if the tax office is free for such low prio stuff (related to the life threatening business issues of other clients)
[19:09] <Colin_Finck> I would love to talk more about 2020, because this was a very interesting year for the project in many senses
[19:09] <Colin_Finck> however, 2020 is not over yet, so I only have an Annual Report 2019 for you
[19:10] <Colin_Finck> hope you have all read that one
[19:10] <Matthias_Kupfer> the next point is that our annual report for 2020 is going to be very short due to the current situation and the chemnitz linux days will take place in a very different and still not exactly known way
[19:10] <Daniel_Reimer> If we continue to pay devs on freelance base, we will be fine quite soon. They cost quite some money
[19:10] <Colin_Finck> exactly
[19:11] <Colin_Finck> I'm honestly already thinking about the point when we need to "refuel" our foundation bank account
[19:11] <Matthias_Kupfer> okay, so I'll not talk about 2020, nevertheless we should discuss if we want to take part on events which we don't know how they take place
[19:11] <Matthias_Kupfer> CLT is one of them so far
[19:11] <Daniel_Reimer> Matthias_Kupfer I got the news with interest, I still think participating is a good idea. Of course a final decision can not be done until we get a final plan what will be done
[19:11] <Mark_Jansen> FOSDEM for 2021
[19:12] <Matthias_Kupfer> those are my two points
[19:12] <Colin_Finck> that point is nowhere close, but with 2 freelancers hired in 2020, and certainly continuing in 2021, our monetary reserves are also limited
[19:13] <Colin_Finck> I think the Annual Report 2020 will also talk a bit about our micro-Hackfests via Zoom. I think this year has shown that people everywhere can get very creative when the outside circumstances require it
[19:13] <Colin_Finck> anyway, I'll also stop talking about 2020 now
[19:14] <Colin_Finck> 2019 was a very normal year for ReactOS Deutschland e.V. again, as you have hopefully read in the Annual Report
[19:15] <Colin_Finck> we attended open-source exhibitions, we participated in Google Summer of Code, and we awarded a scholarship
[19:15] <Colin_Finck> are there any questions regarding the 2019 Annual Report?
[19:15] <Mark_Jansen> none from me
[19:15] <Colin_Finck> for the record, here is the URL again: https://ev.reactos.org/temp/Annual_Report_2019.pdf
[19:15] <Daniel_Reimer> Not from my side.
[19:15] <Amine_Khalidi> none from me
[19:16] <Colin_Finck> ok
[19:17] <Colin_Finck> I'm afraid we need to carry on with the votes at some point, and I still hope for Christoph and/or Thomas to join by that time
[19:18] <Colin_Finck> so let's complete the remaining agenda points first:
[19:18] <Colin_Finck> - Presentation of all foundation activities and plans for the future (current projects etc.)
[19:18] <Colin_Finck> - Possibly discussion about current and future paid development activities
[19:18] <Colin_Finck> now it's time to talk about 2020 again, and even 2021 :)
[19:19] <Daniel_Reimer> Perfect. I write my text right now
[19:19] <Colin_Finck> we have managed to hire 2 freelancers this year, and bizarrely I think the unprecedented situation that faced the world this year made our offers very attractive
[19:20] <Colin_Finck> not many organizations were that well prepared for remote work and had funds to spend in 2020
[19:20] <Daniel_Reimer> I got the news with interest that CLT will be different next year, it will be online. I have no clue yet what this will mean as noone has right now (As Matthias already mentioned) but I still think participating is a good idea. Of course a final decision can not be done until we get a final plan what will be done and is planned for the event
[19:20] <Daniel_Reimer> (sorry, didnt want to interfere)
[19:21] <Matthias_Kupfer> May I say something regarding CLT now or later
[19:21] <Colin_Finck> We are looking forward to keep the freelancers in 2021, and maybe if the word spreads, we may get even more requests
[19:21] <Daniel_Reimer> I ran into Colin_Finck's talk, so I would say a lil later. ^^
[19:22] <Colin_Finck> I'm pretty sure the financial authorities will no longer ask us to spend more money after that
[19:22] <Mark_Jansen> well, that is at least one good thing to come out of 2020 ;)
[19:23] <Colin_Finck> but due to that, we should also think about fundraising at some point
[19:23] <Colin_Finck> the last thing I want to do is losing our freelancers due to monetary concerns
[19:24] <Daniel_Reimer> A nice win:win situation. ReactOS develops in a speed like almost never under normal circumstances and the authorities will be happy.

[19:24] <Colin_Finck> well, this is basically what I have to say about the current situation. I haven't thought out this fundraising in detail yet, but I remember that we managed to organize several successful fundraisers in the past

[19:26] <Colin_Finck> Daniel_Reimer: you want to continue?

[19:26] <Daniel_Reimer> Yes. One sec

[19:28] <Daniel_Reimer> Well, this year was special as we all know, so regarding that year's events I can not say very much except the lil online hackfest we had. Was really nice and fun. Regarding next year (2nd time, sry for inferfering): I got the news with interest that CLT will be different next year, it will be online. I have no clue yet what this will mean as noone has right now (As Matthias already

[19:28] <Daniel_Reimer> mentioned) but I still think participating is a good idea. Of course a final decision can not be done until we get a final plan what will be done and is planned for the event. AND now I am done and Matthias_Kupfer can tell his ideas to it

[19:29] <Matthias_Kupfer> okay, so we held a lecture at CLT some years ago (with Aleksey), as long as I don't expect any "live" activities on site, we should think about a short video lecture in 2021

[19:30] <Matthias_Kupfer> I prefer a funny one, to take the situation not that serious, it can be a meta lecture about the development process in these days or so

[19:30] <Colin_Finck> yeah, it's really time for more ReactOS presentations

[19:31] <Matthias_Kupfer> we should not count on a booth next year, because this will most likely not happen

[19:31] <Mark_Jansen> Speaking of presentations, we would also need some video material for FOSDEM 2021, they have presented plans for an online event.

[19:31] <Mark_Jansen> I mentioned this on the mailing list (ros-dev) to see if there is interest in participating

[19:31] <Matthias_Kupfer> Daniel_Reimer: please submit an entry which is refrencing a short presentation or something like this instead of a live presentation

[19:32] <Colin_Finck> only lately I've figured out that visitors mostly come for the talks, not for the booths

[19:32] <Colin_Finck> even with our annual booths at FOSDEM, I'm pretty sure we are nearly invisible to many visitors

[19:33] <Mark_Jansen> yeah

[19:33] <Mark_Jansen> there are the yearly recurring visitors

[19:33] <Daniel_Reimer> Oh there are indeed

[19:33] <Daniel_Reimer> Matthias_Kupfer ok, registration is possible already?

[19:34] <Daniel_Reimer> We could sit down together with the FODEM team and make two presentations off it

[19:34] <Matthias_Kupfer> Daniel_Reimer: Yes, some submissions have been made

[19:35] <Daniel_Reimer> OK, on my weekend agenda then

[19:35] <Matthias_Kupfer> it's possible until 10th of january

[19:36] <Mark_Jansen> fosdem until dec 25th

[19:36] <Daniel_Reimer> OK, so I think both oppotunities should be used.

[19:37] <Matthias_Kupfer> fine with me, Daniel_Reimer if you have questions aks, because the options are a little bit different this year

[19:37] <Colin_Finck> I'm all for it, but I'm afraid someone else has to lead those opportunities. I'm all busy till the end of the year.. :(

[19:37] <Mark_Jansen> yeah I won't have any time to organize for fosdem

[19:38] <Mark_Jansen> merely noticed their mail and dropped it on the ML

[19:39] <Daniel_Reimer> I can lead CLT as I normally do. FOSDEM... never came in touch with it yet

[19:39] <Matthias_Kupfer> Mark_Jansen: are you able jsut to register, if you get all information?

[19:40] <Mark_Jansen> anyone is:

[19:40] <Mark_Jansen> <https://stands.fosdem.org/submission/>

[19:41] <Colin_Finck> I think someone here should register and we can outsource much of the work to the community, which is already maintaining our Twitter and YouTube presence

[19:42] <Matthias_Kupfer> okay, I think we can use almost the same content for both events

[19:42] <Colin_Finck> we always handed out the same flyer in English at FOSDEM and in German at CLT :D

[19:43] <Daniel_Reimer> SO a English and German presentation then ^^

[19:43] <Mark_Jansen> yeah, didnt' we deplete that pile at fosdem this year?

[19:43] <Colin_Finck> think so

[19:43] <Colin_Finck> finally time to update screenshots :)

[19:43] <Matthias_Kupfer> In worst case we just prepare a videe and submit this with a person availbale for the time of event for questions and handling

[19:43] <Colin_Finck> depending on the platform used, virtual events can be really cool

[19:44] <Colin_Finck> I've attended the Open Source Firmware Conference recently. They used <https://hopin.com>

[19:44] <Colin_Finck> tries to resemble the possibilities of a physical event as closely as possible

[19:44] <Daniel_Reimer> Never heard of it. Interesting

[19:45] <Matthias_Kupfer> who has already attended to FOSDEM in past

[19:46] <Colin_Finck> #ACTION puts his hand up#

[19:46] <Mark_Jansen> me

[19:47] <Colin_Finck> many project members actually, just not here today

[19:47] <Matthias_Kupfer> maybe we find someone to rgister and write a short text

[19:47] <Matthias_Kupfer> Or we jsut use the same text from CLT

[19:48] <Matthias_Kupfer> So Daniel_Reimer jsut fill in the data twice ;-)

[19:48] <Colin_Finck> yeah Daniel, finally your first FOSDEM! :D

[19:48] <Daniel_Reimer> But then the text needs to be done earlier... OK, I will try to fiddle something together the weekend

[19:48] <Daniel_Reimer> yaaaay, FOSDEM

[19:49] <Daniel_Reimer> :P

[19:49] <Colin_Finck> ok, I'm afraid we have discussed this topic to end and none of the remaining members are going to make it in time

[19:50] <Colin_Finck> only the vote regarding the discharge of the Board's responsibilities according to the Annual Report 2019 is left

[19:50] <Matthias_Kupfer> okay, so Mark_Jansen you mentioned that you are going to move this year

[19:50] <Matthias_Kupfer> has any address changed over the year?

[19:51] <Daniel_Reimer> No. (not mine at least)

[19:51] <Mark_Jansen> sadly, finding an affordable apartment here has proven to be a disappointment :(

[19:52] <Matthias_Kupfer> okay, so I summarize: all addresses are unchanged

[19:52] <Colin_Finck> seems so

[19:53] <Matthias_Kupfer> Then we have to come to point 2, or are there any questions to the annual report (elft)?

[19:53] <Matthias_Kupfer> *left

[19:54] <Mark_Jansen> not from me

[19:54] <Daniel_Reimer> No

[19:54] <Colin_Finck> ok, I'll set up the vote then

[19:55] <Matthias_Kupfer> If not we move to the discharge of the board, and today it's literally: every vote counts and can change the outcome

[19:55] <VoteBot> Colin_Finck has set up a vote and I'm asking all participating members in private messages now.

[19:55] <VoteBot> Excluded from voting:

[19:55] <VoteBot> Colin_Finck

[19:55] <VoteBot> Daniel_Reimer

[19:55] <VoteBot> Matthias_Kupfer

[19:56] <VoteBot> The vote is over. Here are the results!

[19:56] <VoteBot> Question: Do you agree with discharging the responsibilities of the Board? (in German: "Sprechen Sie dem Vorstand Entlastung aus?")

[19:56] <VoteBot> Answers:

[19:56] <VoteBot> Abstention - 0 votes

[19:56] <VoteBot> Yes - 2 votes

[19:56] <VoteBot> No - 0 votes

[19:56] <VoteBot> Total number of votes: 2

[19:56] <Colin_Finck> yaaaay! :)

[19:56] <Matthias_Kupfer> thank you, but it has to be pretty close

[19:56] <Daniel_Reimer> :D

[19:56] <Colin_Finck> Thanks a lot :)

[19:56] <Amine_Khalidi> :)

[19:56] <Mark_Jansen> close call ^^

[19:56] <Matthias_Kupfer> Are ther any more things to discuss here
[19:56] <Matthias_Kupfer> ?
[19:56] <Colin_Finck> ok, then the formal part of this year's General Assembly is basically over
[19:57] <Mark_Jansen> I think we can discuss informal things in mattermost
[19:57] <Daniel_Reimer> Time to head back to #meeting then ^^
[19:57] <Matthias_Kupfer> Daniel_Reimer: write me a message if you need some help
[19:57] <Colin_Finck> for next year, we should seek to get more ReactOS members to join ReactOS Deutschland e.V. and make it less lonely here ;)
[19:58] <Daniel_Reimer> Matthias_Kupfer will do if things become difficult :D
[19:58] <Daniel_Reimer> thx
[19:58] <Matthias_Kupfer> I wish you (nevertheless) a merry christmas and a happy new year, stay healthy and try to survive as comfortable as possible
[19:59] <Daniel_Reimer> Same from my side. Soon... I guess we get back to nomrall
[19:59] <Colin_Finck> it took us some time, but with all meetings being in English now, we can easily add non-German people as e.V. members
[19:59] <Mark_Jansen> same from me
[19:59] <Mark_Jansen> like me ;)
[19:59] <Colin_Finck> Board elections are also up for next year's General Assembly
[20:00] <Daniel_Reimer> Mark_Jansen I would no be surprised if you speak a better german than some ppl in bavaria do ^^
[20:00] <Mark_Jansen> I should be able to, but not really :(
[20:01] <Colin_Finck> with Pierre not making it today and being generally unavailable for ReactOS work these days, I don't expect him to run for a Board position again
[20:01] <Colin_Finck> so I'm pretty sure the Board is going to change again next year
[20:01] <Daniel_Reimer> We will see. Maybe he comes back sooner than expected
[20:02] <Colin_Finck> Looking at his current employment on LinkedIn, I doubt that he'll come back
[20:02] <Colin_Finck> anyway, this is not the place for rumors
[20:03] <Colin_Finck> just wanted to stress the fact that people can already start thinking about running for a Board position
[20:04] <Colin_Finck> if Pierre isn't up for reelection, we either need a new member to join the Board or reduce the Board to 3 members again
[20:05] <Daniel_Reimer> One year where things will happen, maybe there are few more members then and we are set.
[20:09] <Colin_Finck> ok, then that's it also from my side. Thanks for making it everybody, and happy holidays!
[20:09] <Daniel_Reimer> As already said, stay safe and corona free. See you over in Mattermost
[20:11] Daniel_Reimer has quit the server (End of file)
[20:12] <Mark_Jansen> o/
[20:12] Mark_Jansen has quit the server (Quit)
[20:12] <Amine_Khalidi> cheers!
[20:12] Amine_Khalidi has quit the server (Quit)



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Annual Report 2019

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 2019. It is separated into Activities, Outlook, and Finances. The primary purpose of the Association lies in the support of the ReactOS Project. In 2019, the main tasks were:

- Organizing the ReactOS Hackfest 2019
- Organizing the participation in Google Summer of Code
- Presenting the project on popular exhibitions/events

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

During the beginning of 2019, the ReactOS Project evaluated "Mattermost" as a modern alternative to the long-time IRC system used for project communication. While such big moves are never without frictions, the system was overall deemed to be better than IRC for ReactOS needs. Therefore, ReactOS Deutschland e.V. negotiated a special 3-year nonprofit license for Mattermost Enterprise Edition in March. The system is running smoothly since then.

Although ReactOS was not present at FOSDEM this year, project members again attended the Chemnitzer Linux-Tage in March to show off the latest developments. As every year, ReactOS Deutschland e.V. did its part to support ReactOS' presence at this event.

Around the same time, a former Google Summer of Code student and now active ReactOS developer also reached out to the Association regarding a scholarship. Due to his student status, detailed proposal, and proven track record of working on ReactOS, he was awarded a scholarship by ReactOS Deutschland e.V. The positive financial situation of the past years made it possible to easily finance that scholarship throughout the rest of the year. The Association would have had funds for even more scholarships, but due to the lack of suitable candidates, this one remained the only one in 2019.

From May through September, the ReactOS Project again participated in the annual Google Summer of Code event, where Google pays university students to work on selected Open-Source projects. Three students were accepted in 2019, with two of them completing their work successfully and delivering high-quality additions to ReactOS. Consequently, Google awarded \$4200 to the Association for successful completion of the program and covering the expenses of up to two people to the Mentor Summit. This opportunity was taken by two ReactOS mentors, who travelled to Munich in November and exchanged experiences with mentors of other open-source projects.

ReactOS Deutschland e.V. organized another ReactOS Hackfest in 2019, from 15th to 20th August. It took place in the same room as the previous year sponsored by IN-Berlin e.V., with a similar number of attendees. Due to the positive financial situation, the Association could cover accommodation and travel expenses of multiple attendees.

The Hackfest opportunity was also used to design and print new ReactOS merchandising for qualified project and Association members. Shirts for project members were last printed in 2010, hence most of the current members did not have any or only worn out ReactOS shirts. The new shirts and hoodies were well-received and we hope that they greatly improve the representation of ReactOS on exhibitions and conferences.

The overhauled ReactOS infrastructure from 2018 proved its reliability in 2019. The only notable change was the addition of another virtual machine for the new Mattermost collaboration service. Apart from that, the infrastructure mostly received regular maintenance.

Outlook

ReactOS Deutschland e.V. will continue to support the ReactOS Project in 2020. We are looking forward to present the project on multiple open-source exhibitions and hope to get accepted into the 2020 edition of Google Summer of Code. We are also going to extend our search for suitable candidates for scholarships and paid development.

After four successful Hackfests in Germany, the Association seeks to organize a Hackfest in a different country next year. This is expected to be an eastern European country due to the large ReactOS community in that region.

Finances

Incomes

Donations	14,632.41 €
Google Summer of Code Student Mentoring	3,736.92 €
Sale of Merchandising	442.80 €

Expenses

Scholarships	5,652.50 €
Travel expenses	4,812.75 €
Infrastructure costs (Servers)	2,027.90 €
Merchandising for Project and Association Members	739.37 €
Mattermost Enterprise Edition Nonprofit 3-year License	223.39 €
Currency Exchange Adjustment Posting	47.31 €
Bank fees	41.93 €
Infrastructure costs (Domains)	32.32 €
Shipping costs	26.99 €
Notary and tax consulting costs	20.00 €

Totals

Total incomes	18,812.13 €
Total expenses	13,624.46 €
Reserves from 2018	49,372.24 €
Balance on 2019-12-31	54,559.91 €

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