Portmgr — Behind the Scenes

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BSDCan

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Overview

- What is portmgr? (briefly)
- History
- Technical
- People
- Closing
### What is portmgr?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Ports Management Team is responsible for overseeing the overall direction of the Ports Tree, building packages, and personnel matters</td>
<td>portmgr owns all of Mk/ portmgr sets policies unilaterally</td>
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Twentieth anniversary of the FreeBSD Ports Tree (2014):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiFq5D-zmBs
Information from Kirill Ponomarev (krion®)

- create the packages for all releases on tinderbox,
- support and maintain pkg(8) and its predecessor in base,
- test all critical changes in ports/Mk before committing them.
was a package build tool written in PHP before its successor Poudrière was written in Shell
was run decentralized on hardware managed by volunteers, Poudrière is run centralized in the FreeBSD cluster
repository copies with CVS, mimicking Subversion
- tree locks (for preparing releases, or large updates like GNOME)
- no quarterly branches
- no public pre-built packages, except at release time
- no license framework
For ports themselves:

- no staging
- no USES (e.g. `kmod`, to abstract away common boiler plate code)
- no flavors (variations of the same port still restricted to FreeBSD, e.g. A4 vs letter or full-blown vs lightweight)
- imperative instead of declarative style
controlled at
https://www.freebsd.org/portmgr/charter/ by core
turned into a set of policies at
https://www.freebsd.org/portmgr/policies/
package building, documentation, security, legal aspects,
overall direction of the Ports Tree, arbitrate disputes related
to ports
automated tasks in the package building cluster for main and quarterly, for all supported FreeBSD releases + main on Tier 1 and some Tier 2 architectures

packages updates are built multiple times a week
People → Who is Who?

- Antoine Brodin (antoine@): package building, package cluster configuration
- Baptiste Daroussin (bapt@): pkg(8), framework, core@ liaison
- Bryan Drewery (bdrewery@): package building, poudriere(8), re@ liaison
- Mathieu Arnold (mat@): framework, documentation clusteradm@ liaison
- René Ladan (rene@): secretary, grim reaper, garbage collector
- Steve Wills (swills@): miscellaneous
- Tobias Berner (tcberner@): human resources, framework
- Luca Pizzamiglio (pizzamig@): lurker (trainee)
- Stefan Eßer (se@): lurker (trainee)

All the alumni: https://docs.freebsd.org/en/articles/contributors/#contrib-portmgralumni/
accounts: to notify about new/retiring developers aka committers
clusteradm: for hardware, e.g. package builders
re: to synchronize package sets for FreeBSD releases
core: above committer updates, but also ...
The core Team is a group of FreeBSD developers elected bi-yearly by active FreeBSD developers. They are the internal representation of the FreeBSD Project and communicate both "upwards" with the FreeBSD Foundation and "downwards" with delegate teams, such as portmgr.
People → Personnel Handling

- Voting on new committers and their mentors
- Safekeeping idle committers
- Welcoming back safekept committers
- people retire
- ask new people
- draw in new lurkers
Communication could be better — social media is high maintenance.

Split off into new teams (e.g. pkgmgr), otherwise re-organize?

Portmgr does have bi-weekly meetings since this year in which current various topics like affairs or designs are discussed.
Questions & Answers