The State of Icedove
DebConf15 - Heidelberg

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About me

- Carsten Schoenert
- born in 1971
- live and work in Bonn (Germany)
- active on Debian since 2011(?), before a simple User
- started on icedove-l10n, growing over to Icedove and more
Who is doing that all?

• Icedove has mostly 2 maintainers, Christoph Goehre and myself (sometimes Guido Guenther)
• all uploads done normally by Christoph
• there some more packages: localization files for Icedove and Iceowl-Extension
• preparation for experimental and sid mostly done by me, also package provisions for *-l10n (via own GitHub repositories)
• Christoph is doing security packaging work for Jessie and Wheezy
• Guido is helping if some debugging via GDB is needed
• also contributing persons like Mike Hommey, dkg, Philipp Kewish (Mozilla), …
Some numbers ...

- source tarball *.tar.bz2 around 195MB
- extracted source contains about 129,000 files and 800MB of space
- build time about 30min to 45min, depends on CPU power
- upstream release every 6 weeks
- since version 10 every 7th release is an ESR release (10, 17, 24, 38, (44,) ...)
- at least one overlapping old ESR release (38.0 and 31.7.0, 38.1.0 and 31.8.0), sometimes two overlapping versions
Where Icedove is come from?

- 09/2003 - started as 'mozilla-thunderbird’ by Alexander Sack (v0.2)
- 03/2006 - renamed to 'thunderbird’ (v1.5)
- 10/2006 - renamed again to 'icedove’ due trademark issues (v1.5.0.3)
- 2006..2009 lot of Debian specific enhancement done by Alexander (v2.0.22)
- 2009 takeover by Christoph and Guido as Alexander didn’t maintain very actively after v2.x, switch to git-buildpackage for package maintenance
- 2009..2015 many! improvements by the new maintainers
  - for example: .desktop file, localizations, man page, branding icons for Debian, dozens of patches for various platforms mostly from Mike Hommey, Big Thanks!
Icedove today

- installation rate around stable 15% (source popcon)
Popcorn Icedove absolut

![](image-url)
Popcorn Icedove procentual

icedove popcon graph

Jessie Release

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Icedove today

- we build iceowl-extension (aka Lightning) and calendar-google-provider as well from the source
- only few backport files, most parts are security related
- Mozilla prepares 58 locales for Icedove, shipped as additional packages icedove-l10n-[xx]
- since 38.0.1 there 58 locales too for Iceowl-extension (Lightning), shipped as additional packages iceowl-l10n-[xx]
- some important and useful additional packages around: enigmail, xul-ext-adblock-plus, xul-ext-compactheader, calendar-exchange-provider
- unfortunately Sunbird (aka Iceowl) is given up by Mozilla since 2013
Known issues/advantages

- lot of time is needed for platform related fixes and testing
- too few time for bug squashing and improvements
- communication to Mozilla is difficult, but it’s going slightly better now (restricted access to security things for example)
- we have to filter out some upstream files (non free graphics, minified JS, M$ related files)
- Icedove is already crashing sometimes (rare cases)
Known issues/advantages

- there are now two security versions to handle (Wheezy and Jessie), hopefully we can provide ESR versions 38.x for Wheezy
- icedove-dev/iceweasel-dev sharing a lot of files
- bug count constantly on higher level, lot of them should be reported upstream
- patch queue at stable count for quite some time/versions (see following graphic)
Debian Patch Count historical

Patch Count Icedove

Count

Icedove Version
Getting a new version to run

- download new tarball from Mozilla
- repack the tarball
- import into the git tree
- adopt the patch queue
- make debian specific adoptions
- build, testing ... testing, upload
Typical workflow new Icedove release

new upstream version

repack upstream source (debian/repack)

work on Debian specific things within debian/*

Try out a build ...

readjust import filter

running lintian (and piuparts)

git checkout [patchqueue/branch]
git rebase ...
gbp pq export

gbp pqq import [--timemachine]
gbp rebase [branch]
gbp pq export

gbp import-orig *.orig.xz

We can make a release!
In detail, platform support

- main platforms are working mostly, they are better and better supported by upstream
- the main devel time is needed for supporting kFreeBSD* and Hurd, now lower priority, but there is also mips* with funny errors
- arm[hf|64] is mostly working by upstream as Android running on it
- if possible we use preworked (patches) done by Mike
- for alpha, hppa, sh4 etc. we appreciate any help!
- x32 needs deeper changes in upstream source
In detail, upstream support

- important announcement from 8th July 2012 from Mozilla about upcoming management
- 2014 James Kent organized Toronto Thunderbird Summit to improve further work
- markable improvements visible now
- we can contact James Kent and QA Team directly, much better communication now
- visible work on old standing bugs (Maildir storage format), improved organization inside the Thunderbird team
- some old issues left like better LDAP support for address books and the CalDAV support
In detail, Bug reports

- A lot of bugs were being reported until 2012.
- Most of them could be closed, but had to be reviewed.
- Right now, the oldest bug is from March 2006, #357625 against version v1.5.
- Features such as LDAP integration and desktop notification were added.

![Bug count for Icedove](chart.png)
In detail, Bug reports

- lot of bugs were bit rotting until 2012
- most of them could be closed, but have to be reviewed
- right now the oldest bug is from March 2006 #357625 reported against version v1.5
- ... LDAP integration, Desktop notification, ...
What’s coming?

- no big changes right now, expect the switch GTK3
- Christoph is building Early Bird versions (Nightly Build)
- take a look at http://4949.de/~chris/shredder/
Help

- Icedove is build reproducible since 38.1.0-1 😊
- more time is now needed for security support (not only packages source: Icedove)
- no fixed release date, it’s around every six weeks
- many bugs need some loving (→ deeper review and testing → report issues upstream)
- update/rework the wiki page
- some platform related patches should go upstream
- digging out the rare crashes of Icedove (dkg already reported some information)
- integrate some autopkg tests for testing core functionality
Useful Links

- (old) PTS
  https://packages.qa.debian.org/i/icedove.html
- (new) Tracker
  https://tracker.debian.org/pkg/icedove
- Icedove Wiki page
  https://wiki.debian.org/Icedove
- Icedove Wiki page (development related)
  https://wiki.debian.org/Icedove/Devel
- My GitHub site
  https://github.com/tijuca
- Mail Archive TB Planning
  http://mail.mozilla.org/pipermail/tb-planning/
- Mozilla Wiki Thunderbird
  https://wiki.mozilla.org/Thunderbird
- FTP Archive of Thunderbird Releases
Thanks for attention!

Questions?

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