



RPMforge – Enterprise packages for RHEL and CentOS

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Once upon a time...

- ...there was Matthias Saou (FreshRPMS)
 - in the year of our Lord 1999: RH6.2 era
 - apt-rpm was the cool-aid and was a change of heart
- And then I entered in 2002 (Dag)
 - was doing packages for myself (RH5), but without “repositories” wasn't very useful (rpmfind/autorpm)
- And then Dries joined and took over Fedora Core packages in 2004
 - added games, KDE and lots and lots of perl packages



And it grew and grew...

- After FOSDEM 2004 we merged our packages
- The best thing that could have happened
- Matthias Saou still has FreshRPMS (add-ons for latest Fedora Core) and is a known Fedora contributor
- Dries builds the packages for all the later Fedora Core releases
- Dag builds for RH7.3, RH9 and RHEL releases

A rough timeline from memory



- 1999: FreshRPMS, about 50 src packages ?
- 2003: Dag joined, about 800 src packages
- 2004: RPMforge merge, 1700 src packages
- 2007: Now 3200 src packages



RPMforge today

- Pessimistic view
 - Website sucks (bad, bad website !)
 - Mailinglist works well enough
 - Feedback gets lost some of the time
 - After 5 years, still with 3 packagers (+ contributions)
 - Some SPEC files could use some love



RPMforge today

- Optimistic view
 - performance not bad
 - more than 3000 src packages in 4 years
 - more than 2 src packages a day every day
 - Consistent packages, perfect SPEC examples
 - Very large community, and a huge silent majority
 - Build for RH7, RH9, EL2.1, EL3, EL4 (and lots of FC)
 - Build for i386 and x86_64 (old sparc and ppc)
- Not bad for 3 guys with girlfriends



RPMforge today

- Optimistic view
 - pragmatic approach
 - no overhead (like bugzilla)
 - each of us have more than 5 years experience packaging, we know what works and what doesn't
 - SPEC files are made with maintainability in mind



RPMforge tomorrow

- Wiki pages replacing bad website
 - tell exactly what we provide and how it is being used
- Call for volunteers
 - reaching out to CentOS, RHEL, Scientific Linux, Whitebox communities
- Use the experience from CentOS and Fedora
 - use a proper build system, adapt what exists
 - bi-weekly meetings to drive development
 - empower community members to help out



Contributing to RPMforge

- Please join the mailinglists and start discussions
- Volunteer to help out, find soft spots
 - For wiki and documentation
 - Helping on the mailinglist
 - Help out packaging, testing and verifying
- Send us feedback, improvements, bugfixes, anything really



RPMforge and Fedora

- Mentality difference
 - Fedora: look forward, don't look back (bleeding edge)
 - RHEL: the past and the present (stable)
- Difference leads to problems
 - RPM functionality not backported
 - lowest common denominator
 - Yum using latest python
 - EL2.1 stuck with v1.0, EL3: v2.0, EL4: 2.4, EL5: 3.0
- Feels like different mentality going into RHEL development ?