AppDB:
Goals, Needs, and Rulez

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Goals

- Relevant compatibility information
- Test reports demonstrating progressions and regressions
- Installation guides and download links
- Technical information (bugs, related apps, system requirements, 3rd party components)
- Technical support

User Needs

- Compatibility information for their Wine environment (branch, OS, CPU architecture)

- Installation guides for each environment

- Technical support

- Difficult to maintain with only a single participant

- Participation varies by app age and version – early fanatics, then dedicated enthusiasts, then lone addicts, finally compulsive archivists

Developer Needs

- Repeatable test results

- Bug reports, analysis, triage

- Sources (binary, source code, alternate media)

- Value (popularity vs. target market size vs. developer resources)

- Technical information (system requirements, dependencies, 3rd party components, toolchain)

Rulez Discussion

- Licenses – DraftSight, Ghostscript, various shareware; different entry for free, commercial, or registered?

- Versions – granularity, language, obsolescence

- Standalone components of larger applications – installers, Bioware Infinity engine games (Baldur's Gate) and WeiDU, zip.exe, Gecko or Chrome integrated browsers

Rulez Discussion

- Screenshots – visual aid for user, example of expected behavior, both?

- Caveats – DRM, online bans

- System requirements – App developer or Wine?

- Installation guides – assumed user skill? OS or distro specific?

- Apps with high votes but low testing

Rulez Discussion

- Bugs – App faults vs. missing dependencies (.NET, VB runtimes) vs. cosmetics (text overflow)

- Hard vs. soft dependencies (Adobe Reader for help docs, calc.exe for Saturn PCB Toolkit)

- App/version descriptions – Generic? Plot summaries? Wikipedia or MobyGames links? Online, Steam, GOG, or F/OSS alternatives?

Rulez Discussion

- Application content modifications – Median XL for Diablo II, Baldur's Gate Trilogy

- Application executable modifications – D2MultiRes for Diablo II, DS3 Mod Engine for Dark Souls III

- App add-ons – Glide wrapper for Diablo II

- Crackz vs. unwrappers vs. bypasses (virtual CDs) vs. registry hackz (time limit resets); Diablo II SecuROM (v1.12 or earlier) CD check

Rulez Discussion

- Serialz and keygenz – missing/banned keys

- Link liability – HTML, PDF, EXE, ISO

- Checksums – MD5, SHA

- Orphan works (abandonware) – no legal definition

Internet Archive (archive.org)

- Terms of Use says you're indemnifying them

- They're actively cracking Apple II era software (according to Jason Scott interview by Vice)

- Only has DMCA exemption for game servers

App Developer Relations

- Telling them about Wine support – awareness, support, indifference

- First impression of AppDB ratings – "garbage" is overly negative

- Overselling value – support costs vs. user base size

Post-presentation Follow-up

- Devs ignore AppDB reports - only care about bug reports, download links, install guides

- My proposal for reverting votes without test report submissions was well liked but not enough dev resources to update the AppDB

- Karen Sandler (SFLC) continued the apparently stalled DMCA "safe harbor" application process for Wine.