WineConf 2015

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A different WineConf

- There are many things we are doing right
- But…
- There are things we can improve
- First step is to listen

Issues to resolve

- User frustration

- Developer frustration

- WineHQ / Staging antagonism

User frustration

- Bugs and regressions don't get fixed in a timely manner
- Need more predictable, continuous progress
- Need to provide binary packages ourselves
- Wine-staging uses the bug tracker for user requests
- Find a way to recognize and motivate non-developers

Developer frustration

- Not everyone wants to become a long-time developer or prove their skill
- Need a place for creative/crazy people
- Difficult to convince people
- Atmosphere on wine-devel needs to improve
- Need to brute-force all solutions to find the right one
- Parts of the process are obscure

Patch acceptance (1)

- Every patch should get feedback
- Need more reviewers
- Explicitly assign reviewing responsibility
- List of advisors per dll
- Always send reply for new developers
- Reviewer burn-out is an issue
- Architecture board for design decisions

Patch acceptance (2)

- Make wine-staging part of the process
- Automate sending mail on patch status change
- Redirect bad patches to volunteers
- Make AJ rank visible somewhere
- Automated patch checker
- Better way to integrate work that isn't perfect (PulseAudio)
- Revert patches more aggressively

Authorship management

- Building trust is important
- Assigning blame is also a powerful tool
- Add Signed-Off-By, Reviewed-By etc. mechanism
- Relax rules about multiple contributors, allow fixing up patches

Release process

- Faster stable releases (< 6 months)
- Do we even need a stable release?
- Consider staging as development branch
- Time-based stable releases
- Code freeze period useful
- Major milestones good for marketing, but require waiting
- Find volunteer to maintain stable branch to prolong its life

Bug tracker

- Users don't know where to file bugs
- Support patched versions, up to a point
- Need to be less eager to close bugs
- Improve support for stable release

Leadership issues

- I'm not communicating enough
- Discussion is encouraged, but it doesn't look like it
- Need more strategy, long-term planning
- Time difference makes IRC difficult

Other suggestions

- Give more people commit access
- Use Github for patches reviews
- Need broader ecosystem of tools
- Add signature to rejection emails to encourage discussion
- Focus on Win32 ports of open source software