Hat Making:
How Fedora is run and why

2020
Agenda

- What is Fedora?
- Governance
- Changes process
- Release schedule
- Release process
- Building packages
- Q&A
But first – housekeeping!

- Nice things:
  - @FunnelFiasco on Twitter
  - bcotton@fedoraproject.org on email
  - bcotton on Freenode IRC

- Not-nice things: /dev/null

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- These slides: http://funnelfias.co/oslo2020-slides
But first – disclaimers!

- This is a highly-compressed (lossy) talk
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  - Senior Program Manager at Red Hat
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  - Minor contributor to a handful of open source communities
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Fedora is a community

- Non-Red Hat employees
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- Red Hat employees working on Fedora outside of their day job
Fedora is group of communities

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Photo by Sebastian Pena Lambarri on Unsplash
Spins and Labs: KDE, XFCE, LXQT, MATE-Compiz, Cinnamon, LXDE, SOAS, Astronomy, Comp Neuro, Design Suite, Games, Jam, Python Classroom, Security Lab, Robotics Suite
Fedora in the ecosystem

Fedora → CentOS Stream → RHEL

- Operating system developers
- Ecosystem developers
- Enterprise application developers
Governance
Fedora Council

- Top-level governance body
- Sets goals, governs finances and trademarks
- Final arbiter of complaints
- Decision making on a consensus model
Fedora Council members

- Fedora Project Leader (FPL)
- Fedora Community Action and Impact Coordinator (FCAIC)
- Two elected members
- Objective leads
- Representatives from FESCo and Mindshare Committee
- Fedora Program Manager (FPgM)
- Diversity & Inclusion Team representative
Fedora Engineering Steering Committee

- Engineering oversight body
- Approval of technical changes, package disputes, release schedule, etc
- Nine members, all community-elected
Fedora Mindshare Committee

- Outreach and community oversight body
- Responsible for Ambassadors, marketing, websites, etc
- Membership
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  - Seven selected by component teams
  - FCAIC
Fedora Diversity & Inclusion Team

- What it says on the tin
- Reports to the Fedora Council
- Runs Fedora Women’s Day and other events
Fedora org chart

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Red Hat (thus IBM)

- Provides financial and material sponsorship
- Generally hands-off
Changes process
Goals

- Communication
- Coordination
- Accountability
- **not** gatekeeping
Changes process

- Two categories: System-Wide and Self-Contained
- Some key elements:
  - Detailed description
  - Contingency plan
  - Upgrade impact
  - Release Engineering check
Life of a Change proposal

- Submitted to the FpgM
- Announced on devel{,-announce} mailing list
- 1 week community comment period
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- Status evaluated at contingency deadline & completion checkpoints
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Fedora release lifecycle

- Major releases every April and October
- No minor releases or (official) respins
- Releases are end of life 4 weeks after N-2 release
- No alpha
- Beta release ~5 weeks before GA
- Rawhide is the rolling development stream
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Release process
Blockers & Freeze Exceptions

- Not all deliverables are release-blocking
- Release criteria define requirements, but we can make exceptions
- Weekly blocker review meetings plus asynchronous voting
- Freeze is to give QA a fixed target.
  - Exceptions to fix blockers and other significant issues (particularly if it affects live media)
- We also have a Prioritized Bugs process for important-but-not-blocking bugs
Go/no-go decision

- Check to evaluate if all blockers have been fixed (or waived) and if the Release Candidate compose is sufficiently tested
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Bug tracking
Bugzilla

- Bug tracker for Fedora components
- We branch bugs when we branch the code
- Close EOL bugs one month after the N-2 release (~13 months)
Building packages
dist-git

- Pagure instance at src.fedoraproject.org
- “provenpackagers” can step in and make changes
- Some have discussed moving to a source-git model, but we’re not there yet
Build and updates

- Build system: Koji
  - Copr is available for unofficial builds
- Updates: Bodhi
Reminder!

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Finish

Thank You

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https://getfedora.org
https://spins.fedoraproject.org
https://labs.fedoraproject.org
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Operating system developers → Ecosytem developers → Enterprise application developers

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For more information, see https://docs.fedoraproject.org/en-US/council/
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For more information, see:  
https://docs.fedoraproject.org/en-US/mindshare-committee/
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https://docs.fedoraproject.org/en-US/program_management/changes_policy/

http://funnellfias.co/devconfcz2019-video1
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# Key release milestones

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Blocker bug process:  
https://fedoraproject.org/wiki/QA:SOP_blocker_bug_process

Freeze Exception process:  
https://fedoraproject.org/wiki/QA:SOP_freeze_exception_bug_process

Prioritized Bug process:  
https://docs.fedoraproject.org/en-US/program_management/prioritized_bugs/
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