# PORTSreport

by Frederic Culot

There has been quite a lot of activity on the ports tree during the past two months! And there's a lot of good news, too, with fresh committers joining the project and exciting new tools to ease our work on ports.

## NEW PORTS COMMITTERS

**S**ome of us committers remember the day when we received our commit bit as a very special day. I felt powerful at first because I could log in to the official FreeBSD hosts, but it quickly turned into anxiety, since—as is said—"with great power comes great responsibility!" The day has arrived for two new talents to join, Bartek Rutkowski and Stephen Hurd. I hope they will enjoy their work on FreeBSD as much as I do!

Another piece of good news is that Stefan Esser requested his commit bit be reinstated following a busy period during which he could not participate in the project. We were all pleased to have him back in our ranks. For those of you who may not know, commit bits are taken into safekeeping after an inactivity period of 18 months. When the idle committer is ready to come back, his commit bit is reinstated and he is usually assigned a mentor in charge of doing the ramp up and explaining the latest changes that have been applied to the ports tree.

## CHANGES IN THE FreeBSD PORTS MANAGEMENT TEAM

There have been some significant changes in the ports management team as well—with some good and, unfortunately, some sad news too.

• *Let's start with the good news:* Steve Wills was granted full membership to the portmgr team. Steve has done tremendous work on ports, especially in the field of testing. Port managers believed providing Steve with full voting rights was a fair reward, and to enroll him in the team will also help secure future improvements in the field of ports testing.

• *Now for the sad news:* Our beloved Canadian Thomas Abthorpe decided to step down from his portmgr-secretary position. While I suspect this is secretly related to his pool of Canadian jokes hav-

## NEW TOOLS for tracking BUGS, etc.

**T**he past couple months brought us some exciting new tools for tracking bugs and easing the process of reviewing changes. Regarding bug tracking, the first discussions on the need to depart from GNATS actually began about 10 years ago! But the switch was finally made and we now rely on Bugzilla *(https://bugs.freebsd.org/ bugzilla/)*. The transition still has a few corner cases that need some polishing, but so far the developers are quite happy with this switch to a more modern bug tracker. For those of you who are not yet accustomed to the way problem reports are managed at FreeBSD, I would advise you to start with *http://www.freebsd.org/ support/bugreports.html* which provides useful links.

Now for code reviews, ports committers are currently experimenting with Phabricator *(https://phabric.freebsd.org/)* to ease the process of reviewing code. This is quite a change for FreeBSD, as no dedicated tools have been used until now, but bear in mind that no policy yet exists that requires reviews to be made via Phabricator. We are still experimenting with this new process, and if you are interested in experimenting with us, I would suggest you start with the explanations found on this page *https://wiki.freebsd.org/ CodeReview.*

ing dried up, the official reason is that Thomas wants to focus more on his private and professional lives. Needless to say, the whole ports community is in mourning.

And to make things even worse, I was tricked into replacing Thomas and became the new port-mgr secretary. Tabthorpe always says that one Canadian is at least worth four Frenchies, so we fall far short of the mark here, but nonetheless I will do my best to serve the ports community. ●

# 20th ANNIVERSARY

To complete this column, I want to mention an important event: the 20th anniversary of the FreeBSD ports tree! Indeed, it all started on August 21, 1994, with the following commit from Jordan Hubbard:

**Commit my new ports make macros. Still not 100% complete yet by any means but fairly usable at this stage**.

Indeed, those sets of macros seem to still be fairly usable 20 years late. Since the beginning, more than 500 committers have worked on the project, generating more than 300,000 commits to keep almost 25,000 ports up-to-date. A big thanks to all who have given some of their free time and energy to make this happen, and I am eager to see where we will be 20 years from now. In the meantime, for surprises on this anniversary day check our blog (http://blogs.freebsdish.org/portmgr/) and social networking pages!

http://fb.me/portmgr
https://twitter.com/freebsd_portmgr
https://plus.google.com/u/0/communities/108335846196454338383

Having completed his PhD in Computer Modeling applied to Physics, Frederic Culot has worked in the IT industry for the past 10 years. During his spare time he studies business and management and just completed an MBA. Frederic joined FreeBSD in 2010 as a ports committer, and since then has made around 2,000 commits, mentored six new committers, and now assumes the responsibilities of portmgr-secretary.