PORTSreport

by Frederic Culot

THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY during the November–December 2015 period was especially high on the problem-fixing front. During this period, we were pleased to welcome miwi@ back and to extend ian@'s commit bit to the ports area. Also, some major ports were updated, which may require caution when upgrading, as described below.

IMPORTANT PORTS UPDATES

As always, many exp-runs were run by antoine@ (21 in total), to check whether major ports updates are safe or not. Among those important updates we can mention the following highlights:

- CMake updated to 3.4.1
- ruby-gens updated to 2.5.0
- setuptools updated to 19.2
- freetype2 updated to 2.6.2

Other important changes include the update to ncurses 6.0, which requires the rebuild of all ports using it in case you do not use binary packages. Also, a change in the tor startup script now makes it necessary to manually set up the logging. As usual, more information is available in the /usr/ports/UPDATING file, which should be read carefully before upgrading major ports.

NEW PORTS COMMITTERS AND SAFEKEEPING

In November we were pleased to restore miwi@'s commit bit since he now has time to work on ports again, and in December we were delighted to extend ian@'s commit bit to the ports tree, so that he will be able to update his u-boot ports more easily.

Some commit bits were also taken in for safekeeping, after more than 18 months of inactivity (jhay@, max@, sumikawa@, alexey@, and sperber@). Sadly, nox@'s commit bit was removed, as he passed away. For more on Juergen Lock's contributions to FreeBSD, you can read a short summary on our memoriam page (https://www.freebsd.org/doc/en/articles/contributors/contribdevelinmemoriam.html).

STATISTICS

A few statistics for the November–December period: around 110 committers applied 4,187 changes to the ports tree, which is a little less than the previous period. However, the activity on the bug-fixing front increased significantly, with 1,217 problem reports closed, representing an increase of more than 10% compared to the September–October 2015 period. Thanks to all of you who reported issues and to all committers who applied the fixes!

tips

Here are a few tips related to ports updates. First, you need to identify the outdated packages to be upgraded. The following command could be used to do so: **pkg version -vl'<'**

Then we must find out whether there is any specific processing that needs to be followed for the packages that were previously identified. Using the following command, you can get a list of the impacted packages that need special care: **grep -B1 AFFECTS /usr/ports/UPDATING**

Lastly, pkg upgrade could be used to update binary packages, and any port having non-default options should be recompiled.

In order to be warned whenever ports need updates, you can add the following command to the crontab, so that portsnap (see https://www.freebsd.org/doc/handbook/ports-using.html) updates the ports tree daily and an email is sent that contains all outdated packages.

```
0    1    *    *    *    root    portsnap cron update && pkg version -vl'<'
```

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.