

4rd board meeting of NewPipe e.V.

People from the board present: Poolitzer, Stypox

Additional participants with no voting/speaking rights: TheAssassin, Schabi, Fynn, TobiGr, Christian Himmler

Agenda items:

1. Appointment of the protocol writer
2. Determining the quorum
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of the protocol of 23.06.2024
5. Recap of budget plan/donations
6. FOSDEM
7. Server upgrade
8. Designs for Christmas merch
9. Miscellaneous

The meeting is started at 16:05 German time, 01.12.2024, by the chairman of the meeting, Poolitzer.

Item 1: Appointment of the protocol writer

Stypox agrees to take the protocol notes.

Item 2: Determining the quorum

The present board members acknowledge that a timely invite happened and that the meeting has quorum according to §8.10 of the statute. The agenda and the draft contract to be discussed were attached as part of the invitation.

Christian Himmler and other members ask the board to send the meeting link with the invite.

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda

TheAssassin proposes to add “Server upgrade” to the agenda.

The new agenda is adopted unanimously by the board.

Item 4: Adoption of the protocol of 23.06.2024

The protocol of the previous board meeting of 23.06.2024 is adopted unanimously by the board.

Item 5: Recap of budget plan/donations

Stypox explains how the hiring process was handled, after the assembly in the plenum meeting of 20.08.2024 asked the board to look for people to work on NewPipe.

- First Stypox reached out to various NewPipe contributors, and two people responded positively to the call.
- Then, Stypox, Fynn, Poolitzer and Schabi held an interview for the two candidates, asking questions about free software, Java/Android development and algorithms.
- Both candidates responded well, and so the board agreed to sign a contract with them.
- One of the candidates already started working in mid-November, while the other one has some legal hurdles to face still.

Stypox notes that the interview and hiring process might need to be refined.

Then Poolitzer explains the progress on the budget plan:

- Schabi contracts (12500€): the contract with Schabi was extended only by 1 month until October, so only ~7500€ instead of the allocated 12500€ were spent for August, September and October.
- Additional contractors (7500€): the contracts with the two hired people are expected to account for ~3000€ until the end of the year, since, as Fynn notes, the board was only able to hire two people for one month, instead of one person for three months.
- Infrastructure hardware (600€): to be discussed later in the meeting.
- Infrastructure contractor (1200€): nobody was hired yet. TheAssassin explains that he already prepared a list of tasks that can be outsourced, and that now it is up to the board to find a candidate. Stypox explains that the board plans to make a blogpost to look for candidates.
- FOSDEM (2000€): to be discussed later in the meeting.
- Merch (500€): to be discussed later in the meeting.
- Hardware for contributors (1000€): one person was interested and had a compelling story for how they will use the hardware donated by us, but they have not communicated their needs yet.
- Liberapay donation (300€): done by Stypox right after the plenum meeting.
- Trademark registration (850€): the process was initiated by Poolitzer and the money was spent, now he is waiting for a response (but he explains that the request is in the Fast Track)

TheAssassin suggests to spend money for corporate design, shoot videos, design promotional footage and create a (better) static website for the e.V.. He argues that having some pre-recorded content makes it easier to create content in the future. He also mentions that these ideas should not be rushed, so they can be done next year.

TheAssassin also suggests to allocate more money to FOSDEM, even if as noted by Fynn the budget plan can be flexible, so unspent money on some categories can be spent in small amounts on other categories without voting again. The members present during the board meeting conclude that it makes sense to spend additional money on the FOSDEM travel and accomodation if needed.

As of now, the board expects to exceed the donation income estimated last plenum meeting. To put this money to good use, the board decides to additionally donate 300 EUR to CiviCRM (a foss association management software that the e.V. will use), as suggested by TheAssassin.

There were multiple suggestions on how to arrange the next budget plan, but for the year of 2024, the board and the people in the meeting agree that it's good to keep money for later, e.g. to be prepared for legal problems as recommended by TobiGr.

TheAssassin suggests that, in the occasion that the budget needs to be corrected in the future, the e.V. can hold an extraordinary plenum meeting, on the condition that such a meeting should have only one discussion point (so no sneaked-in miscellaneous topics). Poolitzer approves.

Item 6: FOSDEM

Stypox explains that the e.V. will pay for 6 people to go to FOSDEM. Staying in a hostel is not viable, because they are all far away from the FOSDEM venue, and so the two remaining options are a hotel and a flat.

Schabi argues in favour of a flat, as it would allow for more social activities, but he also notes that the conference will take up most of the time anyway.

The assembly assigns Stypox the task of choosing between a flat or a hotel, and of completing the booking. TheAssassin suggests booking early and choosing an accomodation that has little commute to the conference venue.

Stypox explains that attendees will be asked to buy travel tickets themselves, and the e.V. will reimburse them upon receiving a proof of purchase.

Item 7: Server upgrade

TheAssassin proposes:

- Building separate infrastructure for TeamNewPipe, still paid and operated by e.V.. It would not host any personal data of association members, and so it would be considered non-critical and TeamNewPipe members could get access to.
- Allocating more money for the main host (codename “schabi”), since the current infrastructure is 7/8GB of RAM and it is running out.
- Creating separate infrastructure for Gitea actions so if an action runs out of memory it does not drag everything down (Lemmy could also go on that server).
- Creating a monitoring machine codenamed “pox”.

TheAssassin seeks approval, and the board approves according to the 600€ already allocated in the last plenum meeting.

TheAssassin proposes to allocate a recurring budget for better server hardware, like up to 50€/month, in the next plenum meeting. Fynn proposes to pay servers in advance in 2024 for the whole 2025, but TheAssassin explains that this is probably not doable.

TheAssassin suggests that next year we should separate budgets for the e.V. and for other projects. Poolitzer proposes to start looking out for more projects.

TheSchabi proposes to work together with Kavin from Piped and support him for Lemmy, instead of hosting ourselves. Poolitzer agrees to reach out and ask.

Item 8: Designs for Christmas merch

The people present list a few options for merch: T-Shirts, stickers, posters, rollup displays, cup holders, bags, pins, cups with an Android error message, e.V. stickers with missingfile (since the e.V. does not have a logo yet).

To make a good impression at FOSDEM, TheAssassin proposes buying 2/3 T-Shirts per person, portable flags or textile banners to attract attention, and flyers. He notes that this requires finalizing how the e.V. is to be advertised.

In conclusion, the people present agree on buying 2 T-Shirts per person for FOSDEM, 1 or 2 T-Shirts per person for TeamNewPipe, stickers and potentially other merch among the suggested items.

The board agrees to set a deadline on 06.12.2024 for finalizing the merch designs, so that it arrives in time for Christmas. The board agrees to ask the community to provide some designs for stickers.

TheAssassin proposes Pretix to host a merchandise shop and simplify collecting the T-Shirt sizes and shipping addresses of e.V./TeamNewPipe members that want merch; Stypox approves and TheAssassin says that he will try to host it soon.

Item 9: Miscellaneous

Nobody raises any miscellaneous topic.

Poolitzer closes the meeting at 17:50 German time, 01.12.2024.