4th plenum meeting of NewPipe e.V.

People present: Stypox, Poolitzer, Tobi, Fynn, Profpatsch, cTee, Schabi

People that joined later: TheAssassin

Agenda items:

1. Appointment of the protocol writer
2. Determining the quorum
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of the protocol of 20.08.2024
5. Yearly report
6. Cash audit report
7. Discharge of the board
8. Election of the board + cash auditor
9. Guidelines for public chats
10. Allocating yearly infrastructure money
11. Sponsoring competitive programming competitions
12. Conferences next year
13. Update on SEPA mandate
14. Trademark policy
15. Miscellaneous

The meeting is started at 19:07 German time, 04.01.2025, 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 people present acknowledge that a timely invite happened and that the meeting has quorum according to §7.6 of the statute. The agenda was attached as part of the invitation.

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda

Poolitzer requests the addition of point 13 to the agenda to explain the new SEPA mandate format.

Schabi proposes the addition of point 9 to the agenda, to initiate the discussion about guidelines for NewPipe e.V. public channels.

Fynn proposes the addition of point 14 to the agenda, to discuss a trademark policy for the "NewPipe" name.

Fynn proposes talking about the budget plan, but since nobody is prepared, the assembly agrees on doing another plenum as soon as possible.

Poolitzer decides to hold a public vote to accept the new agenda. The new agenda is adopted unanimously.

Item 4: Adoption of the protocol of 20.08.2024

The protocol is adopted unchanged with 2 abstentions.

Item 5: Yearly report

Stypox presents the yearly report for 2024, attached below.

Item 6: Cash audit report

Fynn presents the cash audit report for 2023, and recommends to discharge the board for December 2023. This was needed because the end-of-year plenum of 2023 was held in December 2023, and so the cash audit report from that plenum only covered transactions until November 2023 (included).

Fynn presents the cash audit report for 2024, and recommends to discharge the board for 2024.

Both documents are attached below.

Item 7: Discharge of the board

The assembly is asked to vote on this formulation: "Are you in favour of discharging the board for December of 2023?". The assembly unanimously votes "yes" (except for the 2023 board, i.e. Stypox, Poolitzer and Schabi, who can't vote to discharge themselves).

The assembly is asked to vote on this formulation: "Are you in favour of discharging the board for 2024?". The assembly unanimously votes "yes" (except for the 2024 board, i.e. Stypox, Poolitzer and Schabi, who can't vote to discharge themselves).

Item 8: Election of the board + cash auditor

The statute mandates that the board size needs to be agreed before voting on the members, and that the board size can be from 2 to 4 people.

The assembly is asked to propose candidates for the new board. Schabi proposes Fynn to be a member of the board. Stypox proposes Schabi to be the cash auditor.

The assembly unanimously votes for a board size of 3.

Stypox, Poolitzer and Fynn accept to be candidates for being part of the board.

The assembly unanimously votes in favour of Stypox being part of the board.

The assembly unanimously votes in favour of Fynn being part of the board.

The assembly unanimously votes in favour of Poolitzer being part of the board.

Schabi accepts to be candidate for being the cash auditor.

TheAssassin joins the call at this point in time.

The assembly (now including TheAssassin) unanimously votes in favour of Schabi being the cash auditor.

Item 9: Guidelines for public chats

Schabi argues that there need to be some rules, that allow having a "reason" to eject people from the chat. This is especially needed since the e.V. is responsible for those channels, that's why the discussion is being held in the e.V. meeting (and not the TeamNewPipe meetings). Schabi already discussed this idea with TheAssassin and TobiGr.

Fynn explains that having rules makes the chats more welcoming, since people can see moderation is happening. This point was brought up because people at Chaos Computer Congress said they didn't feel welcome in NewPipe's channels. The rules should be therefore published on the chat description.

Schabi argues that a Code of Conduct for the NewPipe & NewPipe e.V. public-facing rooms might be too overkill, and that some guidelines might be enough. TheAssassin also agrees that Code of Conducts have a much broader scope and are also difficult to enforce.

Schabi suggests creating a CryptPad and write down some simple rules that everyone should follow. TheAssassin proposes finalizing such list in the next meeting.

Poolitzer says he expects people to be decent to each other, and if they are not just ban them without need for further explanation. In other words, Poolitzer does not feel the need for written guidelines. TheAssassin responds that it's easier to have rules than have to explain moderation actions every time.

TobiGr suggests to look at how other e.V.s/projects handle chat moderation.

Profpatsch suggests that the e.V. should mainly set really general rules, and then let moderators set more granural rules if needed.

Schabi leaves the meeting at this point in time.

A vote is held to adopt the following statement: "Should the e.V. decide chat rules about acceptable behavior, suggest some broad guidelines and let moderators fine tune them?". The assembly (without Schabi) unanimously votes in favour.

Item 10: Allocating yearly infrastructure money

TheAssassin explains that he doesn't have a specific figure yet for the expected spending on IT infrastructure for 2025, since he didn't prepare in time, but that he is soon going to make a list of what we use for infrastructure.

TheAssassin also explains that he doesn't expect costs to rise much in 2025 with respect to 2024, since there are no new services planned (except for Lemmy).

TheAssassin proposes talking about this in the budget plan during FOSDEM.

The assembly briefly discusses about holding the meeting for the budget plan in-person during FOSDEM, but in the end decides against it due to the limited time and space available there.

Item 11: Sponsoring competitive programming competitions

Stypox explains that during competitive programming and cybersecurity competitions that are held in-person (e.g. SWERC), it is often the case that big IT companies give a talk for sponsoring and hiring purposes. The people participating in those competitions are often smart and are likely to have big-impact careers in future years. Therefore it might make sense for the e.V. to give a talk at those competitions and spread our alternative message about free software, as opposite to the "be a programmer only to make money" message given by other companies.

Tobi argues that Free Software foundations might be better suited to hold such talks, because we are too small and don't have too many connections. Tobi and Poolitzer suggest pairing up with other associations (e.g. FSFE).

Fynn explains that the money should not be used just to put our name on the sponsor list. We should not give money to a company/competition that does not necessarily align with our goals.

Tobi argues that this is probably a bit off-topic with respect to the e.V. goals.

TheAssassin reasons about which can possibly be our goals:

- present our message (Stypox explains that this is the main point)
- finding contributors
- sponsoring projects

TheAssassin explains that these goals are legally ok with respect to the statute.

The assembly is asked to vote on this formulation: "The board should spend time and collect information to sponsor a competitive coding event to spread the message of our association about free software". 5 people vote in favour, 1 votes against.

Item 12: Conferences next year

Some e.V. members are evidently attending FOSDEM in February. TheAssassin suggests donating to FOSDEM since their tickets are free, and Poolitzer suggests discussing that as part of the budget plan.

Fynn and Poolitzer propose the FrOSCon in Bonn in August.

TheAssassin proposes the OpenSUSE conference in Nürnberg in June.

Stypox proposes SFSCon in November in Südtirol, although it's smaller.

TheAssassin brings up the idea of sponsoring a conference or giving a talk to get more coverage.

Item 13: Update on SEPA mandate

This point is a leftover from the 10.02.2024 plenum meeting.

Poolitzer explains that, after talking with the bank, he got confirmation that less fields can be put on a SEPA mandate. Therefore the amount of information required in the SEPA mandate was minimized.

TheAssassin explains that Admidio can be setup to bill SEPA mandates for membership fees automatically.

Item 14: Trademark policy

Fynn presents the draft trademark policy he prepared, attached below. Poolitzer suggests finalizing it and then voting on the final version after the trademark is actually registered.

TheAssassin suggests paying for a monitoring system to be notified of anyone else registering a trademark under our name, so we can react accordingly. Fynn asks the board to investigate and do research on this.

The assembly is asked to vote on this formulation: "Should the board be assigned the task to set up/hire a trademark monitoring system?". The assembly votes in favor unanimously.

Item 15: Miscellaneous

The assembly thanks Fynn, TheAssassin and the board that was in charge in 2024 (Poolitzer and Stypox) for the work done during the year of 2024.

After acknowledging that nobody has any miscellaneous topic, Poolitzer closes the meeting at 21:05 German time, 04.01.2025.

Yearly report for 2024

On the 10th of January 2024 we held a plenum to amend the statute in a way that allows more e.V. documents to be English only. This includes the privacy policy (which is also not part of the statute anymore), and the documents of the cash auditor. The notary confirmed the validity of the changes and applied them in the German register of associations.

On the 23rd of June 2024 we held a board meeting to setup a contract to hire Schabi for the summer. Schabi then worked part-time on the NewPipe refactor (specifically NewPlayer) for a total of 4 months (July, August, September, October). The contract that was signed in June only lasted for 3 months, and an extension for October was signed in September. Schabi resigned from the board before starting the discussions about getting hired, because members of the board cannot be hired (§8 (5) of the statute).

On the 20th of August 2024 we held a plenum to devise a budget plan for the remaining part of 2024, which included IT infrastructure spending, hiring contractors to work on NewPipe, participating to conferences (FOSDEM 2025), buying merch and lending hardware to NewPipe contributors.

During the same meeting we also agreed to register a trademark for the "NewPipe" name (thanks Fynn for the research!). The NewPipe team members were asked whether they agreed, and they replied positively. Therefore the board initiated the EU trademark registration process, which will be completed on 17/02/2025. The trademark's entry can be found here: https://euipo.europa.eu/eSearch/#details/trademarks/019104121.

After Schabi's contract finished, the board asked current and past NewPipe contributors whether they wanted to do paid work for NewPipe. Two people replied positively and got into an interview call (with Stypox, Poolitzer, Fynn and Schabi acting as the interviewers), and both performed well. Following this, one of the candidates (Profpatsch) started working as a contractor in mid-November already, while the other had to drop the offer due to unfortunate legal hurdles.

During the board meeting on the 1st of December 2024, we discussed about the budget plan progress and organized to meet in-person at FOSDEM 2025. 6 association members are going to attend FOSDEM 2025, and the travel and hotel expenses for 5 of them are covered by the e.V..

Towards the end of the year TheAssassin and Stypox ordered some merch for NewPipe e.V. and team NewPipe members, as an end-of-year gift. The recipients will receive their package during January.

Summary on outgoing donations

During 2024 the e.V. made the following donations because we use these tools and their mission aligns with ours:

- 600€/year to Weblate since it allows the community to translate the NewPipe app to other languages effortlessly
- 500€ to FSFE to support their movie about "Ada & Zangemann"
- 300€/year to LiberaPay since it allows people to donate to us conveniently
- 300€ to CiviCRM to support their ongoing efforts on the Standalone installation

Summary on IT infrastructure

TheAssassin continued volounteering his time to maintain the IT infrastructure and setup even more services (thank you a lot!). The full list of services can be found here https://services.newpipe-ev.de/.

- TheAssassin setup the Admidio membership management system as a temporary replacement for the complex (yet more powerful) CiviCRM
- TheAssassin setup Bookstack, a useful knowledge base for e.V. members that should be used to document all stuff related to the e.V. as much as possible

- TheAssassin setup Pretix, an online shop that allowed people to order their end-of-year gifts using individual vouchers
- TheAssassin replaced Gitea with Forgejo
- The infrastructure was upgraded since it was about to run out of resources, and a new server was bought for monitoring
- TheAssassin made plans to further improve the infrastructure with redundancy and by putting resource-hungry services (e.g. Gitea actions) on a separate host

The NewPipe team will be soon offered (separate) infrastructure for their website, F-Droid repository, and other services they might need.

The board tried to seek sponsorship from the Hetzner hosting provider, but our request was unfortunately denied.

Acknowledgements

Cash audit for 2023

Scope of time

This cash audit considers the business year of 2023.

Auditable subjects

- NewPipe e. V. does not own monetary assets in cash.
- Since June 2023, NewPipe e. V. has its own bank account (primary account).
- NewPipe e. V. has a PayPal login with multiple accounts.
- NewPipe e. V. has a Stripe access.

Provided records

The following documents were provided for this audit.

- Bank statements for the account at GLS Gemeinschaftsbank e.G.
- Bank statements for the accounts at PayPal (Europe) S.à r.l. et Cie, S.C.A., for balance in EUR, AUD, CHF, GBP, MXN, USD
- Invoices for infrastructure expenses

Not provided were

- transactions within the Stripe access.

Individuals taken part

Fynn Godau, cash auditor (Kassenprüfer) for NewPipe e. V., is the author of this document. No other individuals were involved in the audit.

Audit process

This audit considers itself a continuation of the preliminary audit presented at the plenum on December 16th, 2023.

In total, for the purposes of this audit, the expenses of the primary bank account were individually checked against their respective invoices.

All transactions in the PayPal accounts were checked individually. According to the board, the available balance is payed out to the primary account in a monthly interval, which is true per the account transaction logs.

Stripe is a payment service provider, used by NewPipe e. V. for credit card and direct debit payments via the donation platform Liberapay. Because Stripe is so far used exclusively via Liberapay, the fees are not invoiced to NewPipe e. V.. Stripe is not a bank, yet it is possible to accumulate a balance.

According to the board, the Stripe access is configured such that the available balance is payed out to the primary account in a monthly interval. Because it is not possible to redirect individual payouts to different accounts, an audit of the balances in the Stripe account is not required for 2023.

Audit result

- Each expense in the primary bank account could be assosicated with a corresponding invoice without doubt.

- All expenses of NewPipe e. V. are associated exclusively with operational cost that the board is entitled to manage.
- From a PayPal account, a single transaction for private purposes has been performed on accident. The resulting damage was reconciled immediately afterwards.

Final remarks

An overall evaluation of the audit results in the following remarks.

PayPal accounts in different currencies

Up until November 1st, the PayPal access did not only accumulate balances in EUR, but also in other currencies. On November 1st, those foreign currency accounts were closed and their balances converted to EUR. Hence, in the future, it will no longer be necessary to audit these forgein currency accounts.

Membership fees

In business year 2023, due membership fees were still not raised. This situation was resolved in early 2024.

Orderly collection of receipts

The cash auditor's former suggestion to, in the future, sort collected receipts and invoices by month, were already implemented for the business year of 2024.

Discharge of the board

In relation to the business year of 2023, it is **entirely recommended** to discharge the board. Note that the board was already discharged up to November 2023 at the plenum meeting on December 16th, 2023.

Schweinfurt, the 4th of January 2025

Fynn Godau

Fynn Godau

Cash audit for 2024

Scope of time

This cash audit considers the business year of 2024.

Auditable subjects

- NewPipe e. V. does not own monetary assets in cash.
- NewPipe e. V. has a bank account with GLS Gemeinschaftsbank e.G (primary account).
- NewPipe e. V. has a PayPal login with one account.
- NewPipe e. V. has a Stripe access.

Provided records

The following documents were provided for this audit.

- Bank statements for the account at GLS Gemeinschaftsbank e.G.
- Bank statements for the account at PayPal (Europe) S.à r.l. et Cie, S.C.A.
- Invoices for expenses
- Receipts for refunds

Not provided were

- Transactions within the Stripe access
- Membership list and payment status overview

Individuals taken part

Fynn Godau, cash auditor (Kassenprüfer) for NewPipe e. V., is the author and translator of this document. No other individuals were involved in the audit.

Audit process

For the purposes of this audit, the expenses of the primary bank account were individually checked against their respective invoices.

All negative transactions in the PayPal accounts were checked individually. According to the board, the available balance is payed out to the primary account in a monthly interval, which is true per the account transaction logs.

Stripe is a payment service provider, used by NewPipe e. V. for credit card and direct debit payments via the donation platform Liberapay. Because Stripe is so far used exclusively via Liberapay, the fees are not invoiced to NewPipe e. V.. Stripe is not a bank, yet it is possible to accumulate a balance.

According to the board, the Stripe access is configured such that the available balance is payed out to the primary account in a monthly interval. Because it is not possible to redirect individual payouts to different accounts, an audit of the balances in the Stripe account is not required for 2024.

The expenses after the month of August were roughly compared to the budget plan devised by the assembly on 20th August 2024.

It was not verified whether individual members payed their membership fees, though overall, collection of membership fees has evidently picked up a regular pace.

Audit result

- One external contractor was payed without a formal invoice. The board is asked to obtain a formally correct invoice as soon as possible.

- One invoice was overpayed by factor 100 on accident. Fortunately, the counterparty refunded the overshot money within a week.

- Other than that, each expense in the primary bank account could be assosicated with a corresponding invoice or board decision (in case of donations) without doubt.

- All expenses of NewPipe e. V. are based on operational cost that the board is entitled to manage, or based on decisions made by previous assemblies.

- Spendings stayed well within the budget plan devised on 20th August 2024.

Final remarks

An overall evaluation of the audit results in the following remarks.

Budget planning

The assembly is advised to devise a budget plan for future business years at the beginning of the year to allow more time for money to be put to good use.

In the future, some sort of budget tracking will need to be established to retain overview over a multitude of different expense subjects.

Discharge of the board

In relation to the business year of 2024, it is **recommended** to discharge the board.

Schweinfurt, the 4th of January 2025

Fynn Godau

Trademark policy draft

Why trademark?

NewPipe is faced with an increasing amount of copycat clones and unofficial download sites. In the light of redundancy and the NewPipe's GPL v3 license, it is of course not a problem for third parties to leverage TeamNewPipe's work. However, we expect unofficial projects to clearly distinguish themselves from official releases, for the following goals:

- **Users should know what they are downloading.**
  Unofficial releases of NewPipe often contain advertisements or other unwanted contents. We want our users who search the net for "NewPipe" to find what they are looking for, and not fall for any scam websites.

- **Downstream projects deserve a unique, strong identity.**
  While derivatives of NewPipe often use the term "NewPipe" in their own name to signalize a shared history of code, it also incorrectly implies endorsement from the NewPipe project. In the future, we expect downstream projects to distinguish themselves from our project and to develop their own brand.

Hence, NewPipe e. V. has registered the term "NewPipe" as a word mark in the European Union, and devised the following policy for the use of the mark. It is applicable to all uses of the mark within the European common market, including global uses that target (parts of) the European common market.

Trademark policy

Downloadable apps

- This policy applies to **end-user facing applications** only. Development-oriented test releases (for instance, as a convenient way of gathering feedback to a feature you developed) or application source code (for instance, because a derivative of NewPipe is using the term 'newpipe' in its internal structure) are not affected.

- Per definition, the following distribution ways serve official versions of NewPipe. All other distributions are unofficial distributions, even if they serve the same binary package.

  - https://newpipe.net/#download

  - https://f-droid.org/packages/org.schabi.newpipe/

- Non-official releases of NewPipe may be released to the public, provided they are compiled from one of the code version releases provided for download under https://github.com/TeamNewPipe /NewPipe/releases. Supplementary material like the download website must clearly indicate the version number, that the installation file was not assembled by TeamNewPipe, that the release is not official and that it is not compatible with official releases.

- Supplementary software designed to enhance functionality of official NewPipe releases may make use of the mark as a secondary component of the name, for instance, "Downloader for NewPipe", but not "NewPipe Downloader". Derivatives of official NewPipe are not considered supplementary software.

- Other downloadable apps that are not built from one of the aforementioned code versions and are not supplementary software may not make use of the mark.

- **Transition period:** We grant existing NewPipe derivative projects which are *currently* already making use of the term "NewPipe" in their name an additional time until April 30th, 2025 to rebrand.

Website representation

- The following websites are official NewPipe websites entitled to use the mark.
  - https://newpipe-ev.de/

- – https://newpipe.net/
  - – https://f-droid.org/packages/org.schabi.newpipe/
- All other websites that make use of the mark are required to:
  - – Explicitly state that it is neither affiliated with nor endorsed by TeamNewPipe.
  - – Not endorse downloadable apps in violation of this trademark policy or of NewPipe's GPL v3 license.
  - – If they contain links to downloadable apps that resemble an official or unofficial NewPipe release, they must indicate the version number of the version provided. In the case of unofficial releases, they must include the additional information as per above.

Changes to the policy

We reserve the right to change this trademark policy from time to time. Changes will become visible on this website.

If you have any questions, contact board@newpipe-ev.de.