

20 years of netlabs.org

Open Source Software for OS/2

<https://twitter.com/linkedktk>

Adrian Gschwend, ktk@netlabs.org



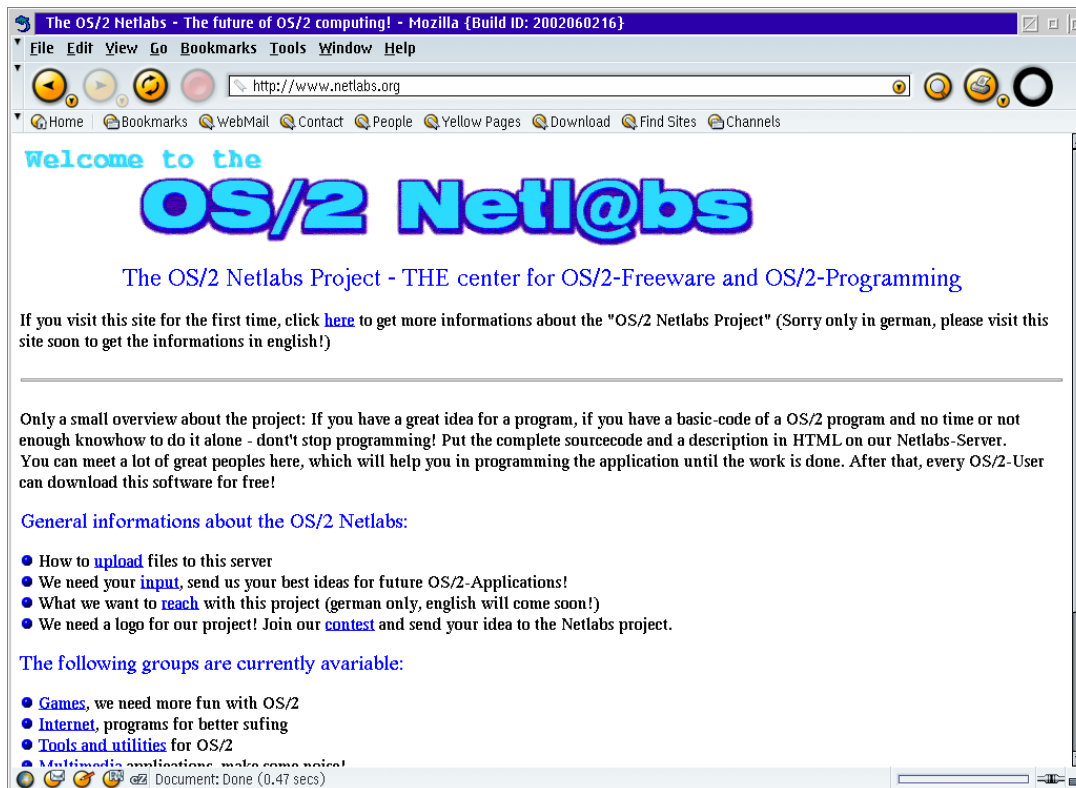
(Not the recent logo for a while but still the best one we had :)

Birthdate

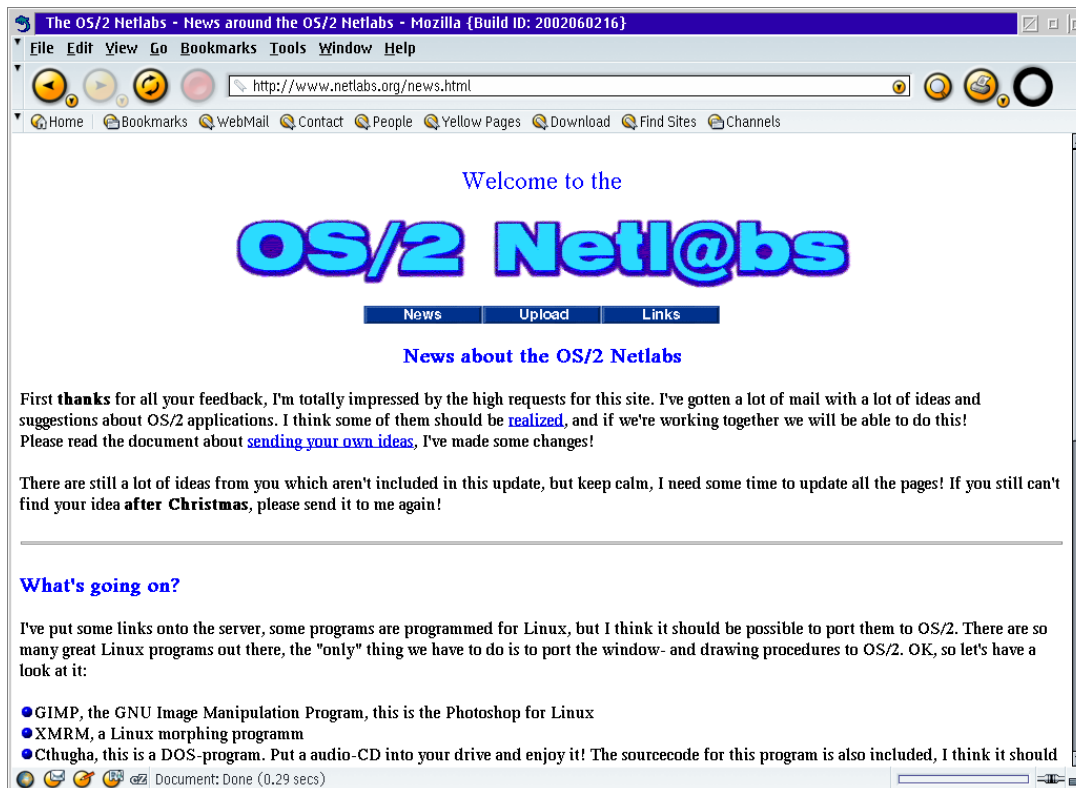
- netlabs.org registered on September 6th, 1997
- Initially a static HTML file
- Plus some posts in newsgroups (couldn't find the first one anymore)

```
ktk@eternal:~/WIP/Presentations(master) > whois netlabs.org
Domain Name: NETLABS.ORG
Registry Domain ID: D1014460-LROR
Registrar WHOIS Server:
Registrar URL: http://www.gandi.net
Updated Date: 2017-09-04T08:14:58Z
Creation Date: 1997-09-06T04:00:00Z
```

The early days, December 1997



News in December 1997



GIMP, one of the first projects




Communication

- The web was still pretty young
- Newsgroups were key
- Email for private communication
- OS/2 newsgroups were very active and quite fun

[comp.os.os2.apps](#) ›

GIMP 1.0 is ready!

13 Einträge von 9 Autoren

 **Adrian Gschwend** 14.09.98

[Nachricht auf Deutsch übersetzen](#)

Today, the OS/2 GIMP-Team finished the port of GIMP 1.0 for XFree86/2

GIMP is a very powerful image manipulation program, it has a lot of powerful tools and filters available. GIMP is something like the Photoshop for Linux, and for OS/2 :-)

Check <http://www.gimp.org> for more informations about the GIMP!

You can download it at ftp://ftp.netlabs.org/pub/graphic/gimp_10/

The GIMP/2 page is available at <http://www.netlabs.org/gimp/>
The port is a part of the OS/2 Netlabs project <http://www.netlabs.org>

The readme about the port is available at
ftp://ftp.netlabs.org/pub/graphic/gimp_10/00readme.txt

Note that you need a running XFree86 to start the GIMP for OS/2, maybe there will be a native PM port in the future, but don't expect this soon!

Enjoy!

Adrian Gschwend
@ OS/2 Netlabs

[illegible]

Mozilla

- Netscape Communications released source in March 1998
- Natural fit for an early netlabs.org project
- One guy from Finland started porting it alone (Taneli Leppä IIRC)
- IBM did not release the OS/2 patches (did they ever? Can't remember)
- Took way longer to become a useful thing and was finished outside
- But gave netlabs.org quite some visibility

Our Archenemy



So I had some fun (1999/2000 IIRC)



Real World Meetups

- Warpstock (for me in particular Europe) was key
- Finally we met in real world
- And had a really great time together
- Only trip in the US for me was Warpstock 2000 in Philadelphia (September 9-10)

Warpstock Europe 2000: The ODIN Team



Warpstock 2000 USA

USR-02	OS/2 Netlabs : an overview	Adrian Gschwend
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Hancock	Sun - 10:45AM
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The presentation gives an overview of the OS/2 Netlabs project, since it was started in 1997 up until today. What are the project's main goals and what has already been accomplished. Even more important will be OS/2 Netlabs' future and it's relevance to OS/2 and the OS/2 user community.

USR-03	OS/2 in Embedded Systems	Achim Hasenmüller - Patrick Haller
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Hancock	Sun - 08:15AM
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OS/2 is proving its strengths on more than the corporate desktop and server. Embedded OS/2 is found on a broad variety of devices, ranging from control systems in nuclear power plants to multimedia set-top boxes. This presentation compares popular embedded operating systems and shows how OS/2 competes with the market leaders. You will see a popular European set-top box running Embedded OS/2, incorporating some unique and amazing technologies.

USR-04	Running Win32 Applications on OS/2: the Odin project	Achim Hasenmüller - Patrick Haller
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Hancock	Sun - 12:00PM
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OS/2 was "the integration platform" before IBM decided it wouldn't support Windows 95 applications. The Odin project, started in 1997, aims to fill this gap. Odin has advanced to a point where it is becoming very useful. This presentation gives an overview of the Odin project, its architecture, its strategy for now and the future -- and an amazing demonstration of what the technology is already doing for home users and enterprises.

USR-05	Warpzilla: What's in it for users?	J. Kobal - M. Kaply - H. Sobotka
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Hancock	Sat - 02:00PM
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While far from complete, [Warpzilla](#), the next-generation browser/editor/mailnews client, is already available for intrepid users willing to try preview software. This presentation will focus on what's new in Warpzilla and how it differs from its predecessors from the user's standpoint. It will address issues such as: How do users benefit from its being an open-source project? What is IBM's involvement with Mozilla? What new features does it include? What web standards does it support? What are skins? How does one select among the various distributions available?

Warpstock Europe 2002



Warpstock Europe 2002



Warpstock Europe 2002



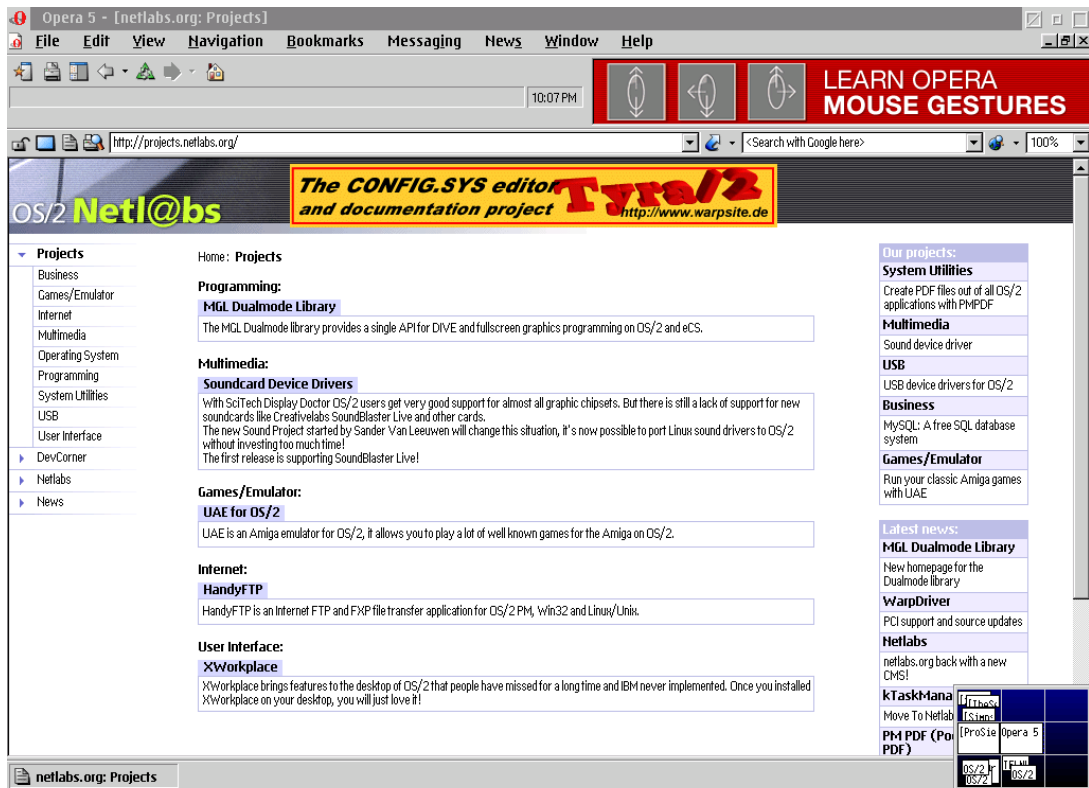
Warpstock Europe 2002



The peak times

- 1998 - mid 2000 was probably the most intensive time
- Lots of meetups, strong participation
- Some very smart contributors
- Lots of successful projects

Opera port & a new web site



We started to do Wintercamps



20 / 42

Skiing & Snowboarding during day, hacking in the evening









Slowly things changed

- IBM started to abandon OS/2
- Scott Garfinkle was probably the only one still doing work
- We started talking to various people about OS/2 source code
- It became very clear that IBM doesn't give a f* about that
- But we became more creative than ever

Warpstock Europe 2004



Warpstock Europe 2004

Supporting OS/2 and eCS Software with netlabs.org

OSS in our dreams / in the real world

- Everyone can contribute
- Just a very few actually **do** contribute!
- Linux/BSD/... works the same way
- Most successful projects are backed by companies (Mozilla, OpenOffice, Linux Kernel...)
- OS/2 and eCS never had the OSS background
- Our community does not grow

•The future: Beyond LIBC

- Missing: pthreads
- Missing: Some IPC stuff (semaphores, shared memory)
- Missing: select() on non sockets
- LXAPI32 by Stefan Milcke
- Provide all basic libraries used nowadays
- FHS-like environment

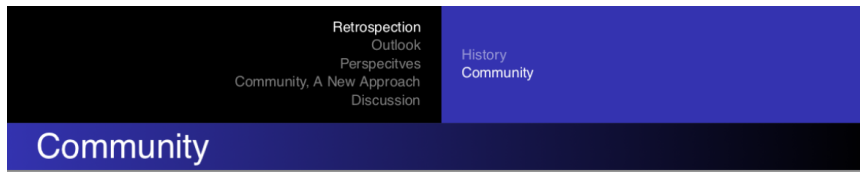


Developers Workshop was created

- Focus on development issues
- A smaller group where not everything directly became public
- First event 2005 in Dresden, Germany



Community in 2005



- around 100 registered people at netlabs.org database
- around half of them still active (contributing in some form)
- mainly developers, just a few users (which do web administration and such tasks)
- netlabs.org community is still mainly developers, users contribute way too few (with a few notable exceptions)
- core community meets on a regular base, on IRC, mailinglists or in real life
- the community keeps us together

Kernel Problems in 2005

Outlook

New Approach

Discussion

Problems - Human Layer

Problems - Software Layer I

- no 64bit support, quite impossible to do ourself (libraries...)
- OS/2 will never be able to use more than 4GB or memory (Scott Garfinkle)
- We slowly run into design problems of the kernel (device driver model...)
- even if the kernel is very performant, it won't change much anymore
- no native UTF-8 support
- PM bugs will stay forever, implementation of new stuff is difficult or impossible
- no real security/multiuser model

A set of small navigation icons typically found in Beamer presentations, including symbols for back, forward, search, and other slide controls.

Adrian Gschwend

netlabs.org - What's Up?

Retrospection	Things Worth Keeping
Outlook	Things to Avoid
Perspectives	Intermezzo
Community, A New Approach	Dreams
Discussion	Kernel
	Expectations

Dreams

We talked about the things we like, now let's talk about how we could keep them alive. This is just me dreaming!

- Get PM & WPS to work on a POSIX Kernel. That would require:
 - PM source from our big blue friend, and/or
 - implement (parts of) PM in OpenGL (enough to get WPS & some apps to work)
- Implement something like the WPS on top of something existing (Fresco...). Port the stuff that is worth being ported
- move to an existing platform (Gnome, KDE,...) - I would stop in that case

Adrian Gschwendnetlabs.org - What's Up?

- Adrian Gschwend netlabs.org - What's Up?

And the vision of Voyager

Plan B GUI Kernel Device Drivers Even more work Summary	Codename Voyager Next steps netlabs.org Developer Workshop 2006 So long, and thanks for all the fish
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Codename Voyager

A small team of developers is working on some prototypes & tries to push the ideas further:

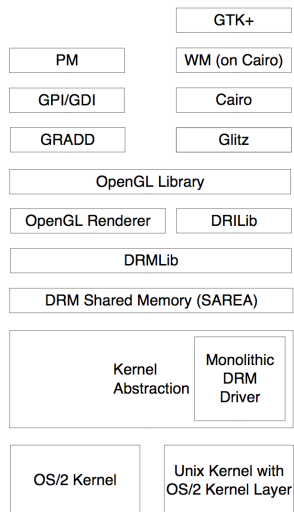
- WPS rewrite, based on GTK+ Toolkit, SOM replacement
- Cairo with Glitz backend, OpenGL as base
- WM on top of Cairo, no need for X
- PM compatibility (FreePM?)
- integration of existing apps into the desktop (Mozilla, OOo etc)
- XEN integration





Developers Workshop 2006 in Biel, Switzerland

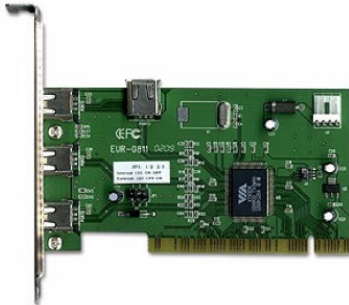
- Great ideas, super optimistic
- From nowadays perspective pretty naive
- Community was shrinking
- Radical change was... well, too radical





We also invested in stuff that was not too useful

Developing an IEEE 1394 - Firewire Driver for OS/2



Community became smaller but continued



The past 10 years

- Some of the early famous contributors & coders stopped using OS/2
- But new ones joined
- I saw some great presentations on WS USA Youtube stream yesterday!
- I did switch as well
- But never wanted to give up netlabs.org ideas

The future

- Great to see ArcaOS happening!
- Who knows? I have some ideas
 - Github is the best platform for open source today
 - But the user community part is completely missing there
 - I think that was what made the OS/2 & netlabs.org community special
 - I hope that we can create tools that resurrect this kind of working together
- If you have ideas, let me know
- I will continue to run the servers as long as I can!

Thank you

- Cheers for the past 20 years
- and the next ones!