Free Software and Sharing

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Wireshark 3.4.10

Wireshark is a network packet analyzer. A network packet analyzer will try to capture network packets and tries to display that packet data as detailed as possible. You could think of a network packet analyzer as a measuring device used to examine what's going on inside a network cable, just like a voltmeter is used by an electrician to examine what's going on inside an electric cable (but at a higher level, of course). In the past, such tools were either very expensive, proprietary, or both. However, with the advent of Wireshark, all that has changed. Wireshark is perhaps one of the best open source packet analyzers available today.

Whisker Menu 2.7.0 released

- Add showing categories as icons on top or bottom (Issue #62)
- Add hiding username (Issue #36)
- Add rounded profile picture
- Add optional AccountsService support
- Add catfish search action
- Add CSS classes for theming
- Improve search result relevance
- Make stripping release builds optional
- Rearrange settings dialog
- Remove sliding out search results
- Remove useless grab check
- Rename icon to follow reverse DNS scheme
- Replace size grip with resizing from edges
- Replace slots with lambdas
Pantheon Kicks off Program to Give Back to Open Source Communities with Second Annual Gift of Open Source

The program's ultimate goal is to provide resources and mentorship to engage and energize first-time contributors to give back to open source. Opportunities are broad, spanning code- or non-code-based contributions to Drupal or WordPress projects, Pantheon repositories, GitHub pull requests or adjacent projects. For each contribution up to 500 contributions made, Pantheon will donate $20 to the Drupal Association and WordPress Foundation, for a total potential of $5,000 to each organization to support their efforts.

In the '80s, spaceflight sim Elite was nothing short of magic. The annotated source code shows how it was done

Just a fortnight under 40 years ago, the BBC Micro was released. Although it was never primarily a games machine — it was too expensive, for a start — nonetheless one of its defining programs was a video game: Elite.

Its source was released a few years ago, but your correspondent just discovered a lavishly described and documented online edition if you want to see exactly how it was done. The annotations were written by Mark Moxon, a web dev and journalist who among many other things was once editor of Acorn User magazine.

Elite was famous for several things, including its very considerable difficulty and amazing — for 1984 — wireframe 3D graphics with hidden-line removal. This was displayed on a screen which combined high-resolution and multi-colour graphics in a way the BBC's hardware couldn't natively do: the game changed screen modes from Mode 4 (medium-resolution monochrome) to Mode 5 (low-resolution four-colour) two-thirds of the way through generating each screen. At 50Hz, on a 2MHz 6502.

Friday FOSS fest: Franz, RamBox, Pidgin and more — The Register

Most modern chat systems are entirely proprietary: proprietary clients, talking proprietary protocols to proprietary servers. There's no need for this: there are free open standards for one-to-one and one-to-many comms for precisely this sort of system, and some venerable clients are still a lot more capable than you might remember.

But as it is today, if you need to be on more than one chat system at once, the official way is to
install their client app, meaning multiple clients or at best, multiple tabs open in your web browsers. Most of these "clients" are JavaScript web apps anyway, running inside Electron an embedded Chromium-based single-site browser. Which is fine, but Chrome is famously memory-hungry.

There is a brute-force way round this: have one app that embeds lots of separate Electron instances in tabs. There are a few of these around first came RamBox, followed by Franz. Both use the "freemium" model: there's a completely functional free client, plus subscriptions for extra features. If you prefer to avoid such things, both services have no-cost forks: Ferdi from Franz and Hamsket from RamBox. A newer rival still is Station.

* COP26: Why a data commons is needed to secure net zero commitments[7]

We don't have time for everyone to build their own financial and non-financial data aggregation platforms in order to facilitate capital allocation. Open-source collaboration could be the answer.

At COP26 in Glasgow, I was invited to be the master of ceremonies for an event hosted by Federated Hermes' Daniel Godfrey, and delivered by OS-Climate.

In a giant inflatable igloo on a carpark next to the main venue, Truman Semans, the founder of OS-Climate, explained his vision: a data commons in the cloud based on open-source community principles that will connect investors, investees and entire ecosystems to the data and needed to facilitate capital allocation to green projects. This is what the planet and its inhabitants urgently need.