

Managing the Complexity of the Open Source Infrastructure

from EDOS to Mancoosi

Stefano Zacchioli

zack@{ pps.jussieu.fr , debian.org }

Laboratoire Preuves Programmes et Systèmes
Université Paris Diderot — Paris, France

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University of Lugano — Switzerland



Outline

- 1 The Open Source Infrastructure and its Complexity
- 2 EDOS
- 3 Mancoosi

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1 The Open Source Infrastructure and its Complexity

2 EDOS

3 Mancoosi

Complex Software Systems

A particular kind of software systems which is of peculiar interest to software engineers are **complex systems**: *large number* of components, which have to be deployed together and *change frequently*.

The **free/open source software (FOSS)** infrastructure is a complex system *archetype*:

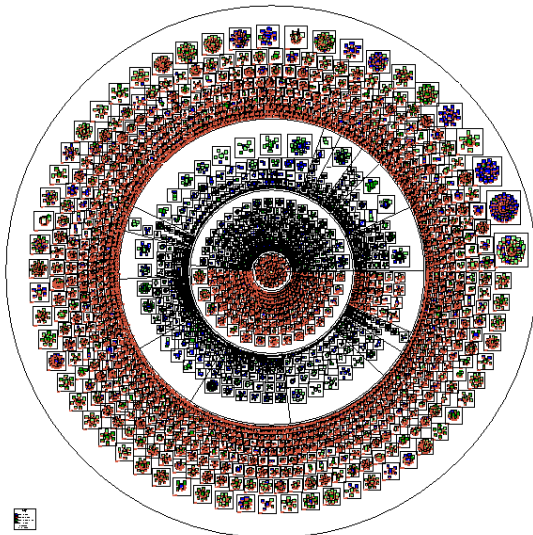
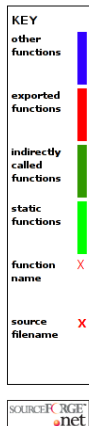
- no central authority / software architect
- quick (*release early, release often*) and distributed development
- strong component interdependency
- large code bases freely accessible (for developers, students, researches, ...)

Some FOSS facts

FOSS: complex **software** ...

[kernel mapper project]

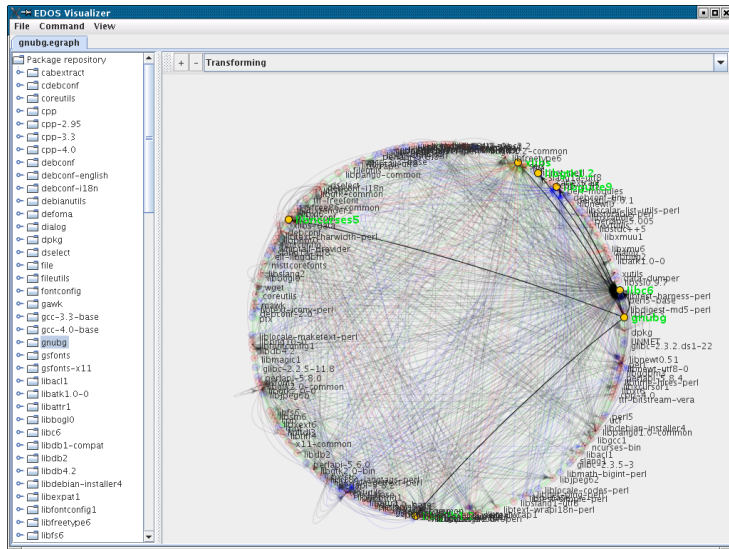
Zoom: ●●●●●●



Some FOSS facts (cont.)

FOSS: complex **interdependencies** ...

[EDOS visualizer]



Some FOSS facts (cont.)

FOSS: large **numbers** (components/developers) ...

SourceForge.net: 123,736 projects, 1,342,153 “users”

Numbers like that have the potential to radically change the way we produce and study software, in particular the complex systems of the future.

In this talk we will focus on just *one* of this aspect which has been the core of EDOS and Mancoosi: **distribution management**.

Reminder: FOSS

just a quick reminder on the free software definition (which is not about paying, cracking, ...)

free (as in *free beer*) software which has not to be paid (today)

free (as in *free speech*) software granting 4 **freedoms** to its users:¹

- ① freedom to *use* the software
- ① freedom to *study* the source code of the software and to adapt it to user needs
- ② freedom to *distribute* software copies
- ③ freedom to *distribute modified* software copies

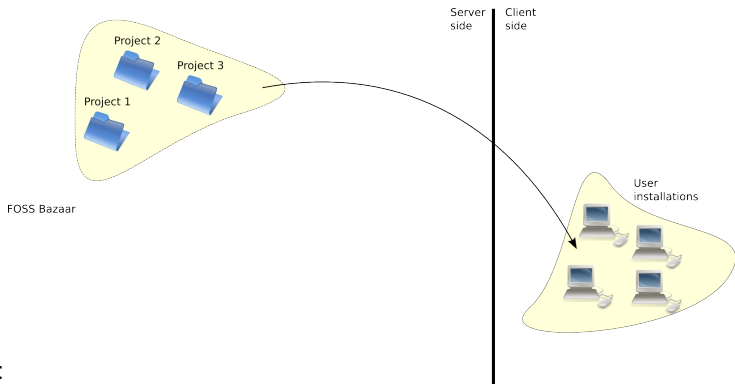
two points of view: the freedom one as outlined above (“free software”), the technical one pivoting around source code availability (“open source”)

¹there are of course also **obligations**, which vary according to the license: GPL, BSD, Mozilla, MIT/X, AGPL, ...

Before distributions

In the beginning it was the tarball ...

Before the advent of distributions, the *peculiar* way to install free software on client machine was:

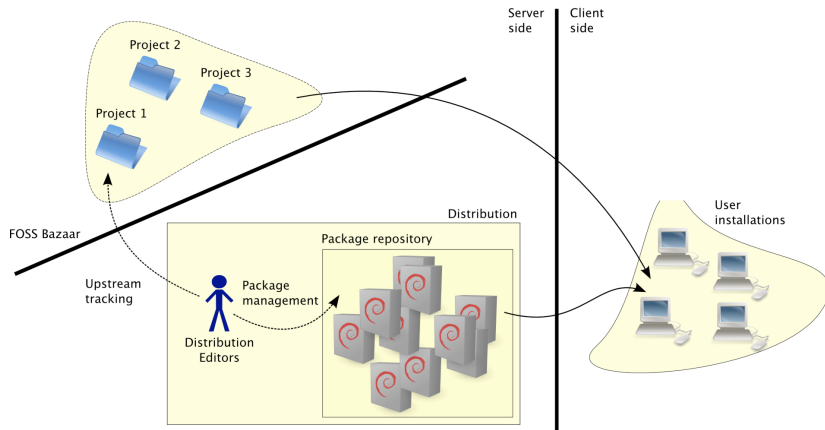


... but:

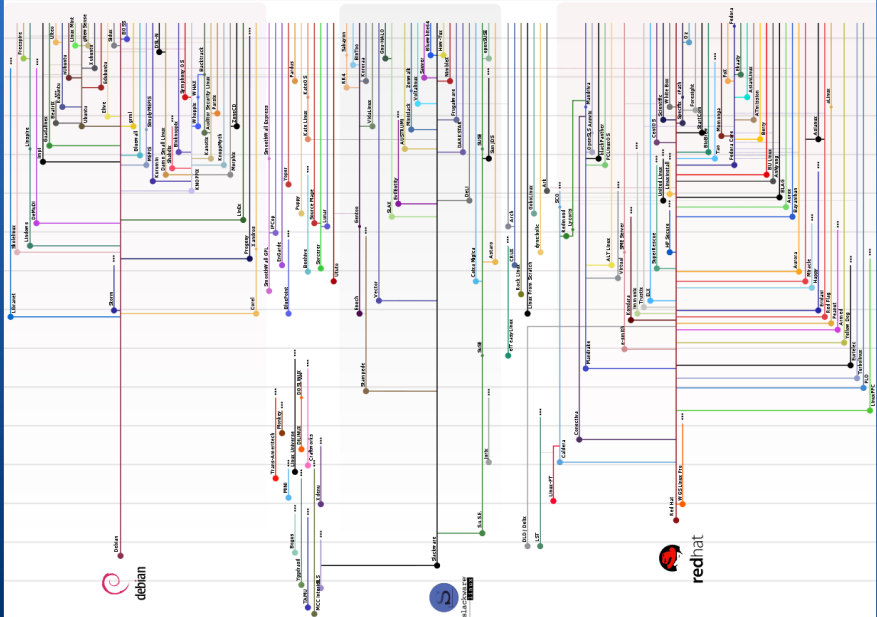
- no *standard version* enforcement on client side
- frequent needs: download, configure, build, ...
- too slow, too complex, too fragile!

GNU/Linux distributions

as a reflex to the aforementioned problems, GNU/Linux **distributions** have born as *intermediaries* between FOSS projects and their users



Distributions: a “somehow” successful idea ...



The distribution editor role

upstream tracking follow source evolution “upstream”
in general: developer \neq package maintainer

integration offer to the users (“downstream”) a *coherent* collection of packages
this implies handling *dependencies* properly

testing at all level (build-failures, test suites, user testing, ...)

distribution quick software diffusion, preserving past history

... ain't easy!

the “desirable” release cycles of 6/12 months need dozen of man-years

Central notion in distributions (to abstract over the complex underlying infrastructure): **package**, together with package management software ...

Packages, metadata, installation

Package =

{ some files
some scripts
metadata

- Identification
- Inter-package rel.
 - ▶ Dependencies
 - ▶ Conflicts
- Feature declarations
- Other
 - ▶ Package maintainer
 - ▶ Textual descriptions
 - ▶ ...

Example

```
Package: aterm
Version: 0.4.2-11
Section: x11
Installed-Size: 280
Maintainer: Göran Weinholt ...
Architecture: i386
Depends: libc6 (>= 2.3.2.ds1-4),
         libice6 | xlibs (>> 4.1.0), ...
Conflicts: suidmanager (<< 0.50)
Provides: x-terminal-emulator
...
```

- a package is the *elemental component* of modern distribution systems (not GNU/Linux specific)
- a working *system* is deployed by installing a package set ($\approx 1000/2000$ for GNU/Linux distro)

Packages and their problems

Package-related problems

- component coherence (distribution) SE, solvers, ...
- gradual installation (deployment) evolution algo, constraint, ...
- choose the desired system in the (large) solution space SE, ...
- graphing/visualizing system state HCI, ...
- master system evolution:
 - ▶ install/remove components solvers, ...
 - ▶ manage inter-package relationships solvers, languages, ...
 - ▶ component configuration SCM, VCS, ...
 - ▶ replicate, reproduce system state SE, semantics, ...
- ...

Each line is an open door on some research domain!

Packages and their problems

Package-related problems

- component coherence (distribution) **SE, solvers**, ...
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Sample installation

Phase	Trace
User request	<pre># apt-get install aterm Reading package lists... Done Building dependency tree... Done The following extra packages will be installed: libafterimage0 The following NEW packages will be installed aterm libafterimage0 0 upgraded, 2 newly installed, 0 to remove and 1786 not upgraded. Need to get 386kB of archives. After unpacking 807kB of additional disk space will be used. Do you want to continue [Y/n]? Y</pre>
Constraint resolution	
Package retrieval	<pre>Get: 1 http://debian.ens-cachan.fr testing/main libafterimage0 2.2.8-2 [301kB] Get: 2 http://debian.ens-cachan.fr testing/main aterm 1.0.1-4 [84.4kB] Fetched 386kB in 0s (410kB/s)</pre>
Pre-configuration	
Unpacking	<pre>Selecting previously deselected package libafterimage0. (Reading database ... 294774 files and directories currently installed.) Unpacking libafterimage0 (from .../libafterimage0_2.2.8-2_i386.deb) ... Selecting previously deselected package aterm. Unpacking aterm (from .../aterm_1.0.1-4_i386.deb) ...</pre>
Configuration	<pre>Setting up libafterimage0 (2.2.8-2) ... Setting up aterm (1.0.1-4) ...</pre>

- *each* phase can fail (it actually happens quite often ...)
- efforts should be made to identify errors as early as possible

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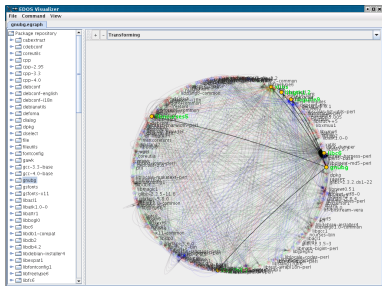
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Installation intricacies

In state of the art distributions:

- knowing if the installation process terminate without errors is **undecidable** (reason: configuration scripts)
- there is no guarantee that distribution repositories (e.g. DVD or online repo) contains only installable packages
- a large number of errors faced by users are dependency resolution errors
 - ▶ more than 20,000 paquets (and 10,000 sources) in Debian
 - ▶ more than 200.000 inter-package relationships (dependencies of varying "strenght")

Inter-package relationships are complex ...



Package: gnubg
Version: 0.14.3+20060923-4
Depends: gnubg-data,
ttf-bitstream-vera,
libartsc0 (>= 1.5.0-1), ...,
libgl1-mesa-glx | libgl1, ...
Conflicts: ...

And this changes *everyday*!

The **EDOS** and **Mancoosi** projects have attacked the errors of the *error resolution* phase, using *formal methods* to formalize and address them.

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project strep FP6 (2005–2007)

WP2 focus *coherence* of a FOSS **distribution** (distribution editor point of view)

Identify all packages which are not (individually) installable “in the void” wrt dependencies, and explain the reason.

results formalization of inter-package **relationships** + utilities for *distribution editors* based on the formalization (no satisfying pre-existing utilities)

Theorem

the problem of installing a package (or better: its dependency resolution part) is NP-complete

(proof intuition: bi-directional mapping between dependency resolution and SAT)

Package installation as a SAT problem (cont.)

Theorem

*A particular package p , version v is **installable** iff there exist a boolean assignment that makes p_v true, and satisfies the encoding of the repository.*

- the resulting formulas can be large (average formula size is 400 literals);
- some formulas can be harder (the formula for `kde` has 32,000 literals);
- ... but they are usually easy to solve: low “SAT-temperature” (though it is a misnomer here), almost Horn formulae.

Package installation as a SAT problem

- All the version constraints in inter-package relationships are expanded to the disjunction of the packages in the repository that satisfy that constraint.
- For every package P version V in the repository a boolean variable P_v is introduced.
- For every dependency relation we introduce a logical implication of the form $P_v \rightarrow R_1 \wedge \dots \wedge R_n$
- For every conflict relation we introduce a logical implication of the form $P_v \rightarrow \neg R_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \neg R_2$
- The encoding of the repository is given by the conjunction of all the logical implication introduced by dependencies and conflicts.

Installation and SAT solving

Install libc6 in

Package: libc6
Version: 2.2.5-11.8

Package: libc6
Version: 2.3.5-3

Package: libc6
Version: 2.3.2.ds1-22
Depends: libdb1-compat

Package: libdb1-compat
Version: 2.1.3-8
Depends: libc6 (>= 2.3.5-1)

Package: libdb1-compat
Version: 2.1.3-7
Depends: libc6 (>= 2.2.5-13)

becomes

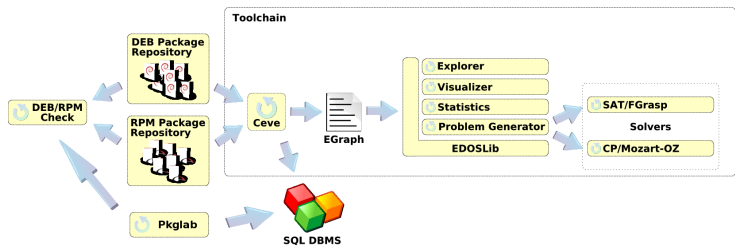
$$\begin{aligned} & I_{\text{libc6}}^{2.3.2.ds1-22} \\ & \wedge \\ & \neg(I_{\text{libc6}}^{2.3.2.ds1-22} \wedge I_{\text{libc6}}^{2.2.5-11.8}) \\ & \wedge \\ & \neg(I_{\text{libc6}}^{2.3.2.ds1-22} \wedge I_{\text{libc6}}^{2.3.5-3}) \\ & \wedge \\ & \neg(I_{\text{libc6}}^{2.3.5-3} \wedge I_{\text{libc6}}^{2.2.5-11.8}) \\ & \wedge \\ & \neg(I_{\text{libdb1-compat}}^{2.1.3-7} \wedge I_{\text{libdb1-compat}}^{2.1.3-8}) \\ & \wedge \\ & I_{\text{libc6}}^{2.3.2.ds1-22} \rightarrow \\ & (I_{\text{libdb1-compat}}^{2.1.3-7} \vee I_{\text{libdb1-compat}}^{2.1.3-8}) \\ & \wedge \\ & I_{\text{libdb1-compat}}^{2.1.3-7} \rightarrow \\ & (I_{\text{libc6}}^{2.3.2.ds1-22} \vee I_{\text{libc6}}^{2.3.5-3}) \\ & \wedge \\ & I_{\text{libdb1-compat}}^{2.1.3-8} \rightarrow I_{\text{libc6}}^{2.3.5-3} \end{aligned}$$

Not that easy: pre-depends, optimizations, error explanation, ...

The EDOS toolchain

Implemented a set of tools for:

- Analysing package repositories.
- Reporting the state of package repositories and their evolution.
- Navigating package repositories to find the root of problems.



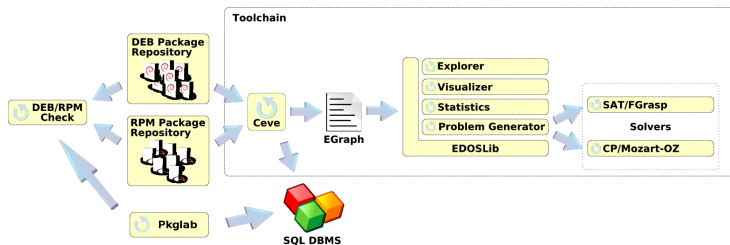
...but also: tart, anla, etc. Offering a solid framework for the *invisible but indispensable* work of distribution editors.

Everything, of course, released as free software.

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Timeline

- 2005-08 1st version of ceve and EDOSlib
- 2005-09 WP2D1: package system analysis, reduction to boolean constraint problem, NP-completeness
- 2005-11 1st version of edos-debcheck, integrated with a SAT-solver
- 2006-02 EDOS start tracking Debian via anla, with daily reports
- 2006-03 WP2D2: encoding as a boolean Constraint Programming problem, state of the art package manager comparison
- 2006-09 Paper: *Managing the Complexity of Large Free and Open Source Package-Based Software Distributions*, 21th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Automated Software Engineering
- 2006-09 1st version of tart, an optimizing allocator of packages in several medias (CD, DVD, ..)
- 2006-12 EDOS WP2 utils presentation at Debian QA meeting in Extremadura: `edos.debian.net` was born
- 2007-06 end of EDOS; about 100.000 OCaml LOCs written

Team: Jaap Boender, Berke Durak, Xavier Leroy, Fabio Mancinelli, Ralf Treinen, Jérôme Vouillon

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An upgrade problem example

... nice song and dance, but this did not solve end-user problems!

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# sudo apt-get install debhelper
```

```
Reading Package Lists... Done
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```
Building Dependency Tree... Done
```

The following extra packages will be installed:

```
armagetron armagetron-common autoconf bonobo-activation codebreaker debconf
debconf-i18n debconf-utils dialog esound-common fb-music-high fontconfig
frozen-bubble-data grepmail gv intltool-debian libaiksaurus-data
libaiksaurus0c102 libatk1.0-0 libatk1.0-dev libbonobo-activation4 libbonobo2-0
libbonobo2-common libdb3 libdbd-mysql-perl libdbi-perl libeel2-data libesd0
```

```
...
```

The following packages will be REMOVED:

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libgtk1.2-dev libgtk2.0-0png3 libgtk2.0-dev libmime-base64-perl
libpango1.0-dev libSDL-mixer1.2-dev libSDL-perl libSDL-ttf1.2-dev
libSDL1.2-dev libsmpeg-dev libstorable-perl nautilus tk8.3-dev tktable-dev
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libidn0 liblzo1 libmagick5.5.7 libmail-mbox-messageparser-perl
libmysqlclient12 libncursesw5 libnet-daemon-perl libnewt0.51 libpaper1
libplrpc-perl libSDL-console ...
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75 packages upgraded, 80 newly installed, 42 to remove and 858 not upgraded.
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Need to get 67.1MB of archives. After unpacking 26.9MB will be used.
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libpango1.0-dev libSDL-mixer1.2-dev libSDL-perl libSDL-ttf1.2-dev
libSDL1.2-dev libsmpeg-dev libstorable-perl nautilus tk8.3-dev tktable-dev
x-window-system x-window-system-core xaw3dg-dev xlib6g xlib6g-dev xlibmesa-dev
xlibmesa3 xlibosmesa3 xlibs-dev xlibs-pic xpdf xpdf-reader
```

The following NEW packages will be installed:

```
armagetron-common debconf-i18n fb-music-high fontconfig intltool-debian
libaiksaurus-data libaiksaurus0c102 libeel2-data libfilehandle-unget-perl
libfontconfig1 libforms1 libgdbm3 libgnutls7 libgsf-1 libice-dev libice6
libidn0 liblzo1 libmagick5.5.7 libmail-mbox-messageparser-perl
libmysqlclient12 libncursesw5 libnet-daemon-perl libnewt0.51 libpaper1
libplrpc-perl libSDL-console ...
```

75 packages upgraded, 80 newly installed, 42 to remove and 858 not upgraded.

Need to get 67.1MB of archives. After unpacking 26.9MB will be used.

Do you want to continue? [Y/n] Abort.

An upgrade problem example

... nice song and dance, but this did not solve end-user problems!

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# sudo apt-get install debhelper
```

```
Reading Package Lists... Done
```

```
Building Dependency Tree... Done
```

The following extra packages will be installed:

```
armagetron armagetron-common autoconf bonobo-activation codebreaker debconf
debconf-i18n debconf-utils dialog esound-common fb-music-high fontconfig
frozen-bubble-data grepmail gv intltool-debian libaiksaurus-data
libaiksaurus0c102 libatk1.0-0 libatk1.0-dev libbonobo-activation4 libbonobo2-0
libbonobo2-common libdb3 libdbd-mysql-perl libdbi-perl libeel2-data libesd0
```

```
...
```

The following packages will be REMOVED:

```
autoconf2.13 frozen-bubble frozen-bubble-lib gconf2 gnomemeeting itk3.1-dev
libbonoboui2-0 libbonoboui2-common libdigest-md5-perl libforms0.89 libgconf2-4
libgnome2-0 libgnome2-common libgnomeui-0 libgnomevfs2-0 libgnomevfs2-common
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project step FP7 (2008–2011)

focus *coherence* and maintenance of a FOSS distribution

installation (user point of view)

- Utils for package installation management (package managers / meta-installer)
 - ▶ installation
 - ▶ removal
 - ▶ upgrade
 - ▶ downgrade
 - ▶ ...

Project Overview

Transactional updates

WP2 formalization of the *effects* of package installation/removal/... on a working system

WP3 development of utilities enabling the “upgrade” process to become transactional

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Upgradeability

WP4 conceiving of optimized algorithms for the upgrade (in particular for the dependency resolution phase)

WP5 set up of a corpus/knowledge base of upgrade problem; then:
federation of researchers/practitioners on an international dependency resolution competition (inspiring examples: SAT competition, SAT race, TPTP, ...)

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Project Partners



Universita'



dell'Aquila



Mancoosi Team



Offspring & related works

The basic ideas/achievements developed in EDOS, which are at the origin of Mancoosi, have been largely adopted in the practice of software distribution (not necessarily tied to the world of GNU/Linux distributions):

Opium package manager exploiting SAT solving and CP to solve upgrade problems for the *Linspire* GNU/Linux distribution. Most notably: the first meta-installer which is *complete* wrt the upgrade problem (unfortunately the code is not “easily” available ...)

Zypp idem for *OpenSuse*

Eclipse idem for the plugins of the Eclipse platform

Apache the Apache project has a similar under development project for components of the various Apache-related projects

Questions?

looking for something else than Q & A time?

... ok, here is ~~some~~ **SPAM** a friendly reminder: <http://www.mancoosi.org>

UPDB Submission Architecture

UPDB = Upgrade Problem DataBase

- per-distribution collection repositories (DUDF)
 - ▶ modified version of meta-installers to log upgrade problems
- central repository to form problems for the competition (CUDF)
- architecture similar to Debian's popularity contest

