

PORTSreport

by Frederic Culot

THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY on the ports front for the September–October period was almost the same as during the summer, and that is not very high. That said, we were pleased to see several new committers join the project. Also, some major ports were updated during this period, which may require caution when upgrading as described below.

NEW PORTS COMMITTERS AND SAFE-KEEPING

It is a delight to welcome three new or returning talents to the rank of ports committers.

- **Soren Straarup (xride@)** is able to work on ports again after more than a year of inactivity. Both garga@ and mat@ will serve as mentors in case xride@ needs help catching up with the latest infrastructure changes.

Two new committers joined our ranks:

- **Kenji Takefu** who will be mentored by hrs@ and mat@, and
- **Carlos Puga Medina**, who will be mentored by junovitch@, amdmi3@ and feld@. Both have already done a lot for FreeBSD: Kenji has sent more than 300 problem reports since 2006, and Carlos maintained more than 30 ports. Two well-deserved commit bits—congratulations to both of you!

Some commit bits were also taken in for safekeeping after more than 18 months of inactivity (fluffy@, lioux@, lippe@, and simon@).

IMPORTANT PORTS UPDATES

As always, many exp-runs were carried out by antoine@ (22 in total) to check whether major ports updates are safe or not. Among those important updates we can mention the following highlights:

- CMake updated to 3.3.1
- ffmpeg updated to 2.8
- Qt4 updated to 4.8.7

Another noticeable update concerned Firefox (41.0) and SeaMonkey (2.38), which now require the databases/sqlite3 dependency to be built with the DBSTAT option enabled—in case you do not use the binary package but a set of non-

default port options instead. As usual, more information is available in the `/usr/ports/UPDATING` file, which should be read carefully before upgrading major ports.

STATS

A few stats: for the two-month period from September to October 2015, 4,666 commits were applied to the ports tree, which is an increase of more than 10% compared to the last period. On the bug reports front, 1,073 PRs were closed, which is also a slight increase compared to the July–August period. Many thanks to all for your contributions!

HOW CAN I HELP?

If you like FreeBSD and want to become part of the team, a good starting point would be to work on an unmaintained port to propose updates. To identify those ports which are not assigned to any specific committer or team, you can browse portsmon's list online (<http://portsmon.freebsd.org/portsconcordanceformaintainer.py?maintainer=ports%40FreeBSD.org>) or type this command:

```
make -C /usr/ports quicksearch
maint=ports@FreeBSD.org
```

Once your choice has been made, you should read the Porter's Handbook (<https://www.freebsd.org/doc/en/books/porters-handbook/>) to refresh your porting skills, and when your update seems correct, submit it via the FreeBSD Problem Reports online interface (<https://bugs.freebsd.org/bugzilla/>). If you need any help during the process, we would be very pleased to assist you either via the forum (<https://forums.freebsd.org/>), or on irc, such as in the #bsdports channel on EFnet. Good luck and we hope to have you join the ranks soon!

Having completed his PhD in Computer Modeling applied to Physics, Frederic Culot has worked in the IT industry for the past 10 years. During his spare time he studies business and management and just completed an MBA. Frederic joined FreeBSD in 2010 as a ports committer, and since then has made around 2,000 commits, mentored six new committers, and now assumes the responsibilities of portmgr-secretary.