



Communication is
everything



Communication is everything Or how to get people involved

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Communication is everything



Overview

- About me and what I'm doing in KDE
- Different forms of communication
- How to bring new people to your project
- Rules for constructive communication
- Question & Thanks



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About me and what I do in KDE

- 35 years old, married, father of (soon) two kids
- Studying education and computer sciences, working as teacher & webmaster
- Hobbies (inpo): Sciences, gardening, skiing, family, free software and data
- Member and founder of several free software organisations
- Contributor in KDE since around 2009:
 - Coordination, Translation, Promo stuff, Fundraising and **Communication**
- Main organizer of the Randa Meetings (KDE Tech Summit)



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Different forms of communication

- Communication as the art of information exchange
- verbal communication (**email**, IRC, IM, video chat, face-to-face meetings)
- non-verbal communication (body language, smelling, feeling, etc.)
- text (promo work in KDE e.g. release announcements)
- images (work of the VDG - Visual Design Group)
- even coding is communication



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The notorious bus factor

- If you're the only contributor to your project and you get hit by a bus the project is dead. (an indication of how survivable your project is)
- Reasons (might be for just a while and not necessarily forever):
 - You lose interest in your project
 - You get sick or even die
 - You lack in time to work on your project
 - Your employer doesn't allow you to work on your project ... etc. pp.



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How to bring new people to your project

- First and foremost: People need to be aware that there is a project at all
 - Do you have a website or wiki page about your project?
- People need to be aware that your project is alive
 - Blog, write articles, talk with people, make a video, other social media
- Be ready for people to start contributing and becoming a part of your project
 - Show them a way to enter your project, prepare simple tasks (JJ), etc.
- And in the end you might have new people that help you and participate



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Rules for constructive communication

- The following rules are not official but seem to be useful and what I learned
- Ever read the KDE (and other) Code of Conducts?
- These rules should help you to communicate (and write) constructively



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Rule #1

- Always expect good and the best intentions



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Rule #2

- Always try to make people understand what you want and mean. Don't try to show the people that you're right (communication is not about winning a competition)



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Rule #3

- If you're angry or emotional and want to answer something wait an hour or sleep over it



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Rule #4

- What goes around, comes around
- As the question, so the answer
- C'est le tone qui fait la musique
- Wie man in den Wald schreit, so schallt's heraus.
- ...



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Rule #5

- English is not the mother tongue or native language for most of us. So expect a misunderstanding instead of an attack
- If English is your mother tongue, help us othres. If not, keep it in mind ;-)



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Conclusion

- But in the end be proud to be part of this community. Despite all this hurdles it works really well. And our community is a really diverse and heterogeneous thing ;-)
- And if you take a walk outside of KDE you will see that KDE is mostly known as a very open and inclusive and helpful community!



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Questions?

**Thanks to Peter, Albert, Jos, my family and
everybody else in and around KDE**