

20 years of netlabs.org

Open Source Software for OS/2

<https://twitter.com/linkedktk>

Adrian Gschwend, ktk@netlabs.org

The logo features the text "OS/2 Netl@bs" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. The '@' symbol is yellow and has a glowing effect. The text is set against a light blue, circular glow.

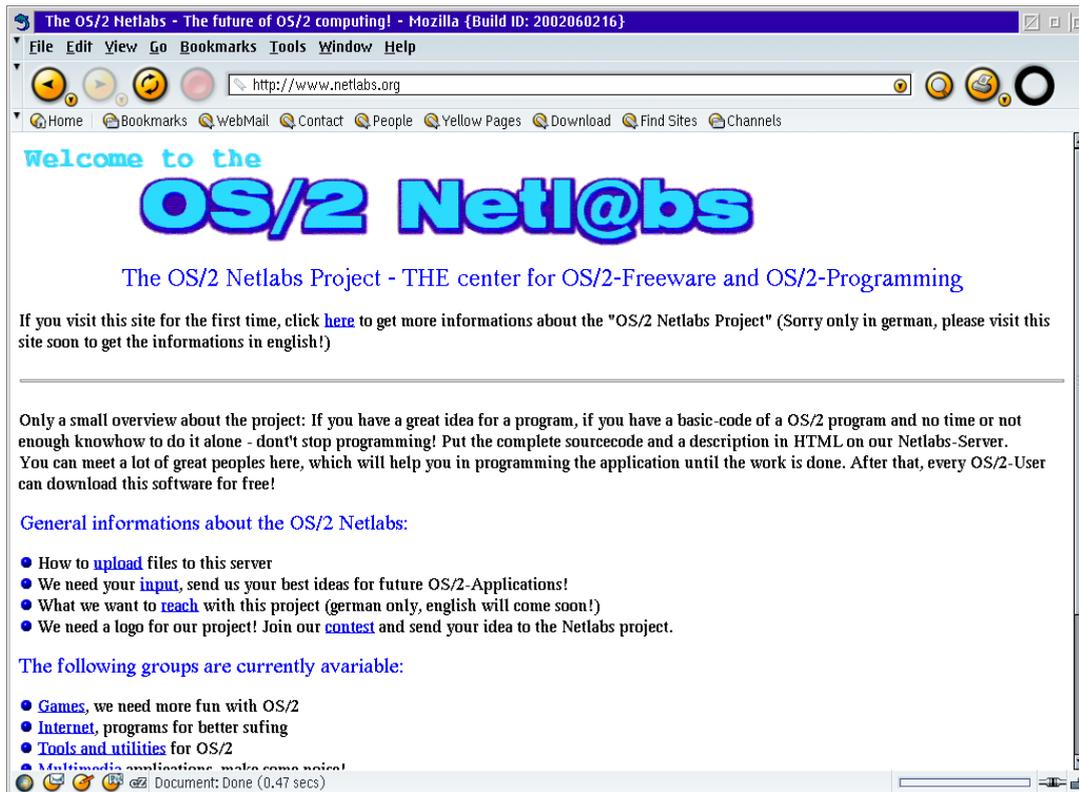
(Not the recent logo for a while but still the best one we had :)

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

The OS/2 Netlabs - GIMP/2 - Mozilla {Build ID: 2002060216}

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://www.netlabs.org/gimp.html

Home Bookmarks WebMail Contact People Yellow Pages Download Find Sites Channels

The OS/2 Netl@bs



Image taken from the [GIMP page](#)

News Upload Links

The first concrete project on the OS/2 Netlabs is here!!

The first step...

GIMP/2, yes it looks like we will get a GIMP port for OS/2!! Thanks a lot to [Hugues Ferland](#) which started programming on the OS/2 version of GIMP. This is the first concrete project on the OS/2 Netlabs, we still need other people which are able to support [Hugues Ferland](#) in porting GIMP!

If you have any know how in porting Linux applications to OS/2 (with EMX GCC) **please** send an email to [me](#) and/or [Hugues Ferland](#), we need your support! And for sure, if you are interested in supporting Hugues (i.e. in porting filters or other parts to OS/2) please mail us too!!

Document: Done (0.54 secs)

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

GIMP for XFree86



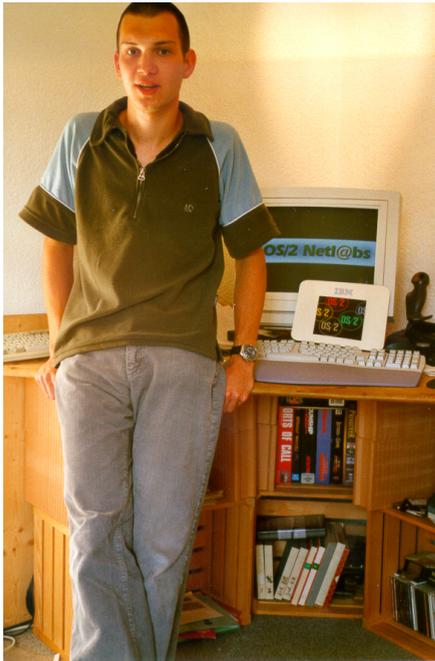
Mozilla

- 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](#)

Hancock Sun - 10:45AM

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](#)

Hancock Sun - 08:15AM

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](#)

Hancock Sun - 12:00PM

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](#)

Hancock Sat - 02:00PM

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

Opera 5 - [netlabs.org: Projects]

File Edit View Navigation Bookmarks Messaging News Window Help

10:07 PM

LEARN OPERA MOUSE GESTURES

http://projects.netlabs.org/

OS/2 Netl@bs

The CONFIG.SYS editor **Tyra/2** and documentation project <http://www.warpsite.de>

Projects

- Business
- Games/Emulator
- Internet
- Multimedia
- Operating System
- Programming
- System Utilities
- USB
- User Interface

Home: Projects

Programming:

MGL Dualmode Library

The MGL Dualmode library provides a single API for DIVE and fullscreen graphics programming on OS/2 and eCS.

Multimedia:

Soundcard Device Drivers

With SciTech Display Doctor OS/2 users get very good support for almost all graphic chipsets. But there is still a lack of support for new soundcards like Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live and other cards. The new Sound Project started by Sander Van Leeuwen will change this situation, it's now possible to port Linux sound drivers to OS/2 without investing too much time! The first release is supporting SoundBlaster Live!

Games/Emulator:

UAE for OS/2

UAE is an Amiga emulator for OS/2, it allows you to play a lot of well known games for the Amiga on OS/2.

Internet:

HandyFTP

HandyFTP is an Internet FTP and FXP file transfer application for OS/2 PM, Win32 and Linux/Unix.

User Interface:

XWorkplace

XWorkplace brings features to the desktop of OS/2 that people have missed for a long time and IBM never implemented. Once you installed XWorkplace on your desktop, you will just love it!

Our projects:

System Utilities

Create PDF files out of all OS/2 applications with PMPDF

Multimedia

Sound device driver

USB

USB device drivers for OS/2

Business

MySQL: A free SQL database system

Games/Emulator

Run your classic Amiga games with UAE

Latest news:

MGL Dualmode Library

New homepage for the Dualmode library

WarpDriver

PCI support and source updates

Netlabs

netlabs.org back with a new CMS!

kTask-Mana

Move To Netlab

PM PDF (Po PDF)

netlabs.org: Projects

19 / 42

We started to do Wintercamps



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

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

Retrospection
Outlook
Perspectives
Community, A New Approach
Discussion

Problems - Software Layer
Problems - Human Layer
So What?

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

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Adrian Gschwend

netlabs.org - What's Up?

Dreams in 2005

Retrospection
Outlook
Perspectives
Community, A New Approach
Discussion

Things Worth Keeping
Things to Avoid
Intermezzo
Dreams
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

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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

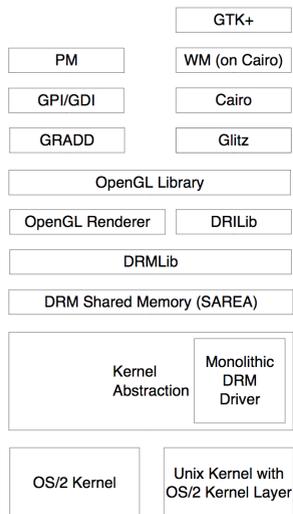






Developers Workshop 2006 in Biel, Switzerland

- 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!