

OpenSuSE build service and the non-distro projects.

- What is a “non-distro project”?
 - too small or unknown to be included in major distros. example: peless
 - you are trying to get your project into the major distros.
 - or
 - can not be included in major distros for legal reasons. example Mplayer, mp3 players.
 - Sometimes the distros feature a “crippled” version, but you want to supply an original version. (packman)

Things are complicated.

- They say all you need to do is:
 - ./configure
 - make
 - make install
- What about dependencies?
 - -devel packages needed to make ./configure, make work.

-devel packages.

- different sets of -devel packages are needed for different distros.
- They have different names.
- you can not tell your users to navigate these waters. Joe Sixpack will never make it.
- So the project developer gets seduced into becoming a packager!

Being a packager is a nightmare!

- you need a build host for every platform = distro/architecture combination!
- you need to create repositories for each platform!
- you need to be a master of RPM spec files.
- debian packages are completely different!
- you need to know the dependencies of your package for every platform!

Open SuSE build service solves some of these problems.

- You don't need no skinken' build hosts! (They are part of the build service.)
- The repositories are created and published by the build service.
- You still need to be a master of RPM and/or debian packaging.
- You still need to know your build dependencies.

Novel is not the devil!

- just a corporation! You may have heard otherwise. Water flows downhill, but the leak has been plugged.
- Novel makes many contributions to many important free software / open source projects.
- Those calling for Novell's blood should ask themselves:
 - Do you really want there to be only one corporate Linux Distribution? Does anyone remember the gcc 2.96 fiasco?

The OpenSuSE build service software has been GPLed!

- This means the software can never be coopted by the “dark side” no matter what else happens!
- Documented at:
 - http://en.opensuse.org/Build_Service

How to use.

- Big corporations will want to have their own instance of the OBS.
- Small developers will just want to use OpenSuSE's version.
- follow the steps in:
 - http://en.opensuse.org/Build_Service_Tutorial

Apply for an account.

- Get a wiki login.
- Fill in form to apply for account.
 - tell them about the free software projects you want to package.
- follow the directions to create your package.
 - upload you tar ball, patches and .spec file.
- check the log file for any platforms that fail to build. Edit the .spec file as needed. Iterate, when all platforms build successfully, you are done.

Open SuSE build service will expose bugs in you spec file.

- It will try to build under a minimal system with only those dependencies mentioned in your spec file. Thus it will find missing dependencies that you never thought about or knew you were using.

Web interface for your package.

- The opensuse build service search page:
 - <http://software.opensuse.org/search>
- will search for your package for all distros.
- You can search for your project with “All” distros. Then “Permanent link to this result”.
- Put the URL of the result into your project's own home page!
- This gives you a link to RPMs for all distros/architectures.

I believe that Sites like Packman should have their own instance of Open SuSE build service.

- They host some packages that can not be put on Novell's OBS for legal reasons!