

Not only code

other ways you can
support free software

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Hacktoberfest



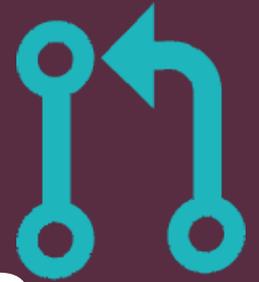
Reporting bugs

Hardly any program is bug-free.

Some bugs may be quite obvious and thus noticed and fixed quickly, but a lot of them manifest only in very specific circumstances and a lot of time can pass before someone observes them.

By reporting bugs and issues to software authors, we (hopefully) contribute to improving its quality.

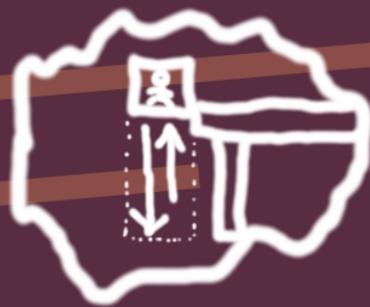




Reporting wants & needs

A similar situation to reporting bugs is reporting needs and wishes.

By reporting our needs, we suggest new ways for improving the program.



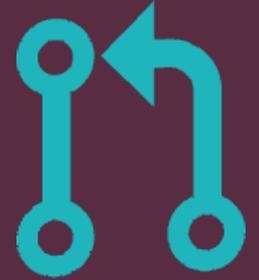
Our proposals may, for e.g., make the program more welcoming for new users, or more accessible for people with disabilities.



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Bugs and needs



Small projects usually use the issue tracking tools provided by their code hosting platform, e.g. GitHub, BitBucket, GitLab.

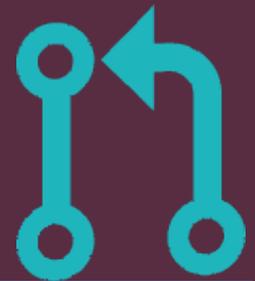
The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository `trailofbits / twa`. At the top right, there are buttons for `Watch` (8), `Unstar` (391), and `Fork` (26). Below these are navigation tabs for `Code`, `Issues` (3), `Pull requests` (2), `Projects` (0), `Wiki`, and `Insights`. A search bar contains the filter `is:issue is:open`. To the right of the search bar are buttons for `Labels` and `Milestones`, and a green `New issue` button. The main content area shows a list of issues with the following details:

- 3 Open** (15 Closed) | Author | Labels | Projects | Milestones | Assignee | Sort
- Cookie checks** (enhancement, good first issue, hacktoberfest) | #37 opened 9 days ago by woodruffw | 3 comments
- Formal codes for FATALs, FAILs, and MEHs** (enhancement) | #33 opened 15 days ago by woodruffw
- Curious about google example** (question) | #8 opened 29 days ago by luxe | 3 comments

At the bottom, a **ProTip!** states: "Type `g` `i` on any issue or pull request to go back to the issue listing page."

Bugs and needs

Large projects often have separate issue tracking systems, e.g. Bugzilla.



GNOME New Browse Search Search [?] Reports Help New Account Log In Forgot Password

For bug reporters: If [File a bug](#) does not list a project, check [GNOME GitLab](#) instead (exceptions: [Doxygen](#), [GnuCash](#), [LDTP](#))!
For project maintainers and developers: After [evaluation](#), the mass migration from Bugzilla to [GitLab](#) has started ([more info on GitLab](#)).

Sat Oct 13 2018 06:47:03 UTC

Status: UNCONFIRMED, NEW, ASSIGNED, REOPENED, NEEDINFO Product: bluefish

324 bugs found.

ID ^	Product	Comp	Assignee ^	Status ^	Resolution	Summary	Changed
345230	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Request for <style> tag in the css menu	2009-02-07
355684	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	A Visual Table Generator for Bluefish	2008-12-06
373892	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Convert to ASCII	2009-02-08
508772	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	variable length argument list in snippet dialogs	2009-07-16
559533	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Add support for block selection mode	2009-07-23
565389	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	We should consider the ATAG 1.0/2.0 (W3C)	2009-10-11
578434	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Bluefish 'Documentroot' is not the equivalent of the Apache 'Documentroot'	2009-05-15
584142	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Disabling Bluefish "about dialog" plugin disables entire Help menu	2009-05-28
584534	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Implementations of functions ...	2009-10-29
584734	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Support Vim Modelines	2009-12-25
585276	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	External command changes don't write - rev4878	2009-06-11
590864	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	use color button	2009-10-28
592295	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Some HTML tags cannot be edited with the 'Edit Tag' dialogue	2009-09-02
593797	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Calls to external commands in Windows (e.g. browsers like Opera or Safari)	2009-10-28
595713	bluefish	language file	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	xml/html/xhtml: Support DOCTYPE declaration	2010-01-17
595714	bluefish	language file	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	XML: Support XML declaration and processing instructions (PIs)	2009-10-28
595944	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Crash with invalid bfinc file (attached)	2009-10-29
597324	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Check version of GTK runtime library against version of GTK version compiled with	2009-10-04
598358	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	cannot enter curly brackets as ALT codes	2010-01-13
599751	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Enter should insert a snippet or open a file	2009-10-27
599871	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	the project file should be autosaveable	2009-10-28
600596	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	search for multiline regex in advanced open	2009-11-03
602448	bluefish	language file	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Perl language file should support POD/perldoc syntax	2009-11-19
606085	bluefish	language file	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Preferences > Text styles > Reload default settings	2013-02-05
606179	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	hyperlink/url button	2013-02-05
606546	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Can't add new top level branch when snippets panel is full	2013-02-05
607216	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	getting file information should also wait for a mount	2010-01-17
608017	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Feature request for German special characters	2010-01-25
608251	bluefish	language file	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	overlapping patterns warning in diff.bfclang	2011-08-14
609740	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Execution of random commands and capture their output with one of the configured output parsers.	2010-02-12
610415	bluefish	application	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	cannot change file types or add extensions to existing file types	2010-08-14
611520	bluefish	file browser	bluefish-maint	NEW	---	Unable to connect to servers via Bluefish. Using Nautilus first.	2010-03-12



Helping others

One of the key elements to a program's success is the quality of available support.

By helping others solve their problems, e.g. by answering questions on forums or chat channels, we not only solve the problem of the person asking, but also contribute to the project's community.





Documentation

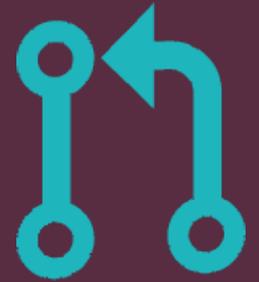
A common problem troubling software - especially the smaller and lesser known - is the lack of good documentation.

By creating and improving documentation in projects, we reduce the entry barrier for new users and make using the program easier for them.



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Translating

Though some programs are created with the thought of only a single country's market, most of them are universal and can be used anywhere.

By translating the program to new languages, we increase the number of potential users.

Or, looking at it from the other side – for common users, we increase the number of software available to them.

CHINESE
FAIRYTALES

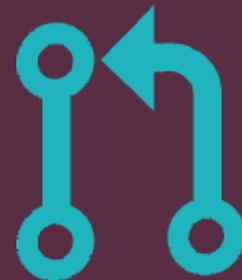
ドラゴンボール

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Translating

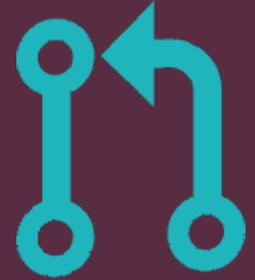
In smaller projects, translating may require manual edition of strings files.



```
1 msgid ""
2 msgstr ""
3 "Language: en\n"
4 "Content-Type: text/plain; charset=UTF-8\n"
5 "Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit\n"
6 "Plural-Forms: nplurals=2; plural=(n==1 ? 0 : 1);\n"
7
8 # A place for you to credit yourself!
9 # Put something like "Latin translation by Jvlivs Gaivs\n" here.
10 msgid "TRANSLATION_AUTHOR\n"
11 msgstr "--\n"
12
13 msgid "FREE_PACKAGES_COUNT\n"
14 msgid_plural "FREE_PACKAGES_COUNT\n"
15 msgstr[0] "%d free package\n"
16 msgstr[1] "%d free packages\n"
17
18 msgid "NONFREE_PACKAGES_COUNT\n"
19 msgid_plural "NONFREE_PACKAGES_COUNT\n"
20 msgstr[0] "%d non-free package\n"
21 msgstr[1] "%d non-free packages\n"
22
23 msgid "RMS_HAPPY\n"
24 msgstr "Only free packages - rms would be proud!\n"
25
26 msgid "RMS_DISAPPOINTED\n"
27 msgstr "Over 10%% non-free packages. Do you not appreciate freedom?\n"
```

Translating

Larger projects often use some kind of internet service for translations.



Hosted Weblate Dashboard Projects Languages Register Login

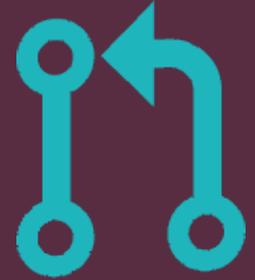
Guake / Guake translated 59%

Translations Information Insights Tools Manage Share

Language	Translated	Words	Review	Checks	Suggestions	Comments	
Catalan	29.2%	22.5%	16.6%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Chinese (Simplified)	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Croatian	29.2%	22.5%	16.6%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Czech	99.6%	98.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Dutch	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
French	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Galician	36.6%	27.7%	17.4%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
German	91.7%	92.7%	0.0%	2.1%	2.6%	0.0%	Translate
Greek	24.4%	18.6%	15.5%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Hungarian	29.2%	22.5%	16.6%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Indonesian	5.5%	1.4%	4.8%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Italian	92.5%	93.6%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Japanese	42.5%	34.0%	4.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Korean	67.4%	66.8%	3.3%	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Norwegian Bokmål	74.0%	57.3%	25.9%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Persian	29.2%	21.4%	16.6%	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Polish	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Portuguese (Brazil)	57.7%	59.7%	9.2%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Punjabi	27.0%	15.5%	16.2%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Russian	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Spanish (Spain)	58.5%	60.0%	7.7%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate
Swedish	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Translate

Translating

Thanks to that, we can translate straight from the web browser.



It also eases cooperation of multiple translators.

Guake / Guake / Spanish (Spain) / translate

Q Strings needing action 1 / 112

Translate

Source

Guake is an easy to access terminal based on FPS games terminal

Translation Spanish (Spain)

Guake es un terminal de fácil acceso basado en los terminales de los juegos de acción en primera persona.

Needs editing

Save Suggest Skip

Glossary

Source **Translation**

No related strings found in the glossary.

Source information

Source string location

../data/about.glade.h:5

Source string age

4 months ago

Translation file

po/es.po, string 2

String priority

Medium

Falling checks

Multiple falling checks 1

	Source	Translation	State
1	About Guake	Acerca de Guake	✓
2	Guake is an easy to access terminal based on FPS games terminal	Guake es un terminal de fácil acceso basado en los terminales de los juegos de acción en primera persona.	?
3	Copy	Copiar	✓
4	Paste	Pegar	✓
5	Toggle Fullscreen	Conmutar pantalla completa	✓
6	Save to File...	Guardar en fichero...	✓
7	Reset terminal	Reiniciar terminal	✓



Graphics and sounds

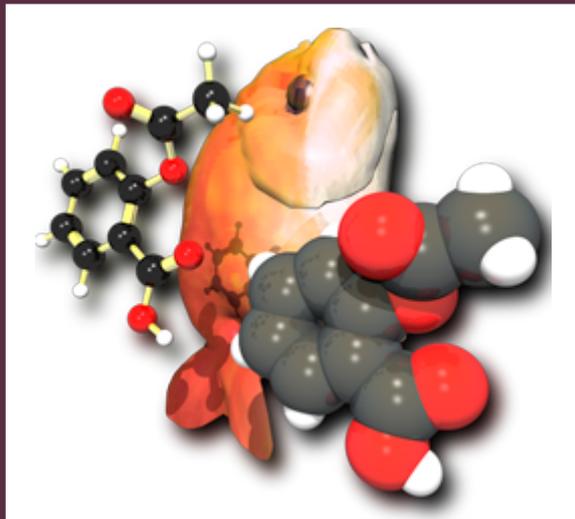
A subtle problem that affects a lot of projects is the lack of artists and/or designers.

While they often have very little trouble attracting new programmers, they lack people who could e.g. design an elegant logo.



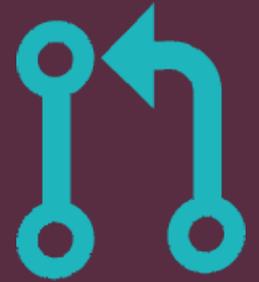


Graphics and sounds



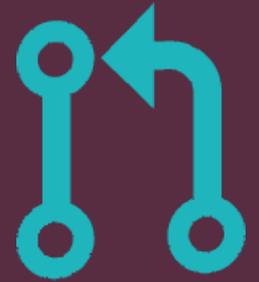
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Graphics and sounds



Apart from utility programs, there's also free and open video games, for whom the need for good artists cannot be overstated.

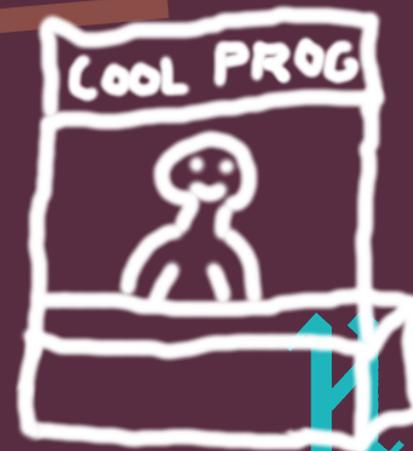




Popularizing

A program without users is like a book without readers or a play without viewers.

By recommending a program to your friends you make it more popular, which in turn might lead to more people willing to help with its development.



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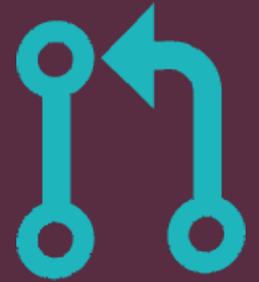


Donating

A large number of projects allow you to support them financially through donations.



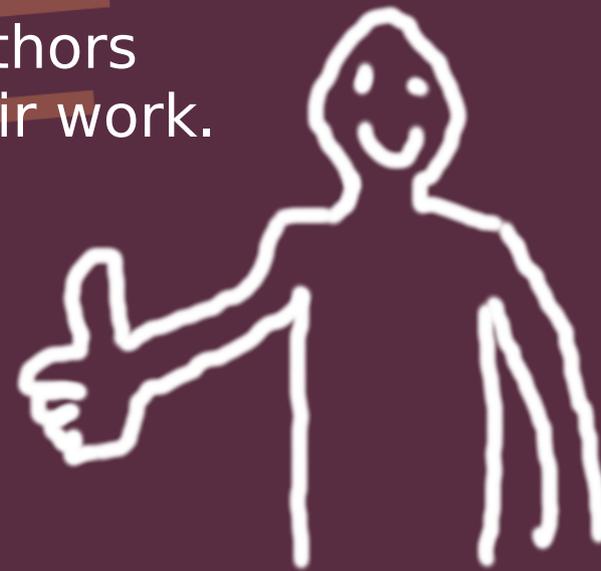
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Some good words

Hardly anything demotivates as much as the feeling of doing pointless work.

If you like a program – thank the authors and tell them how much you value their work.



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Thanks for listening

Questions?

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