"Everybody needs a hacker"
Lightning talk for FOSDEM 2012

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EPFSUG
European Parliament Free Software User Group

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Who we are

Camilla Bursi

- ▶ Advisor on Industry and Research Policy for the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament,
- ▶ Working in ITRE - The Industry, Research and Energy Commitee in the EP,
- ▶ EPFSUG Member number 5 (since April 2011)

Jonatan Walck

- ▶ Member of the Julia Group,
- ▶ Participant in the Telecomix cluster,
- ▶ Working for xwalck as systems administrator and software developer,
- ▶ EPFSUG Supporter number one! (from the start)

Free Software inside the EP

Tmail and infrastructure
    Users: 6 in total, 4 active (and growing)
Firefox and other client software
    Users: Not (yet) allowed in standard config.

Mailing lists
... and other obscurities of the europarl infrastructure

- ▶ Exchange with only OWA access enabled (but without restrictions).
  - ▶ Enabling the Tmail service.
- ▶ Fuzzy retention rules for inboxes (> 90 days gets removed from Inboxes... mostly :).
- ▶ Does not allow spoofed @europarl.europa.eu e-mail addressess (stopping most mailing lists).
  - ▶ Solved by the percent-hack in exim, used by `act-on@acta.eu` , @mypnr.eu (mailman) and @epfsug.eu (sympa).

Percent hack

user@europarl.europa.eu

$<=>$

user%europarl.europa.eu@tratten.eu

- ▶ Not a standard,
- ▶ Not recommended,
- ▶ Very useful!

External Free Software tools

Photo: Jacob Forsell
http://www.imagebank.sweden.se
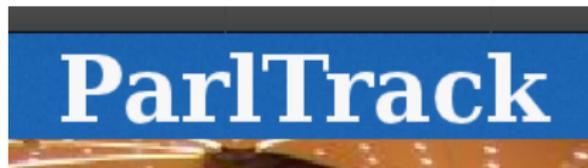
Amendments created with

100.000 amendments created via AT4AM!

EPFSUG works to release it under AGPLv3+

Free Software and Open Data

- ▶ The EP should **keep improving** the quality of the data it makes available to the public, in particular with regards to **time and date accuracy**.
- ▶ The EP should continue to **ensure** that data is made available in formats and through interfaces which enable **free and easy access and processing** of the data.
- ▶ The EP should **avoid** investing in software and services which leads to **"lock in" of citizens and risk the institution's vendor independence, also with respect to social media**.
- ▶ The EP should **develop strategies for making its data available for all to use and reuse** as per existing best practises for opening up of public sector data.

EPFSUG started here

EPFSUG wants to

- **Assist** people interested in using free software in the EP.
- **Drive adoption** of free software in the EP's information infrastructure.
- Push for the use of **open standards**, to ensure equal access for citizens using free software.
- Work in cooperation with like-minded groups in Europe and around the world.
    - See: `http://epfsug.eu/mission-statement`

EPFSUG member structure

Patrons   MEPs — Members of the European Parliament.

Members   Anyone working in the European Parliament and has an @europarl.europa.eu e-mail address.

Supporters   Everybody else!

EPFSUG so far

1 Patron (MEP Indrek Tarand), **10 members** (staff + assistants + admins), **24 supporters** (not only usual suspects!), some services and many events:

Thanks for listening :)

- ▶ Please subscribe to
  `epfsug@epfsug.eu`
- ▶ Feel free to e-mail us directly at
  `camilla.bursi@europarl.europa.eu` and
  `jonatan@walck.se`