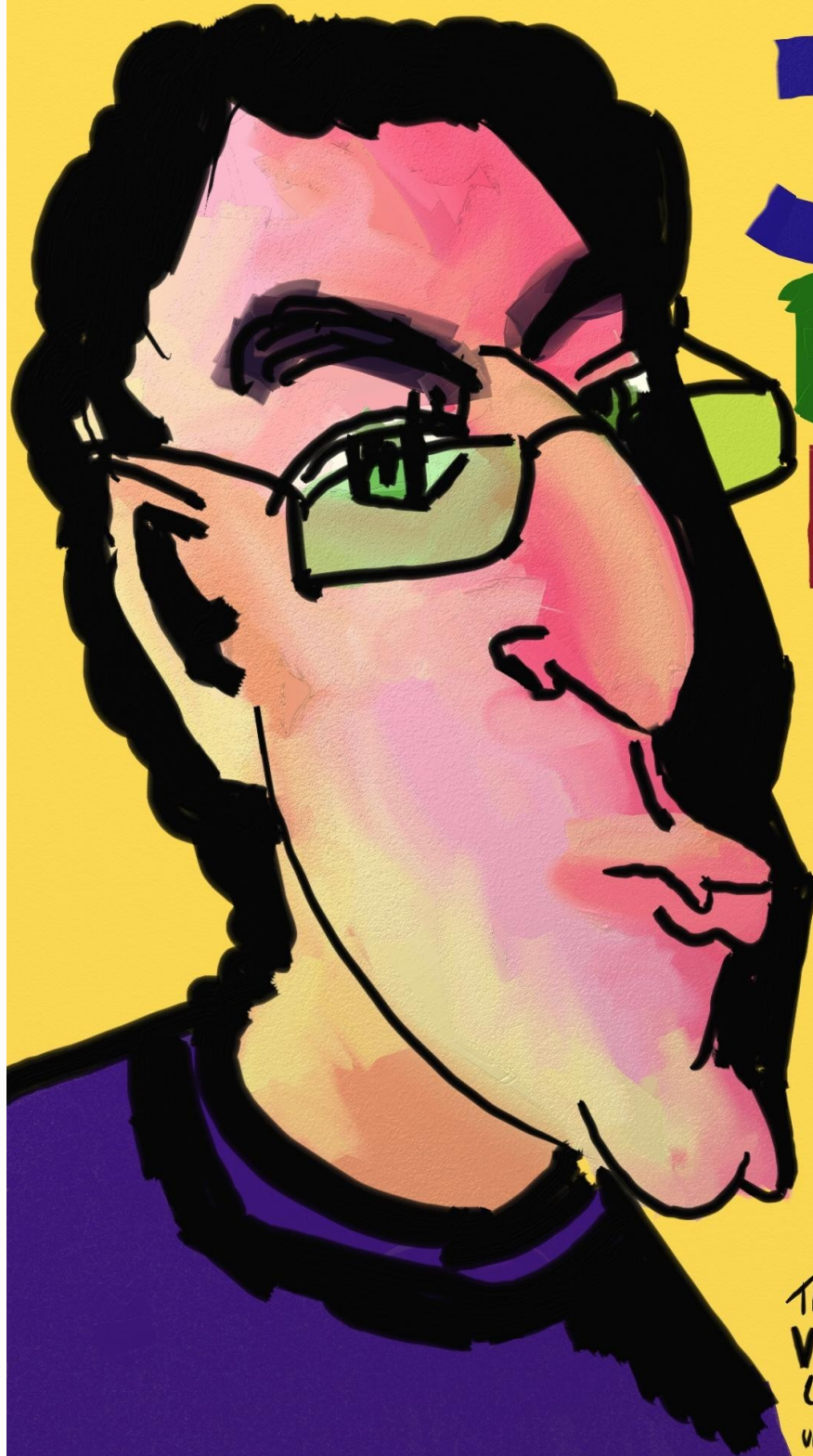




Relicensing libVLC and VLC modules from GPL to LGPL

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JEAN BAPTISTE- KEMPF •VLC•

I'M EXCITED TO
ANNOUNCE THE
RELEASE OF
VLC 1.0!

The world's most downloaded video player:
VLC: www.videolan.org/vlc
(free and open source)

VISUAL FACILITATION BY ROYBLUMENTHAL.COM © ATTR
STAFF-A-LIKE



VideoLAN.org

An aerial photograph of a university campus. In the center is a large, oval-shaped stadium with a green field and a reddish-brown track. Surrounding the stadium are several large, multi-story buildings with flat roofs. To the left, there is a large parking lot filled with cars. To the right, there are more buildings and a road. The campus is surrounded by green trees and grass. A semi-transparent white banner with the text "Ecole Centrale Paris" is overlaid across the center of the image.

Ecole Centrale Paris

VIA Centrale Réseaux

- › Campus student association
- › Internet acces through RENATER
- › Token Ring

Network Upgrade

- › How to pay for our new network?
- › How to justify the needs for a faster network?
- › 1995 : let's do video streaming!



1998 project reboot

- › Open Source
- › Modularity
- › Cross-Platform
- › Network oriented
- › 2nd year project

2001 license change

- › ECP headmaster Agreement
- › GPL v2 (*or later*)



The Cone

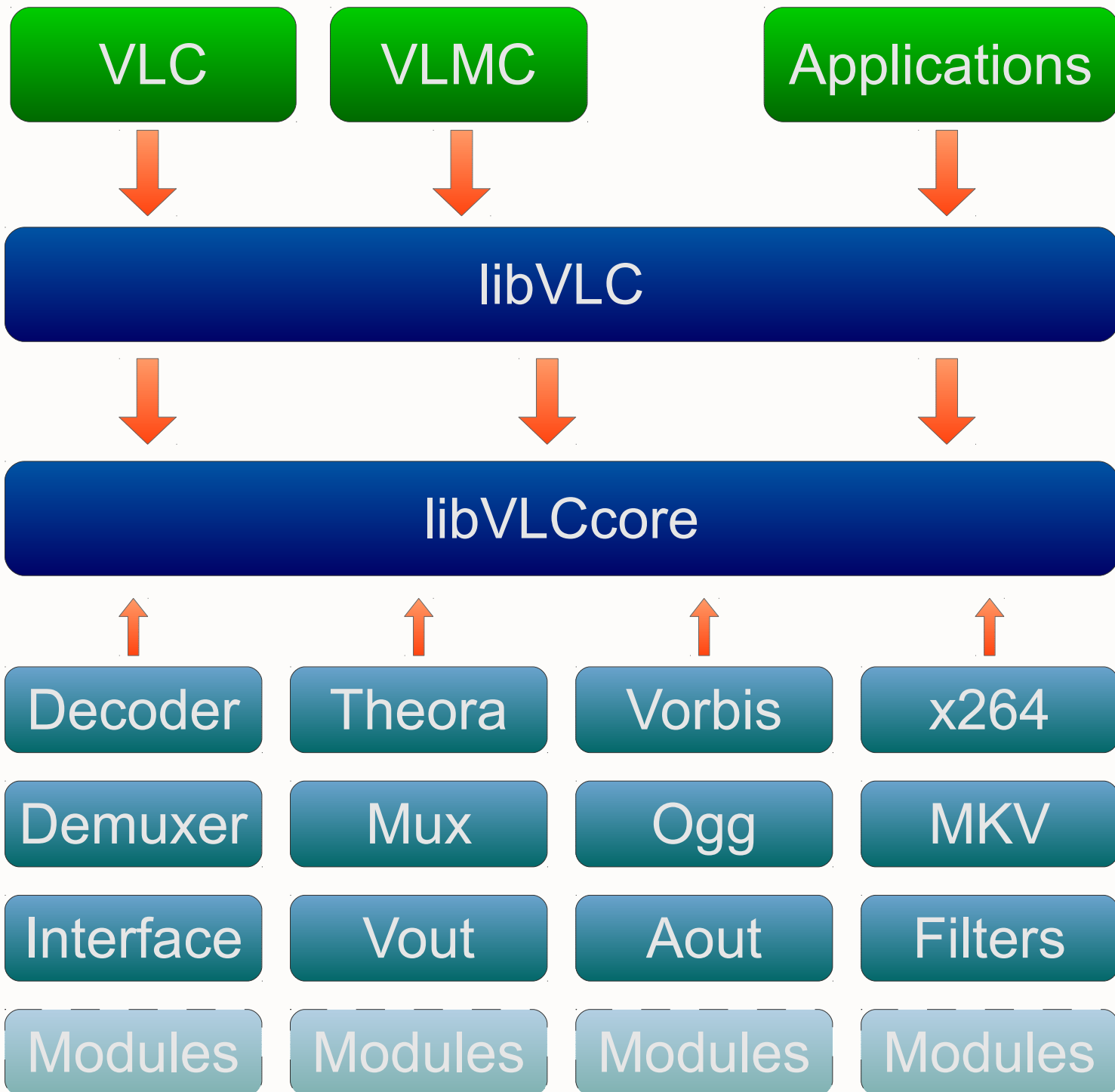
POPCORN



Freedom

libVLC license

LGPL



Small Core

- › libVLCCore
- › Light
- › Memory, Network and Thread handling
- › Module loading
- › Clock / Synchronization

Simple Multimedia Framework

- › LibVLC
- › bindings for C++, C#, Objective-C, Java, lua, Perl and Python

Completely modularized

- About 300 modules in a default installation
 - Codecs, IO, outputs, (de)muxers, filters, ...
- Interested in adding new features ? Add a module.

600,000 lines of code

- 80k in the core
- 520k for modules

50 external librairies

- Codecs, Output, Effects
- 5M lines of code



- **August 4th 2007**
 - Littlejohn and Courmisch IRC
 - « Unrealistic »
- **VideoLAN Dev Days**
 - 2008, Pdherbemont mentions it
 - 2009, start of mailing
- **2011**
 - LGPL of libVLCcore + libVLC
- **2012**
 - LGPL of modules

WHY?



Why not ?

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Why ?



- **I. GPL violations**
- **GPL social contract**
 - Free code ↔ Contribution
- **Numerous GPL violations**
 - 50+ for Win32, 250 on Mac App Store, Broadcast ...
- **0 help from external people**
 - While requested
- **Results**
 - No benefits, only pain and chasing

Why? (2)



They write the code for fun and/or to address a need of theirs, i.e. to scratch their own itch.

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Why ? (3)



- **III. Competition**
 - Libav/FFmpeg
 - Harder to use...
 - Gstreamer
 - Nice LGPL front-end for GPL code

- **IV. Commercial interest**
 - Not enough VLC developers
 - Too many users
 - Too many bugs
 - Reverse the trend !

Why? (4)



- **V. Mobile and Broadcast**
 - Licences Compatibility
 - Decklink, FDK, ...
 - Apache v2
 - Mobile
 - Hate for GPLv3
 - Broadcast
 - Fear of GPL contamination

wideoLAN

Why NOT ?



- **NOT FOR MOBILE**
 - 2007, seriously ?
 - Only modules NOT GPL are iOS ones...
 - Android and Windows are (*almost*) GPL compatible
- **VLC is GPLv2+**
 - Interfaces and control modules are GPL
 - Necessary to avoid scams
 - Trademark licence is quite clear

How ?



- **No copyright assignment**
 - This would be Evil
- **Numerous persons**
 - Around 300 people to contact
 - Some since 1999
- **Listing people**
 - Git blame extended
 - Git log
 - Grep

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How ?



- **Curating the list**
 - Huge Excel spreadsheet
- **Mailing**
 - And updating the list
- **Results**
 - Bouncing emails, AWOL, slow persons, morons
 - 50 % answers after 3 e-mails
 - Back to stalking

Stalking methods



› Basics

- › Emails, IRC
- › FB, LinkedIn, Ohloh, Centraliens, freecode, github
- › Google + Websites

› Sneakier

- › LinkedIn InMails, Friend on FB, weird social networks
- › Call them
- › Call their boss
- › Go to their work

› F**CKED UP

- › Whois, or whois on 3rd party domain
- › Phone directory
- › Common friends

› Answers

- › Small commits ?
- › Use WTFPL !
- › Thanks
- › Talk to my company
- › Please explain

› Remaining issues

- › I see Dead People
- › Revert code
- › Remove features
- › Rewrite code, delete whitespace
- › GPL modules
- › Code isolation

Mistake ?



- What if I did a mistake ?
 - I am very sure about the first 32 people
 - More than 91 % of the VLC code

- French copyright law on group projects
 - Composite, Collaborative and Collective
 - Collaborative or Collective ?
 - Collaborative implies mostly finished works and only with physical persons
 - Collective implies a coordinator and publisher, but no individual traces to meaningful work

Conclusion



- Will it work?

No idea

- Should have we done it?

Yes

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A dramatic sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, some of which are illuminated from below by the setting sun, creating a mix of deep blues, oranges, and yellows. The water in the foreground is dark with some ripples, and the overall scene is serene and powerful.

Thank You

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