



# Migrating the FOSDEM management from pentabarf to pretalx



The screenshot shows the pretalx management interface for FOSDEM 2024. The dashboard provides a comprehensive overview of the event's status and key metrics.

### FOSDEM 2024 Feb. 3rd – 4th, 2024

Your event is currently **live**. [Click here to change](#)

**Day 1** of 2 days

**Go to CfP**

**7** proposals are waiting for your review.

**2024-01-29 12:44** current schedule

**1 day, 8 hours** until the CfP ends

**30** unsubmitted proposal drafts

**860** sessions

[Send reminder](#) | **submitted: 1993** | **unconfirmed: 0**

**936** speakers

**4352** Reviews

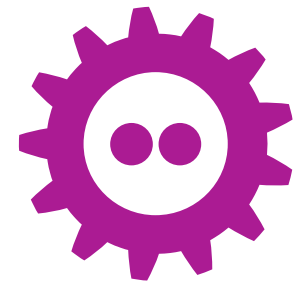
**133** Active reviewers

**9238** sent emails

**submitted: 1593** | **rejected: 739**

#### History (Full history)

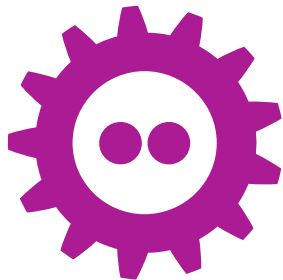
- 2024-02-03 15:55 Gerald Morrison The proposal was modified.
- 2024-02-03 15:54 Jan Engelhardt The profile was modified.
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# About Me

- Daytime job
  - Scientific programming
  - Devop
  - Developing fiber based monitoring solutions @fluves and marlinks
- FOSDEM
  - Visitor since 2007
  - Previously devroom manager and video
  - Coordinating the devrooms
  - Server Team

I am not a web developer, nor good at slides





- FOSEDEM22
- Overview
- Own Events
- Recent Changes
- Reports
- Conflicts
- Schedule
- Mail

- Administration
- Search Account
- Localization
- Preferences
- logout

# Overview

## Events by state

<p><b>962 events accepted</b> (628h35m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 events unconfirmed (01h00m)</li> <li>859 events confirmed (572h30m)</li> <li>81 events reconfirmed (41h40m)</li> <li>21 events canceled (13h25m)</li> </ul>	<p><b>194 events rejected</b> (125h40m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>106 events unconfirmed (65h15m)</li> <li>88 events confirmed (60h25m)</li> </ul>
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## Conflicts

- 960 Conflicts with severity 'fatal'
- 0 Conflicts with severity 'error'
- 0 Conflicts with severity 'warning'
- 377 Conflicts with severity 'note'

- Dashboard
- Settings
- CFP
- Proposals
- Review
- Speakers
- Schedule
- Mails
- Devrooms
- Audit-log

FOSEDEM 2024 Feb. 3rd - 4th, 2024

Johan Van de Wauw

2024-01-29 12:44 current schedule

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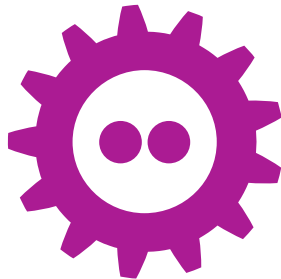
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- 2024-02-03 15:55 Gerald Morrison The proposal was modified.
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- Pentabarf
  - Ruby on Rails
  - I could not get it running (also not with notes from archive.org, internal fosdem notes)
  - GPL2 license
  - Huge database (contains all attachments, also removed ones)
- Pretalx
  - Django (Python)
  - docker-compose up
  - Imports schedule.xml (after some changes)
  - Apache 2 license



# pentabarf

news Merge branch 'master' of git://github.... 0e23cf9 · 14 years ago 3,786 Commits

- contrib adding event link script to contrib 17 years ago
- rails link to proper person page instea... 14 years ago
- sql include all accepted and not cance... 14 years ago

INSTALL

LICENSE

README

Rakefile

## Test devroom

	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Saturday:				Te	TR	TR	TR	
Event	Speakers							
Saturday								
Test talk number 1	Vasil Kolev, Kat Gerasimova							
Test talk number 2	Vasil Kolev, Kat Gerasimova							
Test talk number 3	Vasil Kolev, Kat Gerasimova							

pentabarf Public  
forked from news/pentabarf

Edit Pins Watch 11 For

postgresql9

Go to file + Code

This branch is 110 commits ahead of news/pentabarf:master .

kergon Forbid submission system closure in p... e1c1d42 · last year 3,896 Commits

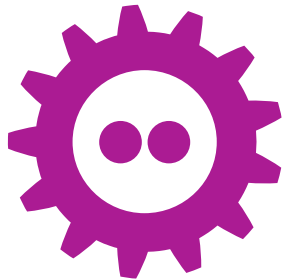
- contrib adding event link script to contrib 17 years ago
- rails Update error page - remove 2 years ago
- sql Forbid submission system clousr... last year
- INSTALL add README 15 years ago
- LICENSE r4598@pulsar: sven | 2006-02-18... 19 years ago

-0,0 +1,184 00

The installation instructions for pentabarf could originally be found  
the pentabarf  
ki, you can access its contents at <https://web.archive.org/web/20160616164814/http://pentabarf.org/Installation>

# Many plans to move

- Failed due
  - Feature creep
  - Nobody works on FOSDEM until september
    - It's not ready, so let's do it next year
  - Resistance to change
- Minimum required changes
  - Build website + xml (other integrations still work)
  - Audit log
  - pocs were made before our kickoff in september 2024



# Pretalx audit log

■ 2024-01-02 11:19:05

■ New Feedback: **FOSDEM21: Host your own on-premise Ansible Galaxy**

*Audience involvement: 5 , Content quality: 5 , Participant knowledge: 1 , Presentation quality: 5*  
`exec galaxy_ng bash -c "/usr/local/bin/pulpcore-manager loaddata /tmp/initial_data.json /browse/AAH-281)`. Could you fix the slides? Thank you very much for these instructions , *Topic importance: 5*

## Audit log

50      Max date      Submission

number of items to show      max date, default=NOW      model

Submit

model: Submission (id: 3472)

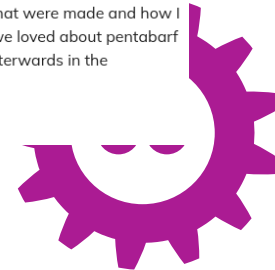
time: 2024-02-04T08:30:33.095132+00:00

diff: {'updated': ['2024-01-31T23:49:25.07319+00:00', '2024-02-04T08:30:33.093396+00:00'], 'abstract': ['For FOSDEM 2011 until 2023, [pentabarf](https://github.com/hevs/pentabarf) was used as the conference management system for FOSDEM. Unfortunately development of pentabarf stopped more or less the year before that which meant that FOSDEM was run on hardly maintained software for many years.\n\nDifferent attempts at switching to another conference management system failed, but for the 2024 edition we decided to switch to [pretalx](https://github.com/pretalx/pretalx).\n\nBut the scale of FOSDEM is quite different from other conferences which means that adjustments had to be made: not many conferences have 60 tracks maintained by different people and over 1700 submitted talks.\n\nThis lightning talk will highlight how the system works, custom changes that were made and how I ended up spamming some FOSDEM speaker. But also things we would like to change for 2025 and we loved about pentabarf and how you can help. Also an invitation for users to join and give some feedback during the talk or afterwards in the hallways.', 'For FOSDEM 2011 until 2023, [pentabarf](https://github.com/hevs/pentabarf) was used as the conference management system for FOSDEM. Unfortunately development of pentabarf stopped more or less the year before that which meant that FOSDEM was run on hardly maintained software for many years.\n\nDifferent attempts at switching to another conference management system failed, but for the 2024 edition we decided to switch to [pretalx](https://github.com/pretalx/pretalx).\n\nBut the scale of FOSDEM is quite different from other conferences which means that adjustments had to be made: not many conferences have 60 tracks maintained by different people and over 1700 submitted talks.\n\nThis lightning talk will highlight how the system works, custom changes that were made and how I ended up spamming some FOSDEM speakers. But also things we would like to change for 2025 and we loved about pentabarf and how you can help. Also an invitation for users to join and give some feedback during the talk or afterwards in the hallways.']}

user: Johan Van de Wauw (1)

url: /fosdem-2024/me/submissions/AC7NNS/

- Uses django-pghistory
- Not very nice but complete
- Has proved its usefulness
  - Devroom manager approving talk in other devroom (system fixed)
  - Presenter changing scope of presentation after approval
  - Template for bulk changes



# Pretalx plugin

- Nanoc export
  - Builds a huge yaml which builds the FOSDEM website
  - Other tools (matrix, sreview, apps) use the xml the website generates
  - Website building time has improved a lot (>5 minutes → <2 minutes)
- Devroom tools
  - Devroom Manager and Review teams per devroom
    - More reviewers are good for main/devrooms/devroom
  - Some settings (CfP url, closing submissions) can be edited by devroom manager
    - Unfortunately mostly ready after they were useful, but ready for next year

## Devroom settings

This section allows setting options for the "Main Track - Janson" devroom. New options may be added before the conference

### Before the event

Set the Call for papers URL which is used in the FOSDEM website.

Cfp url Optional

URL added to the CfP page

### Submission

You can close submissions by requiring an access code.

Requires access code

This track will only be shown to submitters with a matching access code.

Access code(s) for your track:

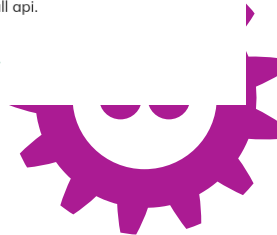
- [https://pretalx.fosdem.org/fosdem-2024/cfp?access\\_code=5e5f7da04f99fc5f0f886baf4332ac83](https://pretalx.fosdem.org/fosdem-2024/cfp?access_code=5e5f7da04f99fc5f0f886baf4332ac83)

Submit changes

### During the event

Instructions for video monitoring can be found in the document below. Direct links to your video interfaces are also included. Feel free to share these links/documents with trusted volunteers. Also use the link to set the room full api.

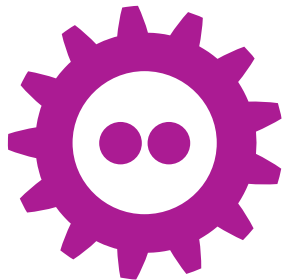
- janson(day 2):
  - direct link to control interface [@control.video.fosdem.org/](https://2-janson)
  - Video instructions (pdf)





# Changes to pretalx

- Limit actions by devroom managers to their own track
  - Reviews (why did noone complain?)
    - Order by track
    - Show other submissions (up to 15)
  - Approve talks
- Scheduling
  - Parallel scheduling by devroom managers

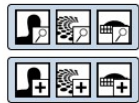


# Interface annoyances

- Pretalx is much less information dense



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## Events by state

962 events accepted (629h35m)

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## Conflicts

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A screenshot of the Pretalx dashboard for FOSDEM 2024. The browser title is 'FOSDEM 2024 :: pretalx — Mozilla Firefox'. The address bar shows 'https://pretalx.fosdem.org/orga/event/fosdem-2024/'. The dashboard has a green header with 'pretalx' and 'FOSDEM 2024 Feb. 3rd - 4th, 2024'. A navigation menu on the left includes 'Dashboard', 'Settings', 'CfP', 'Proposals', 'Review', 'Speakers', 'Schedule', 'Mails', 'Devrooms', and 'Audit-log'. The main content area features a progress bar at the top and a grid of 12 cards. The cards display: 'Your event is currently live', 'Day 1 of 2 days', 'Go to CfP', '7 proposals are waiting for your review.', '2024-01-29 12:44 current schedule', '1 day, 8 hours until the CfP ends', '30 unsubmitted proposal drafts', '860 sessions', '936 speakers', '4352 Reviews', '133 Active reviewers', and '9238 sent emails'. At the bottom, there is a 'History' section with two entries: '2024-02-03 15:55 Gerald Morrison The proposal was modified.' and '2024-02-03 15:54 Jan Engelhardt The profile was modified.'

## FOSDEM 2024 Feb. 3rd - 4th, 2024



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Click here to change

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Send reminder

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submitted: 1993 unconfirmed: 0

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# Improvements over penta

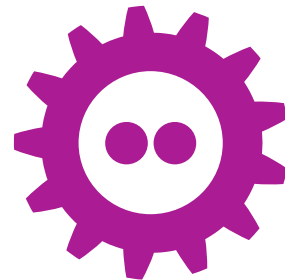
Johan Van de Wauw ▾

## Your E-mails

These are e-mails the organisers sent you, so you should be able to find them in your email inbox, but this page serves as a helper in case your email address was unavailable or the emails got lost in some way.

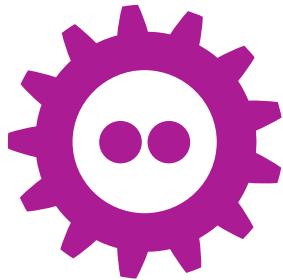
✉ Get ready for your FOSDEM lightning talk!	Feb. 2, 2024, 1:10 p.m.
✉ CORRECTION: Speaker Instructions for FOSDEM	Jan. 31, 2024, 7:44 p.m.
✉ CORRECTION: Speaker Instructions for FOSDEM	Jan. 31, 2024, 7:42 p.m.
✉ Speaker Instructions for FOSDEM	Jan. 31, 2024, 7:24 p.m.
✉ Speaker Instructions for FOSDEM	Jan. 31, 2024, 6:05 p.m.

- Much more reviews
- Devroom managers can send mails
- More submissions?



# Roadmap/Ideas

- Split of auditlog to separate project
- Make sure there is a “one click” setup of our setup
  - Data similar to <https://pretalx-test.fosdem.org> - <https://pretalx-test.fosdem.org/2024>
- More consistent naming
- Minimize custom changes to pretalx – add signals where needed + use those (discuss with upstream)
- Also review stands through pretalx
- Integrate sreview
- Add links to previous year submissions in interface



# You can help

- Contribute to pretalx upstream
  - <https://github.com/pretalx/>
  - <https://github.com/pretalx/pretalx/discussions/1637>
- Our repos
  - <https://github.com/FOSDEM/pretalx-integration>
    - Main repo
    - Some issues ask for feedback, eg reviews ← which settings to use
  - Forked repos – ideally should be as thin as possible
    - <https://github.com/johanvdw/ansible-pretalx/>
    - <https://github.com/fosdem/pretalx>

