Migrating the FOSDEM management from pentabarf to pretalx
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
● 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
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

- 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
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
Improvements over penta

• 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