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

FOSDEM22: Overview - Penta ✕

🔒 ⊘ https://penta.fosdem.org
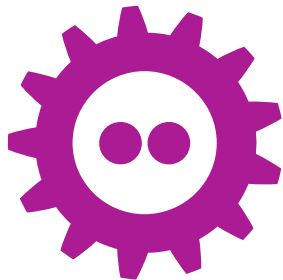
Overview

FOSDEM22

Overview
Own Events
Recent Changes
Reports
Conflicts
Schedule
Mail

Administration
Search Account
Localization
Preferences
logout

Events by state

962 events accepted *(628h35m)*
- 1 events unconfirmed *(01h00m)*
- 859 events confirmed *(572h30m)*
- 81 events reconfirmed *(41h40m)*
- 21 events canceled *(13h25m)*

194 events rejected *(125h40m)*
- 106 events unconfirmed *(65h15m)*
- 88 events confirmed *(60h25m)*

Conflicts

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

FOSDEM 2024 :: pretalx ✕

⊘ https://pretalx.fosdem.org/orga/event/fosdem-2024/

pretalx | FOSDEM 2024 Feb. 3rd – 4th, 2024 | 👤 Johan Van de Wauw

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

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
Send reminder

860
sessions
submitted: 1993 | unconfirmed: 0

936
speakers
submitted: 1593 | rejected: 739

4352
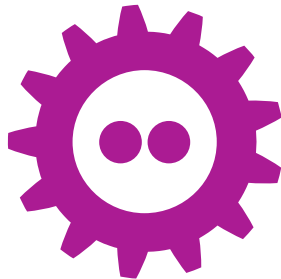Reviews

133
Active reviewers

9238
sent emails

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.
- 2024-02-03 15:54 👤 Jan Engelhardt The profile was modified.

- 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
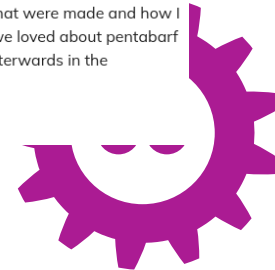
Pretalx plugin

- 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

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
| Cfp url |
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.
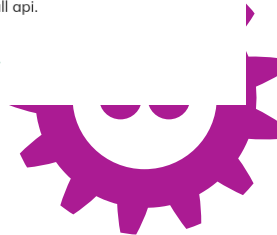
Access code(s) for your track:

- 🔗 https://pretalx.fosdem.org/fosdem-2024/cfp?access_code=5e5f7da04f99fc5f0f886baf4332ac83

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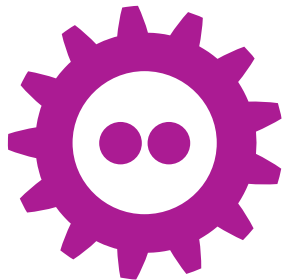
- janson(day 2):
  - direct link to control interface https://2-janson: @control.video.fosdem.org/
  - Video instructions (pdf)

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
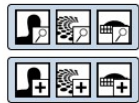 - Parallel scheduling by devroom managers

Interface annoyances

- Pretalx is much less information dense

Improvements over penta

- Much more reviews

- Devroom managers can send mails

- More submissions?
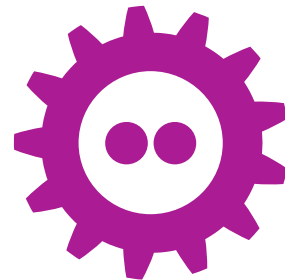
Roadmap/Ideas

- 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
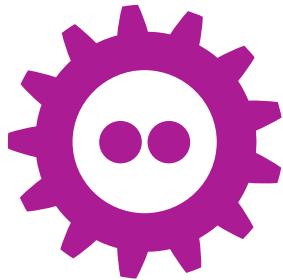
You can help

- 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