



INTERVIEW

Renée Bäcker / Karen Pauley

Interview “State of TPF”

Renée Bäcker (RB): Hi Karen, it’s great to talk to you again. This is the fourth interview about The Perl Foundation (TPF) and I’d like to talk about what happened in 2010 and your forecast for 2011.

Karen Pauley (KP): Hi Renée, lovely to talk to you too.

RB: In July 2010 the first usable Perl 6 implementation (Raku-do *) was released. Have you played with it already?

KP: Actually I haven’t. I don’t program anymore. My time working on Open Source and Perl is spent on management and administration. I haven’t programmed professionally since 1999. (Wow, that makes me feel old!)

RB: Since November 2008 TPF granted several sponsorships for Perl 6 development, the so called “Hague Grants”.

KP: Yes, to date we have allocated around \$73,000 on these grants, and we hope to allocate another \$27,000 in the upcoming year. There are a couple of grants running at the minute: Patrick Michaud is working on Lists, Iterators, and Parcels; and Jonathan Worthington is working on Metamodel improvements.

RB: And there was a great Grant for the Perl 5 development: Dave Mitchell fixed a lot of bugs in the Perl core, especially the hard ones. Would you like to continue such grants? What is needed – beside the persons who wants to fix these bugs – to achieve this?

KP: I would certainly love to continue being able to fund work like this, and actually Dave’s grant has been extended

for about another 6 months. To date he has spent around 520 hours working on and closing 127 core bugs. Dave posts regular updates to the P5P mailing list, and we post monthly reports to our blog at news.perlfoundation.org.

You asked what was needed to besides people: that would be money. Dave’s grant was made possible by the generosity of Booking.com. If we want to continue doing work like this we need to continue to raise funds for Perl 5 development.

RB: Perl 5.12.2 is the current stable version of Perl. The release of Perl 5.12.0 has changed a lot of things: The release cycle has changed to a time based one and each month a new developer release is published. In my opinion this was a great move.

KP: It’s been working really well. I’m incredibly impressed with the work that Jesse Vincent and the team of release managers have been doing this year. And I’m sure that they will continue to do great things in 2011.

RB: In 2010 an event group started to represent Perl at various Perl- and non-Perl-events like FOSDEM and FrOSCamp. What do you think about the events group?

KP: I have been impressed with the enthusiasm of the events groups to spread the word about Perl. Key members, such as Gabor Szabo, have been working incredibly hard on this and I hope that they are able to continue with this work in 2011.

RB: There was even a Perl booth at the CeBIT where the booth members had talks with several companies using Perl. These companies live outside the Perl echochamber. Do plans



exist how TPF can reach these companies? For example to get more money as the money can be quite useful for things like the Mitchell-Grant mentioned earlier.

KP: There is no doubt that fundraising is going to be very important for TPF in 2011. Our new treasurer, Dan Wright, has been working on our budget for 2011 and I expect to hear from him soon regarding the areas that we need to concentrate on.

RB: And there is another Grant running: TPF accepted a Grant application from Richard Dice, the former president of TPF. During that Grant Richard wanted to work on several things regarding TPF. Can you tell us something about the progress and the current status of that Grant?

KP: For personal reasons Richard has been unable to work on this grant in the past year. In the New Year the Board will discuss the best way to go forward with this.

RB: And in the last interview you said “one of the other TPF board members is working on a project to provide funding in some way to Perl 5”. Can you tell us more about this project?

KP: No, sorry, not at this time.

RB: Are there any plans what will happen within TPF in 2011?

KP: Over the past year we have been working to improve our internal procedures, and we will continue to do this in 2011. We will also continue with our grants programs and conference support. We also spent a considerable amount of time on trademarking. We were able to get our trademark application for Perl and the onion design accepted in Canada, and we are currently working with the Japan Perl Association; I’m hoping that this work will bear some fruit in 2011.

RB: Do you have a personal request about the Perl world in 2011?

KP: More of the same! 2010 has been a great year for Perl. I would be very pleased if we were able to continue like this in 2011.

RB: Thanks for that interview!

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