A Week in the Life of the OpenAFS Release Manager

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DESY

Tuesday

> prepare release-team jabber meeting

- if not yet done: write & send out minutes

- test jabber server

- collect current state of affairs

  > bug reports in RT

  > problem reports on mailing lists

  > recent gerrit activity

  > open items from previous meetings

- close items where possible

  > merge changes in gerrit if review/testing sufficient

- compose agenda

- check DST state in US & Europe

- send out invitation

Wednesday

> prepare meeting

- test jabber server again
- check last minute activity (gerrit, RT, lists)

> chair meeting (typical duration: 1 hour)

- try to find out who's actually attending
- update / reorder agenda
  > depending on who (already) is
- walk through agenda, try to get changes reviewed & merged
- discuss whatever else is brought up
- my favorites:
  > "Can we still include that tiny little change in tomorrow's prerelease?"
  > "The next release will be a security one."

> write minutes, send out to -release-team, then to -devel

Thursday

> **(pre-)release time:**

- merge final changes

- create tarballs

- perform test build & deploy on a few test systems

- create volume on grand.central.org

- upload

- ask release team for smoke testing

- prepare web changes, draft announcement

Friday

> after some positive and no negative test results:

- ask Daria for the tag

- release grand.central.org volumes

- get the web changes merged & brought live

- send out announcement

  > and get it approved by the -announce moderators

- approach individuals who could possibly provide binaries

  > for platforms w/o volunteers at this point

- wait for all those bug & success reports pouring in

Continuously

> test the current HEAD + changes foreseen for next release

> upload binaries as they become available

  ■ update web page and/or announce if appropriate

> monitor gerrit activity

  ■ changes getting ready on the 1.6.x branch?

  ■ interesting changes coming up on master?

> monitor relevant discussions on -info & -devel

  ■ "Can we hurt sites running really old fileservers and ignoring an OpenAFS security advisory from 2007 by including this change?"

    > 1.6.8+ Unix/Linux clients will give up callbacks on shutdown

Summary

> being the "release manager" is mostly about

- keeping up momentum

- doing the work the experts' time would be wasted on

> all the heavy lifting is done by the other contributors

- working with those folks is a great experience

> most of the process is completely public

> want to help?

- test the prereleases

- review changes in gerrit

- participate in release policy discussions on the lists

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Discussion

> most of those involved in bringing OpenAFS releases to you are here right now

> there's no better time for comments on the release process

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