
Oh well!

Posted by d3v1an7 - 2007/07/31 01:57

Such a shame, but I finally transferred back to phpBB a week or so ago. This project has so much potential, the beta was really outstanding - hats off to that. I've been trying to achieve complete integration for a long time now, and FB looked to be the icing on the cake.

This may seem like a pointless post, but I'm just letting the devs know the reasons why I'm leaving so perhaps they can do something about the issues to not let it happen again.

1. Terribly behind the roadmap

Understandable! It's open source - and you guys have lives outside, but me, the average user who only checks the front page and doesn't have time to sift through thousands of forum posts is terribly uninformed. Communication would have definitely helped this!

2. SMF to FB Converter (And it's thread)

I wasn't in on from the start, but I had been waiting (very excitedly) from very early on, and it was just one disappointment after another. Again, a lack of accurate information, and absolutely no moderation to a 40 page long thread (even after several requests from other users). This may have changed, I haven't checked in a while. It's very simple things like that, which shows that the developers are active, and care about the community.

3. Lack of front page updates

This kind of led me to believe that the project was dead. Terrible conclusion, I know, but again, it's the main thing I check, and it hasn't changed in months.

4. Permissions

I know this will probably be fixed in future versions, but the permissions were incredibly flimsy. I also understand that this is more a Joomla fault than FB, but nevertheless, it is one of the reasons I've left FB. I run a average size css clan which has multiple teams and private boards, some of which are shared between groups. After much testing and mucking around, this seemed impossible to achieve.

So yep, best of luck - Very awesome project, don't loose hope - but if you can maybe take a few of those points on board, you may not loose more people who are in a similar situation as me.

I'll check back from time to time, and if things have changed, I might come back and give it another go :)
Good Luck!

Re:Oh well!

Posted by 450Thumper - 2007/07/31 02:45

I too have been patiently waiting for the stable version of the board to be announced. I would like to see an update on the front page regarding the stable release. FireBoard has to be one of the best products I have seen yet for Joomla. Hopefully all is going well. :unsure:

Re:Oh well!

Posted by whouse - 2007/07/31 03:31

If people are so interested in what is going on, the easiest way to see what progress has been made is to review the SVN. Once in the SVN, if you click on the highest revision number listed, you will see all revisions with notes. It's just my opinion on the best way for finding info on where the project is at.

Re:Oh well!

Posted by Philip Roy - 2007/07/31 09:09

d3v1an7 wrote:

1. Terribly behind the roadmap

2 weeks is terribly behind??!! They said mid july and it's just the end. Patience is a virtue.

2. SMF to FB Converter (And it's thread)

I converted, hiccups and all. It's not the easiest at the moment, but it is do-able. Considering you're moving to a beta, that's understandable.

3. Lack of front page updates. This kind of led me to believe that the project was dead.

Have you seen the forum? Oh, wait you have...or the SVN? I don't even understand SVN, but I was finally able to connect and see what was going on.

4. Permissions. I know this will probably be fixed in future versions, but the permissions were incredibly flimsy. I also understand that this is more a Joomla fault than FB

1...It's a beta!! 2...you just said it had nothing to do with FB.

We've all been frustrated and keen to see new versions come along, but for a free piece of software that was released fully stating it was a beta, I'm happy to wait whilst some of the rough edges get resolved.

Phil

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Re:Oh well!

Posted by d3v1an7 - 2007/08/01 02:23

Sorry, I mis-read the roadmap, I thought permissions were due in 1.0.2.

I also 'successfully' converted, but ended up with thousands of duplicate posts and everything ended up in quite a mess. When converting back to phpbb3, the fb database was in such disarray, I simply reverted back from the previous smf install.

I've seen the forum, but I don't have the time to sift through thousands of random posts.

Support is messy between the 2 separate versions, everything on the forums seems to be a bit of a mess. Moderation, cleaning and stickying would help this - Too much work to fix what's already done, but perhaps when the new version is out, lock all the previous support boards and simply have one, where the user specifies which version they are using in their post.

Far be it for me to tell people how to run their boards - It's simply a suggestion that I have seen work perfectly well on other forums.

As for the SVN, again, I've had a brief look (as every noob would) in the front page and through the menu items. Not easy to find!

Again, I realise that this is free and provided in the spare time of some talented guys, my point was not to put this down, or complain about bugs in a BETA - that's just silly.

I'm simply providing the reasons as to why me (I consider myself an 'average' user) have left the project, so the developers have some idea as to why, and perhaps look at these issues. It's not complex stuff, just time consuming really.

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Re:Oh well!

Posted by rsavoia - 2007/08/01 20:04

whose wrote:

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The point is that we should not have to rely solely on the SVN to figure out what is happening with the project. Some

users and newbies in particular will not necessarily gravitate to the SVN to find out what is going on. This is what the roadmap is for. This is also (presumably) what this site is for. I don't want to slog through the site or the forums all day looking for news on any project. Who has time for that? This is what the news page or the front page of any site is for. If the front page is not up to date, what is the point of having one?

Yes, there is a roadmap. Yes, it is only a couple of weeks behind. Yes, it is open source and unless I am paying for it I have no right or justification to demand a gold release of Fireboard. That is not what I am asking.

All I ask is this.

http://www.bestofjoomla.com/component/option,com_fireboard/Itemid,38/func,view/catid,66/id,16442/#16470

Re:Oh well!

Posted by danialt - 2007/08/01 20:20

Hi There,

You have studied communication, and I am sure that you are already aware of the fact that this is not a business model. This project and other projects here are our free-time projects. I am doing my PH.D studies along side other IT projects and yet find time to take this forum further, which basically means all the free time I could have invested for "myself". Anyway, the point is that people unfortunately like to discuss matters rather than actually helping. There are others that do help, like whouse, pable and other dev team, translation team and So please if you find this project slow, give a hand too and reduce the time that me and other devs are spending on forums,... so we can use our time efficiently.

This turned out to be a complaining respond :) sorry for this. Regarding the release, we are nearly finished with RC2, so hopefully you will have a working version, and stable enough, to start with toward this weekend.

Please help the team so we can go faster.

Re:Oh well!

Posted by palebluedot - 2007/08/02 03:04

If this were a Paid Component, I would understand complaints, but it is not. The fact that these developers are taking time out of their personal lives to try and make something great for our community is something that should be well praised.

I am not a developer, but I do take time out of my day to try and visit these forums and help members sort out problems. But that doesn't have to be limited to just the support team or mods. Anyone can jump in and offer help.

As far as time frames go...I would MUCH rather have a delayed and less buggy release than a release that has been put out because a deadline has expired.

Re:Oh well!

Posted by gwmbx - 2007/08/02 16:36

palebluedot wrote:

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Totally 100% agree with you, I know I have made a post or two asking for a road map upgrade, and if that was taken as me being impatient I do apologise, it was merely just so I can keep an eye on things from time to time to see how it is coming along and for my own planning.

I take my hat off to the dev's and others helping out, as said in their own free time while doing other work and study, and hope that other users of your forums component and these forums will take a breath and realise they are not paying for a product and should not be unreasonable and just be patient - or use something else...

I guess what I am trying to say is to all those that do offer their time and help developing such a great forum component there are a few that will complain but there will be many more that do appreciate your work and I for one am included in that bunch - so keep up the great work and please be assured your efforts are being appreciated greatly.

:cheer: cheers :cheer:

Re:Oh well!

Posted by bobthebob01 - 2007/08/02 18:17

well...well....well.

i guess we can find an in-between the 2 sides.

Yes there is a lack of information. And maybe asking around the forum to take care of this would have help. At least a little word: "it's coming but a few more bugs to fix".
if you look at the RSS feed of the site, it's still the same info for the 1.0.1 beta was released.

But like we said before, The dev. are doing all this tremendous work on their own time for free. Can some one tell me where on earth do you find such great philosophy/spirit than in the Open Source Community.
You've got better product and better support than any of the giants out there like MS, or other paid product.

Let me remind those who complain that if you want to have an answer presto for a paid product, you either count on the community of that product or you max out your credit card by calling tech support! And talking about MS, no need to talk about bugs unfixed.

that being said: when is it out?just kidding.

So to cheer up everybody, let's have an old "bashing MS" joke: how do microsoft developers change a light bulb? they don't, they just redefine darkness as a standard!

cheers everyone.

keep up the great work guys

Re:Oh well!

Posted by Scotsgait - 2007/08/02 23:17

palebluedot wrote:

If this were a Paid Component, I would understand complaints, but it is not. The fact that these developers are taking time out of their personal lives to try and make something great for our community is something that should be well praised.....

.....As far as time frames go...I would MUCH rather have a delayed and less buggy release than a release that has been put out because a deadline has expired.

Hear, hear.

It's a drag when there's a delay ? Perhaps. But put it in perspective.

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Re:Oh well!

Posted by 450Thumper - 2007/08/03 00:02

Any news on Fireboard 2.0 since Joomla 1.5 RC1 is now out?

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Re:Oh well!

Posted by Nabou - 2007/08/03 10:10

bobthebob01 wrote:

But like we said before, The dev. are doing all this tremendous work on their own time for free. Can some one tell me where on earth do you find such great philosophy/spirit than in the Open Source Community. You've got better product and better support than any of the giants out there like MS, or other paid product.

For this "such great philosophy", i could find better... but in fact it's not the question, you're totally right, don't wanna put the accent on the fact that devs may have all respect, but its ****ing true!

I've been developping communities sites some time ago, also forums, and i helped for some joom mods. Dev takes so many time.... By the way, using a free product requires attention.

To resume, what is a Dev Community ?

First => Dev Core Team

Then => Officials testers (if there are)

Then => Users

But for me, users got 3 things to do :

1 : Use the product

2 : Reports bugs to reenforce the product

3 : Share our user's expience on the forum and being constructiv.

Aw i don't know the corresponding word in english...Got it => Symbiosis.

If those three categories of persons create a symbiosis, the product will be so nice.

I apologize for my bad english, it's not my native language so i'm really sorry

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Re:Oh well!

Posted by rsavoia - 2007/08/04 05:09

danialt wrote:

Hi There,

You have studied communication, and I am sure that you are already aware of the fact that this is not a business model. This project and other projects here are our free-time projects. I am doing my PH.D studies along side other IT projects and yet find time to take this forum further, which basicly means all the free time I could have invested for "myself".

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This turned out to be a complaining respond :) sorry for this. Regarding the release, we are nearly finished with RC2, so hopefully you will have a working version, and stable enough, to start with toward this weekend.

Please help the team so we can go faster.

My post was not meant to be taken as a complaint. In fact, I am quite impressed with the dedication both developers and users have with Fireboard. We are all participating in our free time. I fully understand this. I know this takes time and as I said repeatedly my comments and observations have nothing to do with the development of Fireboard itself. I was only asking for a few status updates every so often to the community that supports and wished to support the project. In other

words, we just want to be "in the loop". That's all.

The success of an Open Source project hinges not only on the value and quality of the code but primarily on the size of its user base. The developers are vital to the project, of course, but if no one uses it there is no point to the project, hence without the dedication and loyalty of the users there is no project.

I am a user of many other applications and scripts and have watched other projects and one thing I have noticed is that the best are the ones who really keep their users involved by keeping them informed and and solicits their help and support, thus making them feel like they are actually part of the community and not mere recipients of some code. I think the Fireboard community as a whole is really "fired up", but I am concerned that could change if the members feel they are kept in the dark on progress or they feel they are out of the loop, so to speak.

A perfect example is another project I am watching closely, development on a transformation of Feed Gator to SyndiGator for Joomla!. Feed Gator was another orphaned project that was picked up, renamed and reworked, much like Fireboard was. In fact, there are a number of similarities to the development of both projects. However, the current developer, as talented and dedicated as he may be, is not very good at communicating with his user base. He missed two deadlines for release of the first version and the users are restless.

Of course, they are polite and understanding about it. After all, it is an Open Source, all volunteer project. He has a life, they all have lives and there is no obligation on his part to answer to anyone, especially for something he offered to give others for free.

But that is not why they are frustrated. Because that is not the problem.

The problem is that he made a commitment, missed the deadline and isn't communicating with them very well. They have no idea where they stand on the project. They have no idea what to expect. They want to help the project along, but they don't know what to do because he doesn't tell them.

This would not be a problem if he had not made a serious mistake. He set their expectations too high. Early on he set a precise date for release of SyndiGator. This set everyone's expectations. The deadline passed with no release and no word from the developer. Finally he posted a brief acknowledgement and made his second mistake. He set another precise date. He missed that one too, also with silence.

Since then his posts have been erratic and members are begging for an update, something, anything just to let them know if they should hang on or go elsewhere. A couple of them have since created their own hacks to the older, original Feed Gator and posted them instead. I just sort of gave up and decided to forget about RSS aggregation on my site for awhile until something I can use comes along. He may be still developing the script. For all I know the project is dead. No one knows, really, except the developer and so far he isn't telling anyone. So what can we do?

The point of this little diatribe is that with any project, communication is one of the keys to success. If Fireboard is released as stable next month or next year that is not the issue. All I want to know as a user and participant in this community is what is or isn't happening, what to expect and how I can help make it happen. So do most of the rest of the forum members.

I don't think anyone here is demanding the developers jump up and give us something, especially for nothing. I don't think anyone even implied that. I certainly did not. All I am asking is that those of us who are users and offer our meager contributions to the project, whether testing, reporting bugs, tweaks, community tech support (i.e. helping each other), comic relief or whatever be considered part of the community and allowed some insight as to what is going on within the development of the project itself.

It doesn't have to be a daily update or a two hour a day interview with the development team (I read that response as somewhat condescending. As much as I would be willing to do it myself I have no such relationship with anyone on the team so I am hardly a source of such information. It needs to come from the team itself). Just a note or two every once in a while saying, "Hey, here's where we are and this is where we hope to be soon, yada yada yada". That's all. You would be amazed at how far that will go. It won't bring a stable release of Fireboard any faster but it will rally more support and loyalty from the community. It will help keep us "fired up" and all the more ready to use and promote it when Fireboard is released.

That is what will make Fireboard succeed.:)

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Re:Oh well!

Posted by Philip Roy - 2007/08/04 06:03

You posted around two weeks after the roadmap date of "mid July" saying this project was "terribly behind the roadmap". You then keep asking for some information as to where this project is at, yet that is readily apparent if you take some time to look in the forum. Go into the 1.0.2 section...have a read of the stickies and the comments. You don't get a specific date (and it is unreasonable to ask for one...but I think you appreciate that) but you do get a sense of a) where they are at and b) the fact that at least on dev has a PhD (from memory) which is understandably taking up his time.

Stop taking the lack of official announcements and notifications of progress as a sign and look instead at the obvious activity, the 1.0.2 thread and the discussions re a release candidate. That's the things that excite me and make me enthusiastic...not stopping devs from coding to keep us posted on what they are doing.

Phil

Re:Oh well!

Posted by rsavoia - 2007/08/04 16:50

Philip Roy wrote:

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Phil

Excuse me, I think you have me confused with the OP. I never said it was "terribly behind the roadmap". The OP did. I am not the OP. d3v1an7 posted that.

Second, you misunderstood the entire point of my post. It was not a complaint and it was not intended to be critical of anyone. It was merely an observation and suggestion. Third, it doesn't take but a minute or so to post a quick "hey, look what's happening" on the front page, which is what the front page of a web site is for. All one needs to do is post a couple of sentences once a week or so. That's all. I am not asking for daily report and I certainly do not think I am entitled to one. It would be a lot more considerate to the user/fan base than making everyone slog through the forums looking for a tidbit here or there.

I am sorry if anyone took this the wrong way. It was meant as a suggestion to foster community support, not entice a debate. If you want everyone to get involved in a project you first have to make them feel like they are part of it, not apply a "we and you" approach. I am not saying this is happening here. I was only trying to suggest ways to prevent it and improve the Fireboard community.

Re:Oh well!

Posted by Philip Roy - 2007/08/04 23:23

Sorry....apologies....yes I did get you mixed up with d3v1an7.

Phil