



The Role of Users in Open Source Projects

Stormy Peters

GNOME Foundation



Call for help



Photo by Brent and MariLynn

Developer was the user



Photo by Cayusa

Grew to be used by a lot of people



Photo by edge of space

Good thing



Photo by tookie

GNOME's goal is
universal access



Problem?



Photo by Eduardo Amorim

The user is a mystery ...



GNOME has another layer



We want to hear from users



Example from the Desktop Summit





Ruben Vermeersch

Preferences

Metadata

☒ Write metadata to file

Enable this option to store tags and descriptions inside supported image formats.

Screensaver

☐ All Images

☒ Images tagged with: Favorites

Make F-Spot your screensaver

While acting as a screensaver, F-Spot can display all of your images, or a small subset based on tags.

Import Settings

Folder: Pictures

Choose the folder where F-Spot should store newly imported photos

Color Management

☐ Enable ☐ Try to use the system display profile

Display:

Print output:

Theming

☒ System Theme

☐ Custom Theme From List:

From gtkrc File: (None)

Close

F-Spot Preferences window

2009-07-09

Current:

Preferences

Metadata *why/why not?*

☐ Write metadata to file
Enable this option to store tags and descriptions inside supported image formats.

Screensaver *could be output action, not "preference"*

☐ All images

☒ Images tagged with: **Favorites**

stretch! Make F-Spot your screensaver

While acting as a screensaver, F-Spot can display all of your images, or a small subset based on tags.

Import Settings *There's only one!*

Folder: **Photos**

Choose the folder where F-Spot should store newly imported photos

Color Management

☒ Enable ☐ Try to use the system display profile

Display: **Blank by default!**

Output: **Blank by default!**

Theming *means "printing" (actually in Print dialog)*

☐ System Theme

☐ Custom Theme From List: **Clearlooks**

could be a single menu

X Close

Redesigning individual elements:

Store tags and descriptions:

- ☒ Inside image files when possible
Makes tags and descriptions accessible to other image-editing programs.
- ☐ Separately from the image files

When importing photos, copy them to: **Photos**

- ☒ Inside image files when possible
Makes them accessible to other image-editing programs.
- ☐ Separately from the image files

Display

Color profile for display: **None**

Color profile for print: **None**

Photos are ugly

- None
- System profile
- SRGB Built-In
- RGB Built-In
- IEC 61966-2.1
- Other...

F-Spot appearance: **Standard theme**

- ☒ Standard theme
- Cruz
- DarkRoom
- Dust
- Dust Bunch
- Dust Sand
- Glider

Redesigned:

Preferences

When importing photos, copy them to: **Photos**

Store tags and descriptions for photos:

- ☐ Inside the image files when possible
Makes them accessible to other image-editing programs.
- ☒ Separately from the image files

Color profile for display: **System profile**

Color profile for printing: **None**

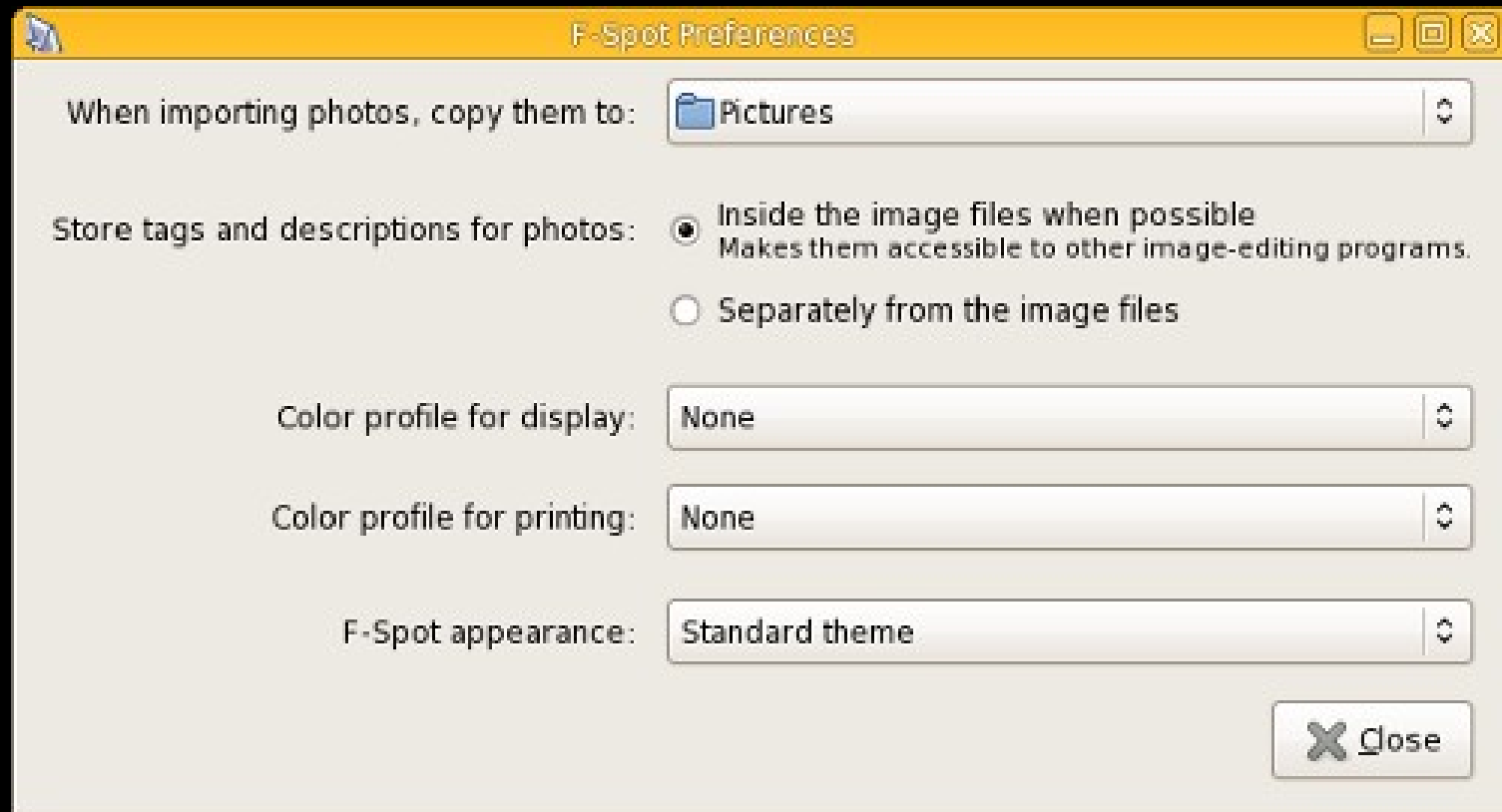
F-Spot appearance: **Standard theme**

Close

→ **"Make Use as Screensaver"**
 can become a command in the main F-Spot interface (like other ways of using photos are), acting on a tag as a whole or on selected photos.



Ruben Vermeersch



Ruben Vermeersch

Listening to users we
get closer to our goal of
universal access for
everyone





Ego



Makes a
better project



Ego

Work harder



Goal



Photo by ewiemann

GNOME's goal is
universal access



How do users help?

Test it by using it



Spread the Word



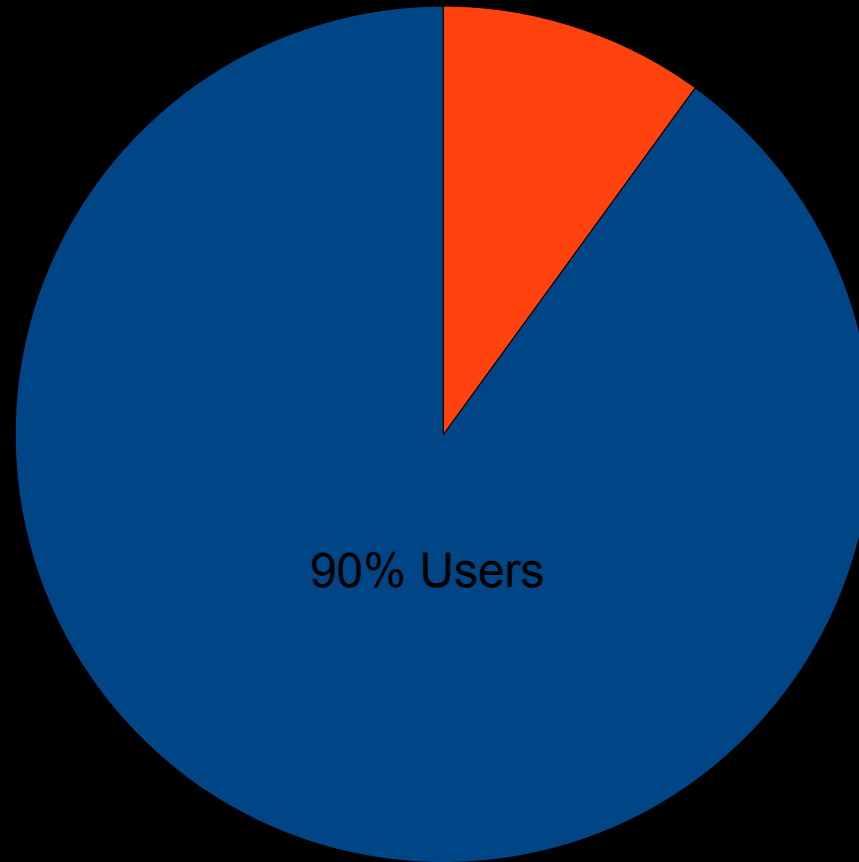
Motivate developers



Credibility



Financial support

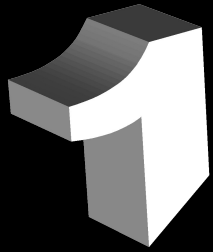


Support each other



Difficulties





Indirect access to users



Novell.



2

Communication Tools





Photo by miskhan

Types of tools (IRC, mailing lists)

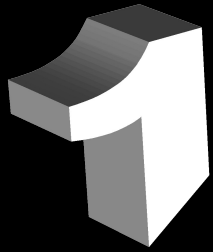


Users find us
when there's a
problem



How to increase
user participation?

Users ...



Forums (not 1:1)



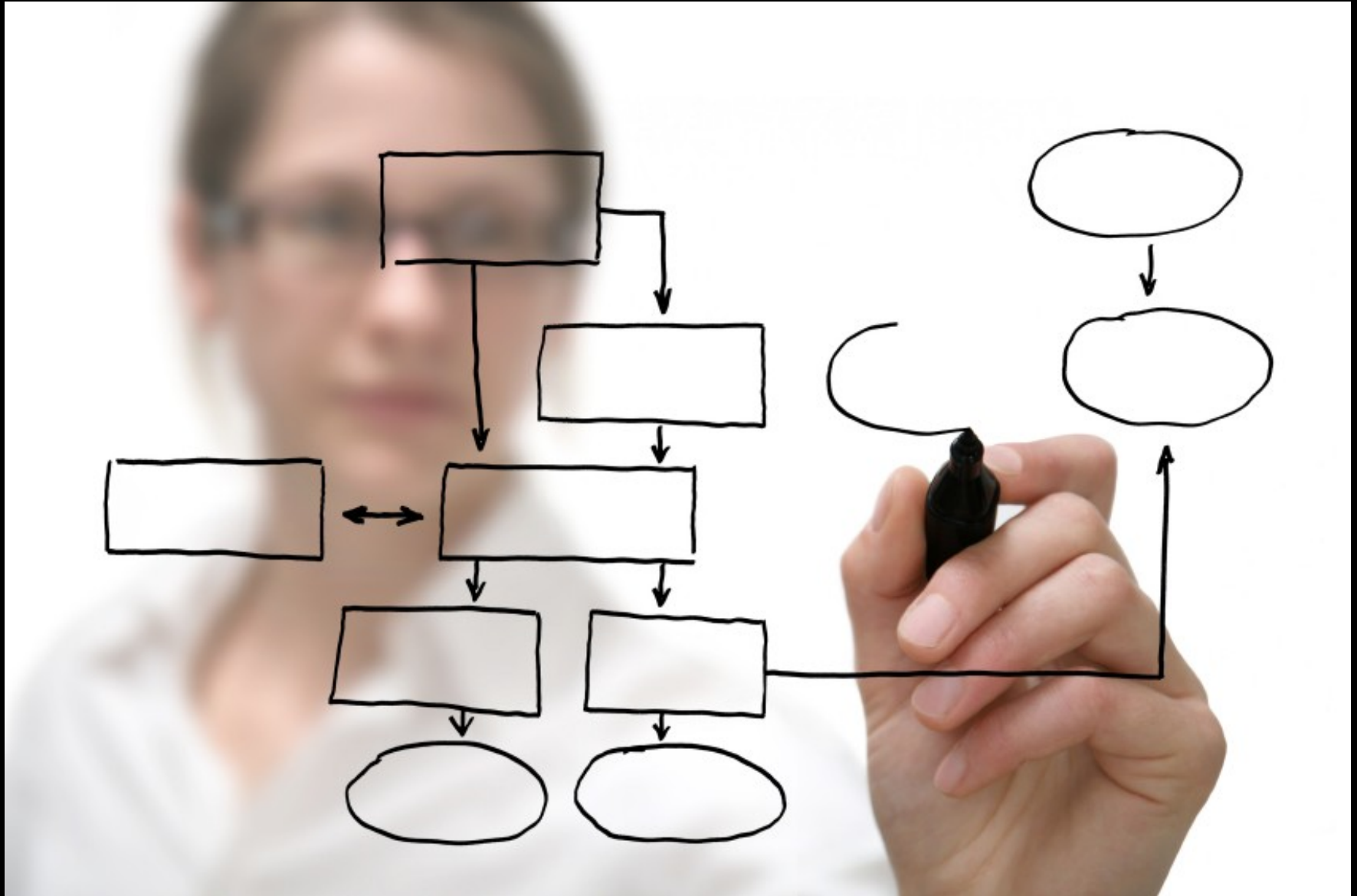
2

Report specific issues

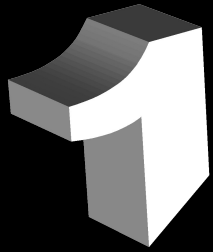




Non technical contributions



But what can **we** do?



Intermediaries



2

Outreach



Photo by ~Aphrodite



Existing Discussion Channels





What more can
we do as
communities?

GNOME Foundation

<http://www.gnome.org/friends>



Stormy Peters

<http://stormyscorner.com>

stormy@gnome.org

Identica/Twitter: @storming