

2006 Year Report for the XOOPS Foundation

By Herko Coomans, Chairman

april 2007

2006 has been a strange year for the XOOPS Foundation. On the one hand has the relevance of the XOOPS Foundation for the XOOPS project reduced to almost nothing due to lack of active members. On the other significant action has been taken that make it possible to support the XOOPS project in a better way.

Board membership

In 2006, the Board of Directors consisted of the following people:

Herko Coomans (herko) – Chairman
Horacio Salazar Herrera (hsalazar) - Secretary
Brian Wahoff (ackbarr) – Treasurer
Jan Pedersen (Mithrandir)
Skalpa Keo (skalpa) (alias used by request)

At the beginning of 2006 Jan Pedersen left the Board, making the total number of members only four. Since there's only an even number of members, a new member should have been found. This has not been initiated however.

One of the reasons for this lack of initiative from the Board to govern the Foundation properly is lack of time for the Board duties. Both the Secretary and the Treasurer have noted that they would like to be replaced by members with more time and interest in the XOOPS Foundation and project.

Another reason for the lack of initiative is the lack of relevancy of the XOOPS Foundation for the XOOPS project. There have been many leadership issues within the project, creating an instable and restless situation within the XOOPS project and community. Since the Chair believes the Foundation shouldn't rule but support, and new initiatives from the Foundation might have been interpreted as a grab for power, they were put on hold.

When rest and direction returned in the project, the Foundation undertook several low key activities in the background that showed the community the use of having a formal organization supporting the XOOPS project.

However, all of these activities have been executed by the Chairman, after conferring and making the decision with the other active member, Skalpa.

Activities

The activities of the Foundation in 2006 have been:

1. Filing police report against Mikhail M., the Brazilian hacker who destroyed the xoops.org websites in 2005;
2. In collaboration with the Software Freedom Law Center, seeking legal ways to stop popscripts.com from violating the terms of the GNU General Public License by distributing XOOPS (1.0) based code without the

- required copyright headers intact in the code;
3. Setup and management of text link ads through www.buy-text-links.biz to get additional funds for the XOOPS project;
 4. Management of the donations received through the XOOPS.org paypal account;
 5. Initiation of an international trademark registration for the name 'XOOPS';
 6. Finding a new strategic partner for (managed) hosting of the XOOPS.org websites.

1. Fighting cybercrime

The XOOPS Foundation has successfully filed a police report against the Brazilian hacker Mikhail M. This means that the Dutch equivalent of the District Attorney (called the Openbaar Ministerie) intends to prosecute the hacker if he is ever caught by the Dutch police. This does not mean that there is an international arrest warrant for the hacker. Brazilian authorities have been notified of the report and are looking into the matter. The XOOPS Foundation intends to monitor the situation and remind the authorities of their responsibilities.

Another element of cybercrime that the XOOPS Foundation has had to face in 2006 is the violation of the terms of the GNU General Public License by popscripts.com, where they distributed XOOPS 1.0 based codes without the required copyright headers and GNU preamble and license information in some of their scripts. To fight this kind of illegal activity, the Foundation asked and received valuable legal counsel from the Software Freedom Law Center. This has not resulted in legal steps against popscripts.com, but the message that misuse of open sourced code is not allowed has been received by popscripts.com. They did threaten to take legal steps against XOOPS themselves, but so far no further information has been received. The XOOPS Foundation intends to follow up on this issue to see to it that popscripts.com will not continue to violate the GPL.

2. Gathering and managing funds

One of the primary functions of the Foundation is gathering and managing the community donations and sponsorship funds for the XOOPS project. This means that donations made to the XOOPS project paypal account have been transferred to the XOOPS Foundation bank account. Sponsorship funds have been found in selling ad space using two services: Google AdSense and buy-text-links.biz. The funds received from these services have been transferred to the XOOPS bank account as well.

3. Managing the XOOPS project non-financial assets

To protect the intellectual property of the developers who have worked on the XOOPS codes, as well as the brand value the support and development community has built for the XOOPS project, the Foundation decided to initiate

an international trademark registration for the XOOPS brand name. The trademark registration has been applied for in October 2006, for the following countries: Belarus, Switzerland, China, European Union, South-Korea, Norway, Singapore, Turkey, United States of America and Australia. The registration is pending, in some countries it has been accepted already. This activity was the most expensive for the Foundation, it cost € 8,650.

Another activity in this cluster is the management of the two dedicated servers the Foundation owns and are graciously hosted by EPC USA, inc. At the end of 2006 it became apparent that the hardware of these servers was not up to par with the task at hand. This led to instable xoops.org websites and security vulnerabilities that were increasingly difficult to manage. EPC USA had focused their core activities on other areas, making it nearly impossible for them to provide the support we needed. For this reason the Foundation decided to look for another strategic partner to manage and host the XOOPS web servers. The Foundation has found this partner in Surpass Hosting, who made a very generous offer to host the XOOPS.org websites on two managed dedicated servers with better hardware specs. This was an offer we couldn't refuse. Hence we have found a new strategic partner for the XOOPS project.

The Board of the XOOPS Foundation wishes to thank EPC USA, inc. for everything they have done for the XOOPS project in the last 3 years. They have provided XOOPS with a very good home, a lot of support and 3 years of free hosting on donated servers. They have enabled the XOOPS project to grow to its current size and potential. We would like to thank the CEO of EPC USA, mr. Dan Fuller, and Brian Wahoff (aka Ackbarr), EPC VP and XOOPSer of the first hour for their support.

This concludes the year report of the Board of Directors of the XOOPS Foundation for the year 2006. Attached you will find a financial statement for 2006.

ing. Herko Coomans
Chairman

Finances

Balance

January 2006:

EURO acct.	3.712,64	€
USD acct.	3,186,83	\$
PayPal acct.	632,83	€

January 2007:

EURO acct.	1,803,42	€
USD acct.	3,491,68	\$
PayPal acct	813,20	€

Donations

Total(gross)	1,242,25	€ (71 donations)
PayPal fees	71,15-	€
Total (net)	1,171,10	€

Other

Packtpub book royalty advance	500,00	\$
Text link ads service	7,100,00	\$
PayPal fees	183,68-	\$

Expenses

Intl. trademark registration	8,650,00-	€
Domain registrations	36,88-	\$
Domain renewals	60,51-	€

Overhead

Interest USD acct.	304,85	\$
Interest EURO acct.	12,48	€
Overhead costs	275,84-	€