Making a Difference for Millions: Contributing to FOSS

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Elizabeth Krumbach

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- Member of the Ubuntu Community Council
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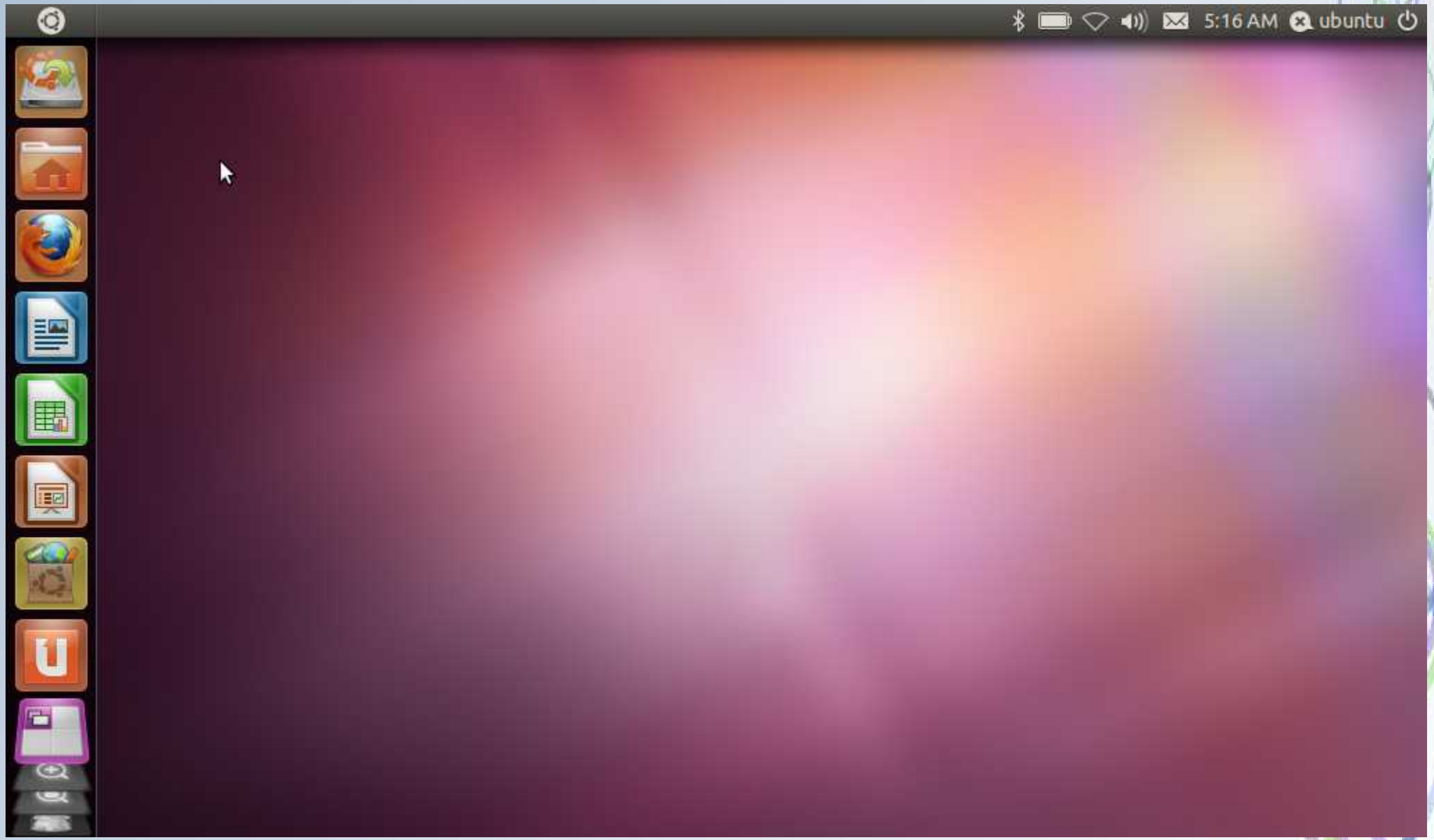
Launchpad.net bug # 713087

Allow Unity launcher to be resizable


5:16 AM
ubuntu

status: New → Opinion
status: Opinion → Invalid
status: Invalid → New
status: New → Confirmed
status: Confirmed → Opinion

Andrea Azzarone wrote a patch for this

status: Opinion → Confirmed
status: Confirmed → Triaged
status: Triaged → Fix Committed
status: Fix Committed → Fix Released

Looks great! Thanks Andrea — Mark Shuttleworth

Do you contribute to FOSS today?

Do you want to contribute to FOSS today?

How is it organized?

Who pays for it?

Why?

The parties!

Friends!

Travel!

Learning!

Ubuntu Developer Week

Google SUMMER OF CODE 2011

attend participate learn

Experience

Making a Difference for Millions

(or thousands)

(or hundreds)

(or dozens)

(or just you)

What?

Programming

Working with Bugs

Documentation

Support

Testing

Design

Icon Family

Preparation Time or or or

Cooking Time or

Category or

Source

Recipe

Gourmet

Cuisine

Rating

Over State

Reasons to Love Ubuntu

1. Best Tools Built In

Selecting the best defaults available makes Ubuntu one of the best operating systems for new users. Everything from Firefox to OpenOffice is ready to use from the cd and fresh install. Any of the thousands of other programs can easily be installed from the Software Center.

2. Friendly and Beautiful

Users fall in love with the simple and elegant interface. With easy to access features and desktop web intergration.

3. Free and Open Source Software

Giving users full legal right to use, share, study and improve the software for any reason without exception. This awesome legal basis is a foundation of Ubuntu.

4. Community of Support

Ubuntu has a polite, supportive and accessable user support community to help you in a spot of bother. As well as approachable development communities where you can report problems.

5. Safe and Functional

Ubuntu like all Free Desktops is much more secure from viruses and attacks. But this security doesn't detract from the plug and play hardware functionality or the awesome ease of use.

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Community

How?

First Steps

- Go to their website, look around
- Join mailing list(s), IRC channel, forums
- Get a feel for the community

...or

- Just submit a patch.

Watch Out!

- Not every project is active
- You may want to avoid projects that are:
  - Huge and with high entry barriers
  - Run by companies in an “over-the-fence” style
- If you work in tech, you may have restrictions placed on your involvement with open source

Tips

- Respect other contributors
- Follow procedures in place for contributions
- Follow through with commitments
- Avoid insulting the work of your predecessors
- Focus on constructive criticism and comments
- Don't fork the project

Have fun!

Questions?

Credits

Lydia Pintscher — Talk title suggestion
Laura Czajkowski — UDS ice skating photo
Mike Edwards — Philadelphia photo
Jorge Castro — Unity bug example
Trevor Calabro — grecipe icon set
Martin Owens — Reasons to Love Ubuntu poster
Mike Joseph — Slide review