
Ship It!

CSE 403, Spring 2004
Software Engineering

<http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/courses/403/04sp/>

Readings and References

- References
 - » Release Engineering Information, FreeBSD
 - <http://www.freebsd.org/releng/index.html>
 - <http://www.freebsd.org/releases/4.10R/schedule.html>
- Acknowledgment
 - » Many of the slides in this lecture are derived from a similar lecture by G. Kimura in an earlier instance of CSE 403

Rules about breaking the build

- Rule 1: Never ever break the build
- Rule 2: If you do break the build, fix it immediately and beg for forgiveness
- Rule 3: Don't change other people's files without their permission
- Rule 4: The closer one gets to the finish line the more important rule one becomes
- Rule 5: Don't make superfluous last minute changes
- Rule 6: Whenever in doubt, see rule 1

Consequences of breaking the build

- Increases development cost
- Adds risk to the project
- Undermines group synergy
- Personally you may
 - » Have your name published widely within the company
 - » Receive 2:00 AM phone calls
 - » Wear the goat horns
 - » Pay \$ into the build lab's refreshment / antacid fund

Some ways to avoid breaking the build

- Do a clean build and run all the tests
- Buddy builds
- Have your changes reviewed
- Develop using separate development trees
- Do what's right by you and your teammates

Why is it so important not to break?

- Lots of other people are making decisions and schedule commitments
 - » The software is growing up and moving away from the development team
- Many of the dates were almost random when initially picked
 - » But changing them now is very expensive, very inconvenient, and very embarrassing

FreeBSD CVS Branches

Code-Freeze Status

The following table lists the code freeze status for the major branches of the src/ subtree of the FreeBSD CVS repository. Comments to any branch listed as "Frozen" must first be reviewed and approved by the relevant contact party. The status of other subtrees such as ports/ and doc/ is also provided below.

Branch	Status	Contact	Notes
HEAD	Stable-Freeze	rsj@FreeBSD.org	Active development branch for -CURRENT. In general, open for commits, although review by rsj@FreeBSD.org is strongly encouraged for large and/or potentially disruptive commits.
RELBRN5_5_2	Freeze	security@FreeBSD.org	FreeBSD 5.2/5.2.1 supported security fix branch.
RELBRN5_5_1	Freeze	security@FreeBSD.org	FreeBSD 5.1 security fix branch (not officially supported).
RELBRN5_5_0	Freeze	security@FreeBSD.org	FreeBSD 5.0 security fix branch (not officially supported).
RELBRN4	Open	rsj@FreeBSD.org	Development branch for 4-STABLE. No sweeping changes until release of 4.10. If in doubt, please contact rsj@FreeBSD.org .
RELBRN4_10	Freeze	rsj@FreeBSD.org	Release branch for upcoming FreeBSD 4.10.
RELBRN4_9	Freeze	security@FreeBSD.org	FreeBSD 4.9 supported security fix branch.
RELBRN4_8	Freeze	security@FreeBSD.org	FreeBSD 4.8 supported security fix branch.
RELBRN4_7	Freeze	security@FreeBSD.org	FreeBSD 4.7 security fix branch (not officially supported).
RELBRN4_6	Freeze	security@FreeBSD.org	FreeBSD 4.6 security fix branch (not officially supported).
RELBRN4_5	Freeze	security@FreeBSD.org	FreeBSD 4.5 security fix branch (not officially supported).

FreeBSD 4.10 Release Process

Schedule

Action	Expected	Actual	Description
Possible announcement	30 Mar 2004	30 Mar 2004	Release Engineers send announcement email to developers@FreeBSD.org with a rough schedule for the FreeBSD 4.10 release.
4.10-BETA Trying Guide published	30 Mar 2004	30 Mar 2004	A trying guide should be published with information about recent changes and areas of the system that should be thoroughly tested during the pre-release/BETA period.
Announce the Ports Freeze	03 Apr 2004	03 Apr 2004	Someone from ports@FreeBSD.org should email freebsd-ports@FreeBSD.org and BCC: developers@FreeBSD.org to set a date for the week long ports freeze and tagging of the ports tree.
4.10-BETA	7 Apr 2004	10 Apr 2004	newvers.sh and release.txt updated.
Code freeze begins	7 Apr 2004	7 Apr 2004	After this date, all commits to the RELBRN4 branch must be approved by rsj@FreeBSD.org . Certain highly active documentation committees are exempt from this rule for routine main page / release note updates. Heads-up emails should be sent to the developers@stable@FreeBSD.org and qa@FreeBSD.org.
RELBRN4_10 branch	20 Apr 2004	21 Apr 2004	The release branch is created.
Unfreeze the tree	20 Apr 2004	22 Apr 2004	Announcement to developers@FreeBSD.org explaining that commits to RELBRN4 no longer require approval. Also note the policy for commits to the RELBRN4_10 branch.
4.10-RC	20 Apr 2004	24 Apr 2004	newvers.sh and release.txt updated.
First release candidate	21 Apr 2004	22 Apr 2004	The first release candidate for the amd64 and Alpha architectures is released. ISO images should be uploaded to ftp://marl.ucsf.edu/FreeBSD.org. A network install directory should be uploaded to ftp://marl.ucsf.edu/FreeBSD.org. The packages/ directory should be a relative symlink, as described in the riling article. When the build begins send a note to announce@FreeBSD.org saying a "Normal Release Cycle" is beginning. RC ISOs and install directories will be coming through the next few weeks.
Heads up to --stable	21 Apr 2004	23 Apr 2004	A message should be sent to qa@FreeBSD.org and stable@FreeBSD.org after the first snapshot is uploaded.
Second release candidate	27 Apr 2004	2 May 2004	Note the release date of this candidate depends on the user experience with RC1.
Heads up to --stable	28 Apr 2004	3 May 2004	A message should be sent to qa@FreeBSD.org and stable@FreeBSD.org after the second snapshot is uploaded.
Third release candidate	--	17 May 2004	Note the release date of this candidate depends on the user experience with RC2.
Final release candidate	--	17 May 2004	A message should be sent to qa@FreeBSD.org and stable@FreeBSD.org after the

Is it ready to ship?

- Who decides when it is ready to ship?
 - » The developer?
 - » The customer?
 - » The managers?
 - » The executive?
- What factors are involved in the decision?
 - » Is the software ready?
 - » Do we need the revenue?
 - » Is there an external factor that is setting the completion date?

It's not just the software ...

- Development and testing plays a big role in getting the product ready, but there is also...
- Documentation
- Manufacturing
- Sales and marketing
- Support and more

Does it meet the requirements?

- Is the quality sufficient for the customer
 - » PC mentality
 - » Mission critical systems
 - » Financial, medical, imbedded systems in planes, factories, safety critical equipment

Is the software ready and tested?

- What are the remaining bugs like?
 - » Are there showstopper bugs (i.e., bugs that you cannot ship knowing they are in the product)
 - » What is the cost of keeping a known bug in the product
 - Is it an obscure bug
 - Are there easy workarounds for the bug
 - Is the product “bug free”

Is the software ready and tested?

- In house testing
 - » Is the daily pass rate acceptable? The definition of acceptable open to discussion.
 - » Has it successfully run through its validation suite?
 - » Is everyone happy with the product?
- Off-site testing through release candidates
 - » Are the beta customers satisfied?
- Is the product stable enough for its intended market?
- What do we do when we stop finding bugs?

Documentation done and accurate?

- Is manufacturing ready for the release?
 - » There is physical manufacturing and shipping of the release media and documentation
 - » Filling the distribution channel
 - » Even with internet distribution there needs to be well planned capacity
- Is product support ready?
 - » Whether the support is “on-site”, “9 to 5”, “24 / 7”, “phone”, or “mail only”, the support staff needs to be trained and have adequate communication capacity.
- Is sales and marketing ready?

Customer ready?

- A lot of this depends on the type of customer
 - » The shrink warp market
 - » ISV – More technically savvy than the regular shrink wrapped market, however also less tolerant of stupid errors
 - » IHV – They have a different set of issues from ISV including automated setup and installation, and customization support
 - » Contract work – Various levels from delivering an entire turnkey system to only a small component that the buyer will integrate.
 - » Internal customer group

Ship mode

- In the Windows NT group, this was called “showstopper mode” or the “death march” a rather macabre term, but also rather accurate
- All source changes must be reviewed and approved. It must be for a specific showstopper bug. Bugs are recorded in a bug database called “raid”. Sometimes kept an open showstopper bug active just to check-in more “fixes”
- Daily builds and stress runs (yes, seven days a week including most holidays)

A typical day near the end

- 5 AM results are starting to be gathered for the previous night stress run
- 7 AM release of the previous nights stress results.
Developers then have until noon or so to debug all the crashed machines. Sometimes you need to keep the machine a lot longer.
- 8 AM meeting of the development team managers looking at the nightly stress results and new bugs review (they decide which bugs need to be fixed, and when to ship the product). Near the very end this becomes a twice a day meeting
- 10 AM to 3 PM the build lab is willing to accept any bug fixes for approved showstopper bugs
- 5 PM dinner is served
- 6 PM the next build is released and everyone installs the new system and starts up stress, and those with showstopper bugs continue to work.

Finally

- When it is finally decided to ship the product then the bits go into escrow as the golden media is produced and manufacturing starts ramping up. Testing continues and if necessary the bits can be recalled from escrow and the release done over again.
- Work continues on the subsequent release for the various server editions and international language versions.

Ancillary issues

- Media hype
 - » Setting expectations
 - » Beta previews
 - » Getting beta customer testimonials might be important
- Competitive pressure
 - » Market share before quality
 - » First one defines the market and grabs market share even with junk
 - » The followers often play catch-up with mixed success (unless you are a monopoly)

More issues

- Timing the release
- When do we get paid and are we ready for the IPO?
- Major release vs. minor release
 - » Big delta or small delta
 - » Customer perception based on version number
 - Word 1.0 for Windows
 - Word 1.1 for Windows
 - Word 2.0 for Windows
 - Word 6.0 for Windows
 - Word 95
 - Word 97
 - » Some IHV contracts are based on version number
- Where to have the ship party