Subject: New user observations
Posted by rbmatt on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 17:04:09 GMT

I've been using Ultimate++ for about a week, and I love it. I'm already looking for ways that I can give back to the project. Here are some of my observations/suggestions that you can choose to implement, ignore, discuss, etc.

1. Unify website parts locations: Content seems to be spread over too many places. Right now the main website is at http://upp.sourceforge.net, there is good content on the SF page http://sourceforge.net/projects/upp , the forums are at http://www.arilect.com/upp/forum/, and there are wikis at both http://www.arilect.com/mediawiki152/ and http://upp.wikispaces.com/. This is confusing to new users. Put it all under one domain name.

2. Add a "New Users Guide": Very simple, but it would explain the basics to new users. First a VERY basic feature set that hooks the reader and makes him want to read more. The guide would point them to the forums, wiki, tutorials, and Assist++. It would do a very basic overview of TheIDE. There is some good information out there, it just needs to be compiled into one place and labeled for new users.

3. More user interaction: Mirek, you have been awesome helping me. But I'm afraid if we get a lot of new users you won't be able to help everyone. It would really help if some of the people familiar with U++ would stand up and be a little more active in the forums.

4. Put help menu in TheIDE: Yea, I know there's plenty of good stuff built-in. But there is no help menu. New users will hit the F1 key and look for the help menu in the top right of the menu bar. F1 doesn't do anything and there's no help menu. I suggest moving at very minimum "Help Index" and "About" to the help menu.

5. Describe and screenshot examples on website: New users that have no clue about U++ API typically have no clue what the examples are doing. Explain the code (simple is fine).

6. Make packages for Linux: I know you've mentioned this before, but I think it's quite important. Try to get a package in the Debian repository so users can apt-get it.

7. Make it run on Mac: I know it's on the roadmap. I know it's going to take a lot. I just think it's really important.

8. Get some more PR from digg: I see that U++ was dugg once before over 150 days ago. I'll be glad to submit to digg if there is something "newsworthy." Note digg users love Ubuntu and Apple- so making a native Debian package (that can be gotten with apt-get) and Mac version would be huge.

9. Wikipedia article: Mirek posted that this was needed back in February. I say why not?

10. Setup development "blog": New users (and Google) love to see news on the main page. It makes the project look alive. Basically, someone (a developer, a PR person, or a programmer) needs to post dated material to the site.

11. Make website more search engine friendly: Ok, I saw that this has been discussed on here before. I would definitely go towards a CSS-based site with emphasis on heading tags and compliant markup. You'd be surprised how much it helps (I used to work for a web host). But not really a big deal, I think the website is fine visually.

Discuss the list if you want. I'll be glad to help anywhere I can, just point me where you want me.

Subject: Re: New user observations

Posted by mirek on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 19:06:39 GMT

Well, most of those things would be nice to happen.

The real trouble, and I am not happy to speak about it, is that project at the moment is seriously "undermanned". I consider this my fault, but so far we were not able to attract huge number of contributors and maintainers. Maybe it is time to try again - last time when I gave up searching for website maintainer, I put together the current website using tools I had at hand (that is, website is 100% generated using U++

I know it is closed circle - no team to make PR buzz results in no attraction to new people that would do PR and rest

Anyway, let us make another try. This time, with quite a lot of people really starting to understant U++, it might be better. We need:

- linux maintainer
- website maintainer
- PR/documentation people (write articles about U++)

..feel free to add...

BTW, current "active" U++ team could be listed as:

- me, doing almost everything
- Tom Rylek, U++ co-author, the only other person at the moment with write access to 'uppsrc'
- Daniel Kos - third person that knows U++ really in depth, regular dev release mainainer.
- Arilect - maintains this forum (speaking about it, what is your full name, ari?
- Sandor Hojtsy - should sync website, but frankly there were not many changes to it... we would need www maintainer instead I think

Then there is quite a lot of knowledgeable contributors, full list is in TheIDE.

Mirek

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by mirek on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 19:08:58 GMT

Well, thinking about it, maybe the most important addition to the team is some team manager?

Mirek

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by zsolt on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 21:35:58 GMT
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I think, the main problem of upp is, that it is unknown to the public.
For example I wrote an app with upp and posted some bugfixes while I develpoed my system. If
upp had more users it had a lot of contributors, I think.
My opinion is, that the main problem of potential upp users is, that it is almost impossible to
convince their bosses about using upp instead of java or dotnet. And this is because the lack of
PR.
So for the upp project, the most valuabe person would be a native english speaking man who
finds out PR campaigns and writes tons of articles and posts them to the media.
You know: to have that critical mass...

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by mirek on Thu, 27 Jul 2006 21:45:43 GMT
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Well, I guess everybody (except Ari agrees about that

Mirek

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by fudadmin on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 03:14:04 GMT
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rbmatt wrote on Thu, 27 July 2006 18:04I've been using Ultimate++ for about a week, and I
love it. I'm already looking for ways that I can give back to the project. Here are some of my
observations/suggestions that you can choose to implement, ignore, discuss, etc.
1. Unify website parts locations: Content seems to be spread over too many places. Right now
the main website is at http://upp.sourceforge.net, there is good content on the SF page
http://sourceforge.net/projects/upp , the forums are at http://www.arilect.com/upp/forum/, and
there are wikis at both http://www.arilect.com/mediawiki152/ and http://upp.wikispaces.com/. This
is confusing to new users.

Put it all under one domain name.

Thanks for your enthusiasm.
Some comments:

Sorry, but one domain name is bad.
Reason 1:
Most of good open source projects are hosted on sourceforge.net. This is one of the best ways to
find them. Do you propose to remove Ultimate++ from there?

Reason 2:

On the other hand, sourceforge is slow and not reliable. Updating, installing etc. is a big headache and a waste of time. Both for users and admins. That's why most of sourceforge good projects have their other domains.

P.S.
Btw, somehow wxWidgets etc. users are not confused.

Quote:
2. Add a "New Users Guide": Very simple, but it would explain the basics to new users. First a VERY basic feature set that hooks the reader and makes him want to read more. The guide would point them to the forums, wiki, tutorials, and Assist++. It would do a very basic overview of TheIDE. There is some good information out there, it just needs to be compiled into one place and labeled for new users.

You (and anyone) can start writing (and editing) it here on forums. I'll make it sticky.

Quote:
3. More user interaction: Mirek, you have been awesome helping me. But I'm afraid if we get a lot of new users you won't be able to help everyone. It would really help if some of the people familiar with U++ would stand up and be a little more active in the forums.

How many "familiar with u++" do we have here?
And how long does it take to become "familiar"?

P.S.
After some intensive 6 months I'm still not confidently familiar with u++. Because it's a Guisberg...
. On the other hand, do not expect a lot from other (on average 15) regular forum visitors. 10 of which are regularly changing newbies...
Also, there was an opinion that u++ users prefer not to participate in forum communications...

Quote:
4. Put help menu in TheIDE: Yea, I know there's plenty of good stuff built-in. But there is no help menu. New users will hit the F1 key and look for the help menu in the top right of the menu bar. F1 doesn't do anything and there's no help menu. I suggest moving at very minimum "Help Index" and "About" to the help menu.

Fixing F1 help is against PR "strategy" and you can do nothing about it...

Quote:
5. Describe and screenshot examples on website: New users that have no clue about U++ API typically have no clue what the examples are doing. Explain the code (simple is fine).

Who can and has time?

Quote:
6. Make packages for Linux: I know you've mentioned this before, but I think it's quite important. Try to get a package in the Debian repository so users can apt-get it.

Who can and has time (the Debian repository)?

Quote:
7. Make it run on Mac: I know it's on the roadmap. I know it's going to take a lot. I just think it's really important.

Who can and has time?

Quote:
8. Get some more PR from digg: I see that U++ was dugg once before over 150 days ago. I'll be glad to submit to digg if there is something "newsworthy." Note digg users love Ubuntu and Apple- so making a native Debian package (that can be gotten with apt-get) and Mac version would be huge.

Who can and has time?

Quote:
9. Wikipedia article: Mirek posted that this was needed back in February. I say why not?

You (and anyone) can start writing (and editing) it here on forums. Then we will post it. Otherwise, some language and PR strategical mistakes might be fatal...

Quote:
10. Setup development "blog": New users (and Google) love to see news on the main page. It makes the project look alive. Basically, someone (a developer, a PR person, or a programmer) needs to post dated material to the site.

11. Make website more search engine friendly: Ok, I saw that this has been discussed on here before. I would definitely go towards a CSS-based site with emphasis on heading tags and compliant markup. You'd be surprised how much it helps (I used to work for a web host). But not really a big deal, I think the website is fine visually.

I think those 2 last things are the most important if you have skills and understanding. I've spent a lot of time experimenting here on arilect with different software for these kind of purposes but didn't want to make those experiments public (partly due to possible confusion you mentioned in the beginning)

What could you do? And where your heart lies?
P.S. Web...?
Edited:
Aris.

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by mirek on Fri, 28 Jul 2006 06:46:43 GMT
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Quote:
Also, there was an opinion that u++ users prefer not to participate in forum communications...

Interestingly enough, there are signs that some people are pretty familiar with U++ and we never heard about them

E.g. see the last mailing list contribution...

Anyway, that does not help too much here.

Quote:
Fixing F1 help is against PR "strategy" and you can do nothing about it...

Why do you think so? Why "against PR strategy"?

There is just work that is already done (e.g. new Image and most of Chameleon) and work that is on ToDo and has to be done yet

Quote:
Quote:
7. Make it run on Mac: I know it's on the roadmap. I know it's going to take a lot. I just think it's really important.

Who can and has time?

Me?

Mirek

Subject: Re: New user observations

Posted by pivica on Mon, 31 Jul 2006 09:37:55 GMT
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I could help with next two things:

1. Web site. Currently u++ code generates web site. That is a good solution for generating document, reference and manual pages. But with this solution it is difficult to have dynamic web site (users, news, ...). Good solution is to use CMS for this. I have good working experience with Drupal CMS (www.drupal.org); made two web sites with it (www.linux-beograd.org.yu and www.cultrim.com) and currently working on one more, also with Drupal.
Drupal offers many features: users, roles, news, books, forum (also have module for fud forum integration), built in search engine, blog ...

Maybe it is a good idea to switch U++ site to CMS, and if we chose Drupal I am willing to make site, administer and teach at least one more person to administer site.

Only problem is how to transfer topic documentation to Drupal. Maybe it is possible to write some U++ code and automate process.

2. I am using Debian and Ubuntu and will try this week to make packages for it.

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by mirek on Mon, 31 Jul 2006 10:47:19 GMT
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Add 1: The trouble is that sf.net website service is quite limited - e.g. we were unable to setup the forum running there, that is why it runs on arilect....

Mirek

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by pivica on Mon, 31 Jul 2006 11:03:46 GMT
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Quote:Add 1: The trouble is that sf.net website service is quite limited - e.g. we were unable to setup the forum running there, that is why it runs on arilect....

I don't know for prices in other countries, but for LUG Belgrade we are paying 15 euros for 1 year of hosting; sometimes site is slow, but for that price it is ok. Why not changing provider for web site?

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by mirek on Mon, 31 Jul 2006 11:23:53 GMT
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pivica wrote on Mon, 31 July 2006 07:03Quote:Add 1: The trouble is that sf.net website service is quite limited - e.g. we were unable to setup the forum running there, that is why it runs on arilect....

I don't know for prices in other countries, but for LUG Belgrade we are paying 15 euros for 1 year of hosting; sometimes site is slow, but for that price it is ok. Why not changing provider for web site?

Publicity. Being on sf.net has benefits. (in fact, I still pay for original www.ntllib.org, so that is the least problem).

Well, in fact, I feel that at some point in future U++ will move to its own website / domain, but I believe that time has not come yet... (the other reason is the possibility to make some potential income from google links etc - but we would need much more hits for that to have any sense).

Mirek

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by pivica on Mon, 31 Jul 2006 11:29:56 GMT
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Quote:Publicity. Being on sf.net has benefits.

What are the benefits for hosting web site on sf?

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by mirek on Mon, 31 Jul 2006 11:35:17 GMT
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- .sf.net in domain

- high google rating

- being listen in sf.net directory

In fact, it is also true that it would be possible to have the www outside sf.net and still be hosted, with redirection of www and use sf.net for svn and downloads.

Mirek

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by rbmatt on Mon, 31 Jul 2006 15:32:40 GMT
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luzr wrote on Mon, 31 July 2006 07:35In fact, it is also true that it would be possible to have the www outside sf.net and still be hosted, with redirection of www and use sf.net for svn and downloads.
That is how a lot of the bigger packages are listed, and I think that's where U++ will ultimately end up.
If you want to talk about hosting in the future, let me know. I might can work something out.

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by exolon on Mon, 31 Jul 2006 22:23:30 GMT
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luzr wrote on Mon, 31 July 2006 12:35- being listen in sf.net directory
Well, I found Ultimate++ through freshmeat, and I'm glad I did.

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by pivica on Tue, 01 Aug 2006 08:48:55 GMT
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Quote:- .sf.net in domain Smile

- high google rating

- being listen in sf.net directory

Never the less I think that sf limitation to the web site are more important.

Quote:In fact, it is also true that it would be possible to have the www outside sf.net and still be hosted, with redirection of www and use sf.net for svn and downloads.

It would be a good solution. What about organizing a poll and see what U++ comunity think about this issue.

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by mirek on Tue, 01 Aug 2006 08:59:28 GMT
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Well, I can tell you results of poll without makeing one: Everybody would want better and integrated www site

The real question is whether somebody _capable_ would wish to spend several hours a week maintaining the website...

Mirek

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by mirek on Tue, 01 Aug 2006 09:03:52 GMT
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Speaking about it, what should be the domain? upp.org and upp.com are already sold.

MIrek

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by zsolt on Tue, 01 Aug 2006 10:57:13 GMT
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ultimateplusplus.org? its free

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by pivica on Tue, 01 Aug 2006 11:06:02 GMT
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Quote:The real question is whether somebody _capable_ would wish to spend several hours a week maintaining the website...

I am willing and capable to build and maintain site in Drupal and also to teach one more person about administration.

ultimatepp.org is also free.

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by mirek on Fri, 18 Aug 2006 07:25:24 GMT
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Ok, while I am setting up plans w.r.t. new website, important question:

- would you find some ads on website (e.g. as many as present on CodeBlocks site & forum) too disturbing?

It would be nice to have www site expenses covered (perhaps) and maybe, in long term, it could create some revenue for U++ development as well.

Mirek

```
website ads(total votes: 9)
```

it is ok to have ads 8/(89%)
ads are bad 1/(11%)

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by fudadmin on Fri, 18 Aug 2006 07:44:52 GMT
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2 suggestions:
1. what about to split and start a new topic...
2. At least 3 choices for voting:

2.1 No ads
2.2 Small amount of ads
2.3 Big amount of ads

And then if yes, discuss how big the amount and how they must be arranged and managed.

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by mirek on Fri, 18 Aug 2006 07:53:26 GMT
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Do you think anybody would vote for big amount?

Mirek

Subject: Re: New user observations
Posted by fudadmin on Fri, 18 Aug 2006 08:24:27 GMT
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luzr wrote on Fri, 18 August 2006 08:53Do you think anybody would vote for big amount?

Mirek

That's what I feared! (As a prevention of No...)