



Firebird Foundation

(Incorporated)

Incorporated as a Non-profit Association by the Department of Fair Trading, NSW, Australia
to promote the interests of the Firebird Open Source RDBMS Project

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President's Report

Annual General Meeting

28 November 2011

Finally in 2011, the new web site is born. It has been running “live” since June. Thanks to all who worked on it. It has been built on a Firebird-powered CMS system (FireWEB 4.0 by DQTeam) and features a distributed deployment scheme for three different virtual private servers to provide stability and faster access in regions.

Now firebirdsql.org is working on three VPS's in two separate data centers, thanks to our sponsors, IBSurgeon and the members who, some years ago, donated money to be earmarked for this project, and to the DQTeam, Sergey Mereutsa and his wife Olga Popcova. Thanks also to Dmitry Yemanov, Alexey Kovyazin, Paul Vinkenoog, Steve Summers and all the others who helped with transitioning the content.

Newsletters

Foundation members continue to receive a monthly email news bulletin that I hope has been welcomed by all of our members. My thanks to Pavel Cisar and Alan McDonald for their regular activity to keep members well informed about happenings around Firebird.

Recently, the first issue of an email newsletter to Firebird users was published, initiated by Alexey and his associates at IBSurgeon.

Conference

I just returned from our Firebird Conference in Luxembourg, staged and sponsored by Sita Software on November 25-26. It is always a pleasure to meet old friends and get good technical information about Firebird future. We also met new people and some of them asked me how to become sponsors. Thanks, Sita and your co-sponsors IBPhoenix and IBSurgeon, for making it happen.

The traditional Mad Auction brought in nearly €450 for the Foundation's Funds, as well, making it a success in more than one way.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships, usually by corporations, continue to be an essential source of income to support our funding objectives. Currently, we have seven Platinum, six Gold, three Silver and four Bronze sponsors. We received welcome donations during the year from participants in the Brazilian developer seminars organised by Carlos Cantu. A huge “Thank You” is due to all of our sponsors whose contributions accounted for about 75 per cent of income, and a special thanks to our longer-term sponsors.

Do I need to state the obvious - that there is no such thing as “too many sponsors” ?

Memberships

About 20 per cent of income came from membership subscriptions. Currently we have 209 members: 98 voting and 111 associate. We have 21 voting members who

are exempt from membership subscriptions, these being the honorary members and the Platinum and Gold sponsors.

We can always do with more members, so I would like to remind you all about the Foundation member logos that paid-up members can display on their websites to encourage site visitors to think about applying for membership. You can pick these logos up from the menus on the Foundation members' web pages (http://web.firebirdsql.org/index.php?op=ffoundation&id=support_logos) and link them to our main public page at <http://www.firebirdsql.org/en/firebird-foundation/>.

Wouldn't a surge in new members be a great way to celebrate our coming 10th anniversary?

The Committee

This year the Committee finalised the ratification of the formal Trademark Usage Policy document that was resolved by the members at last year's AGM, by making the requested additions, and a few more, to the FAQ section. It was published on the Firebird web site in April and now resides at the new site, at <http://www.firebirdsql.org/en/firebird-brand-faq/>. We can hope now that the whole matter of usage of the Firebird branding is clearer for everyone.

Alexey Kovyazin, who joined the Committee as a new member at the last AGM, has been very successful in negotiating new sponsorships and substantial donations in the Russian Federation. He has also been coordinating the web redevelopment and encouraging Firebird users to contribute [case studies](#) for publication on the web site.

Thomas Steinmaurer, who began his second stint as a Committee member last year, has been actively getting Firebird out and about amongst the developer public, especially in German-speaking countries, with magazine and journal articles and presence at events where Firebird was otherwise not represented. The Committee acknowledged Thomas' efforts as a "Firebird ambassador". Thomas has expressed interest in forming an "ambassador group" with other interested Firebird people.

Conclusion

In concluding, I wish to thank the committee for its efforts during the year to keep things moving along smoothly. I want to thank all of the subscribing members for their continued support. The income from subscriptions is essential to the continuity of our funding support so we are especially appreciative of those who pay up promptly when renewal is due.

Thank you to all of the sponsors and donors for your generosity. And, above all, thanks to all the code-workers: core developers, QA, platform porters, documentation writers and driver developers, for your dedication and your superbly professional attention to the work that makes Firebird possible.

Philippe Makowski, President
28th November 2011