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 for 2012

Annual General Meeting
20 March 2013

Conference

Since our last AGM a new Firebird Conference in Luxembourg was sponsored and staged by Sita Software on October 26-27. As always, it was a pleasure to meet old friends and get good technical information about Firebird. Even considering it was a year without major new releases, speakers provided us interesting topics.

Thanks, Sita and your co-sponsors IBPhoenix and IBSurgeon, for making it happen.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships, usually by corporations, continue to be an essential source of income to support our funding objectives. Currently, we have nine Platinum, two Gold, three Silver and three Bronze sponsors.

Firebird Developers Day in Brazil attendees donated R$ 4.280,00 to sponsor the enhancement of the Firebird wire protocol. The work will be done by Dmitry Yemanov, chief of the Firebird development team.

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.

We have fewer sponsors, but more Platinum sponsors, so the amount of sponsorship has grown.

About sponsors, we learned with sorrow of the death of Roger Vellacott in November, from cancer. Roger was a significant contributor to Firebird and its community from the earliest days, as a voting member of the Firebird Foundation and a regular contributor to support forums. The company he led, Passfield Data Systems, in Bath, U.K., is a Firebird sponsor. We extend our sincere condolences to Roger's family and his colleagues at Passfield.

Memberships

About 14 per cent of income came from membership subscriptions.
Currently we have 210 members: 98 voting and 112 associate. We have 23 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/

Grants

Grant allocations for the core developers had not changed since 2008. They were reviewed and upgraded during 2012.
A special grant allocation was made for creating a Microsoft Visual Studio installer for our NetProvider.

Jaybird

In October, Roman Rokytskyy announced to the Firebird admins that he was handing over the Jaybird project to Mark Rotteveel. Thanks to Mark taking this position.

On behalf of the Firebird Foundation, thanks Roman for your involvement in the Jaybird project and for your contribution to the Foundation over many years, as a committee member and as coordinator of the Technical Task Group (TTG).

Conclusion

In concluding, I wish to thank the committee for its efforts during the year to keep things moving along smoothly. Special thanks to Stefan Heymann who is stepping down now, after several years of service on the committee.

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
17th March 2013