Subject: A Little PARIS Research - Size of user community
Posted by kerryg on Thu, 03 Jul 2008 19:58:15 GMT
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support any forward motion. Blog/wiki/networking/development rig are
certainly part of that infrastructure but we also had a serious need for
hard info - things like current community size and composition etc. If we
want to tell outside developers who we are as a community, we better know
who we are first, and I had the suspicion that my "spitball" guesstimates
weren't doing us much justice.

research and detective work, and what I lack in skills I cheerfully
supplement with grunt work. I wanted to share one of the results of that
basic research with you all.

before. As far as I know we never got a definitive answer. We've now got a
fairly firm "floor" for the size of the current PARIS user community. It
stands at an eye-opening (at least to me) 125 current users - and rising, so

to an estimate of the user community worldwide (including PARIS users who
don't come to the NG) as being in the vicinity of a healthy 400 current
users.

Surprised? Not bad for eight years after discontinuation!

derived from a fairly accurate hand count of the number of currently active

is distinct from the size of the NG community itself. We needed that info
broken out separately because while some developments (say the ability to
open PARIS .ppjs without a PARIS rig) might indeed be of interest to
ex-PARIS users too (who might still retain archives in .ppj format), other
developments (say drivers) would really only be of interest to those who
still have and use PARIS hardware.

To gather those numbers I ruled out the past approach of polls and censuses;

unreliable. I simply scanned through the NG posts going back an arbitrary
length of time (10 months) and noted every poster I could in that recent

posting PARIS-specific tech support questions, specific error code
questions, etc). I put the info in a database to sort it in different ways

so I could pretty confidently eliminate duplicates. It was a bit

would be counterbalanced by the certainty of undercount.

"minority case" - a returning user after years of absence - I naturally come

starting from here and going forward.

So while it's true we were larger long ago, a hard floor of 125 real users
is a good strong number, an excellent number, for aficionado-driven efforts

than some aficionado groups for other pieces of discontinued technology, and
some of those smaller groups have got quite a lot of very meaningful work
done. And 400 users worldwide may not be Nuendo numbers but for small

Hope this is of interest!

- Kerry