Packages - Freedom Issue #2909

fwupd has a nonfree repository Was: Do check fwupd

2020-10-11 01:11 AM - GNUtoo

Status:	fixed	**% Done:**	0%
Priority:	bug		
Assignee:	GNUtoo		
Category:			

Description

We ship the fwupd package unmodified from the various archlinux GNU/Linux distributions.

On i686 it comes from community:

```
$ pacman -sS fwupd
community/fwupd 1.4.6-1.0 [installed]
    Simple daemon to allow session software to update firmware
community/gnome-firmware 3.36.0-2.0
    Manage firmware on devices supported by fwupd
```

fwupd is a daemon that is meant to update various firmwares[1] regardless of if they are free or not.

So it's a bit like a package manager for firmwares.

So if it has not been done already, it would be a good idea to check if its configuration is ok or not.

As at least one firmware (for the color huges if I recall the name well) is free software and known to be available through this system, so it might be a good idea to check if free firmwares are completely ok and keep such firmwares if that's easy to do.

[1] Here firmware means code that is in various devices and not part of the operating system, so from SSD firmwares to even BIOS/UEFI.

Related issues:

Related to Packages - Freedom Issue #1035: [your-system-sanity]: Non-Free Sof...	**in progress**
Related to Packages - Freedom Issue #3299: [kinfocenter]: blacklisted fwupd i...	**fixed**
Related to Packages - Freedom Issue #3000: [fwupd]: is an auto-updater , may ...	**unconfirmed**

History

#1 - 2020-10-11 01:30 AM - GNUtoo

I found some highly suspicious files:

```
$ pacman -Q -l  fwupd | grep -i lvfs
fwupd /etc/fwupd/remotes.d/lvfs-testing.conf
fwupd /etc/fwupd/remotes.d/lvfs.conf
[...]
$ cat /etc/fwupd/remotes.d/lvfs.conf
[fwupd Remote]

# this remote provides metadata and firmware marked as 'stable' from the LVFS
Enabled=true
Title=Linux Vendor Firmware Service
Keyring=gpg
MetadataURI=https://cdn.fwupd.org/downloads/firmware.xml.gz
ReportURI=https://fwupd.org/lvfs/firmware/report
OrderBefore=fwupd
```

https://cdn.fwupd.org/downloads/firmware.xml.gz seem to contain references to many nonfree firmwares.

#2 - 2020-10-11 09:44 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom Issue #1035: [your-system-sanity]: Non-Free Software From Third-party Package Managers (TPPM) added

#3 - 2020-10-11 09:55 AM - bill-auger

GNUtoo -

i notice that you do not fill in the descriptions for new
tickets that you open; but instead add a secondary comment
with the details later - the initial ticket form should have
a text field for the description - i wonder is the interface
broken for you maybe

this is also peculiar, because some people are not allowed to
submit the ticket if the description field is empty - redmine
normally rejects the post, with an error message: "description
can not be empty" - i have not investigated that, but i assumed
it was a global behavior

#4 - 2020-10-11 05:24 PM - GNUtoo

> i notice that you do not fill in the descriptions for new
> tickets that you open; but instead add a secondary comment
> with the details later - the initial ticket form should have
> a text field for the description - i wonder is the interface
> broken for you maybe

The reason is simple:

- The first description cannot be edited later on
- I often make mistakes also because I've no preview without JavaScript[1].

[1] JavaScript isn't bad per-se but here it acts as arbitrary execution of code, can be viewed as as a security issue, depending on your threat model. It is a good practice to not tie the security of one's computer to the computer(s) serving serving the JavaScript code and all the infrastructure in between (SSL PKI).

#5 - 2020-10-11 11:02 PM - bill-auger

ok, understood - the description can be edited; but it does
require javascript to expose the form

this is the HTML element definition:

```
<span id="issue_description_and_toolbar" style="display:none">
```

you could probably do some magic by injecting some CSS with some
styling tool, to make the form always exposed

```
#issue_description_and_toolbar { display: block ; }
```

or with local javascript/greasemonkey:

```
document.getElementById('issue_description_and_toolbar').show()
```

a better solution would be to prevent redmine from hiding it for
admins and the OP - im sure thats a simple change

#6 - 2022-03-11 03:10 PM - GNUtoo

- Status changed from unconfirmed to confirmed

- Subject changed from Do check fwupd to fwupd has a nonfree repository Was: Do check fwupd

Guix has a patch with a patch to remove lvfs: https://issues.guix.gnu.org/46278

#7 - 2022-03-11 03:28 PM - GNUtoo

- Assignee set to GNUtoo

I've just blacklisted the package in the blacklist repository, and also gnome-firmware whose only goal seem to be a graphical interface on top of fwupd.

```
f084014 Add gnome-firmware
1e458d4 Add fwupd
```

#8 - 2022-03-11 03:28 PM - GNUtoo

- Status changed from confirmed to fixed

#9 - 2022-06-22 01:28 AM - Megver83

Do we really want this? this issue is similar to the ones of third party package managers (pip, npm, flatpak) which offer both free and non-free software. However, the big difference here is that fwupd manages firmware updates, which are a critical component. I think it should not be blacklisted, specially because it provides updates for coreboot devices (e.g. System76)

#10 - 2022-06-22 05:28 AM - bill-auger

- Description updated

#11 - 2022-06-22 05:38 AM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom Issue #3299: [kinfocenter]: blacklisted fwupd is a dependency added

#12 - 2022-06-22 05:44 AM - avalos

> However, the big difference here is that fwupd manages firmware updates, which are a critical component.

Firmware is indeed critical, so maybe we should not allow the manufacturer to introduce backdoors or shady stuff in further versions.

> I think it should not be blacklisted, specially because it provides updates for coreboot devices (e.g. System76)

I don't think that's relevant at all. FSDG doesn't care about how important it is for you to update your blob-infested System76 laptop, but rather about shipping a system that is as free as possible, which blacklisting fwupd would help achieve.

> Do we really want this? this issue is similar to the ones of third party package managers (pip, npm, flatpak) which offer both free and non-free software.

Well, seeing it from that perspective, then yeah, maybe fwupd shouldn't be blacklisted, it's just that maybe most firmware is proprietary. I don't know, avoiding proprietary firmware feels like one of the main reasons things like Parabola and Linux-libre exist, so it doesn't feel right to have a tool like this.

Let me know what y'all think.

#13 - 2022-06-22 05:37 PM - gap

See also #3000.
As mentioned there, we can either:
1. Blacklist entirely
2. Blacklist and replace with libre version which patches out references to LVFS
3. Number 2 but also add references to an LVFS replacement repo which only hosts libre firmware

As 3 is not yet possible due to no such repo existing and 2 would incur a maintenance overhead for a package that doesn't do much in the free world because no FSDG-compliant repo exists to use it with, 1 is the only option we have at the moment.

Please add any other options if you think of one.

#14 - 2022-09-06 08:00 PM - bill-auger

- Related to Freedom Issue #3000: [fwupd]: is an auto-updater , may also download proprietary firmware added