

Packages - Bug #3262

[california] Deprecated package

2022-04-27 12:35 AM - gap

Status: not-a-bug	% Done: 0%
Priority: bug	
Assignee:	
Category:	
Description	
Removing this package would free up time for the Parabola hackers to work on other things instead of maintaining a rotting old package.	
From https://wiki.gnome.org/Apps/California :	
It is no longer under development.	
The last commit was ~3 years ago: https://gitlab.gnome.org/Archive/california/-/commits/master	
It also appears this package was parotucalr troublesome as it required constant rebuilding (#697 , #754 , #809 , #829 , #856 , #914 , #917 , #1443 , #1538 , #1579 , #1580 , #1693 , #1954 , #2734 , #2737 , #2748 , #2751 , #2759 , #2762 , all of which can be closed if it is removed), and even required a privacy-respecting version in the nonprism repo.	

History

#1 - 2022-04-27 12:36 AM - gap

typo fix: particularly troublesome

#2 - 2022-05-02 11:43 PM - bill-auger

- Status changed from unconfirmed to not-a-bug

most packages need rebuilding often - a large number of bug reports, simply asking to be rebuilt, does not suggest that the package is troublesome - it suggests that the package is popular - if it is no longer being actively developed, it will need rebuilding less often, which is a plus not a minus

in fact, it is ideal - generally, it means that the software has no bugs and none will ever be added - software like that is no burden - it is the best kind of software that everyone should want - if well-written, it will continue to be useful for years to come - we should hope that all software eventually reaches that stage of "completion"

that situation is not the same as "deprecated" or "obsolete"; and those are not the same either - "deprecated" is when the maintainers do not want to maintain it; because they are maintaining a replacement for it - "obsolete" is when it does not work anymore, or serves no valuable purpose

the point is that there is a difference between "developed", "maintained", "deprecated", and "obsolete" - only obsolete packages need to be removed, without doubt - software can be very well-maintained and useful, without being actively developed - the opposite is also true; but that would be very poor-quality software - "maintained" is the important factor - the highest-quality software is maintained, and *not* actively developed - an LTS distro is an example, as is the core of GNU

most GNU tools (an essential part of nearly every distro) have not been actively developed for 30 years - why? because they are feature-complete, and bug-free, and require nothing new to be added or changed - so, should we delete all those "rotten" GNU tools? - we could not switch to BSD; because its core is almost as old - i guess we would all need to create a new OS from scratch, so that it would be "actively developed" (aka: "not finished yet")

unless the software is broken, there is no reason to remove it - when software "rots", it is obvious ; because it would not build or run properly anymore