

A better Qt because of Open Source and KDE

By *Roy Schestowitz*

Created *10/12/2019 - 6:04am*

Submitted by Roy Schestowitz on Tuesday 10th of December 2019 06:04:22 AM Filed under [Development](#) [1] [KDE](#) [2]

The development framework Qt is available both as Open Source and under paid license terms. Two decades ago, when Qt 2.0 was first released as Open Source, this was exceptional. Today, most popular developing frameworks are Free/Open Source Software¹. Without the dual licensing approach, Qt would not exist today as a popular high-quality framework.

There is another aspect of Qt licensing which is still very exceptional today, and which is not as well-known as it ought to be. The Open Source availability of Qt is legally protected through the by-laws and contracts of a foundation.

The KDE Free Qt Foundation was created in 1998 and guarantees the continued availability of Qt as Free/Open Source Software². When it was set up, Qt was developed by Trolltech, its original company. The foundation supported Qt through the transitions first to Nokia and then to Digia and to The Qt Company.

In case The Qt Company would ever attempt to close down Open Source Qt, the foundation is entitled to publish Qt under the BSD license. This notable legal guarantee strengthens Qt. It creates trust among developers, contributors and customers.

The KDE Free Qt Foundation is a cooperation between The Qt Company on the one hand and KDE on the other hand. KDE is one of the largest Free Software communities for general purpose end-user software, founded in 1996. In case of ties, KDE has an extra vote, ensuring that The Qt Company does not have a veto on decisions.

My in-depth presentation below provides an overview of the history of the Foundation and describes its importance for Qt today. It explains in detail why the existence of the Foundation has a positive influence on the long-term market success of Qt.

[3]

[Development KDE](#)

Source URL: <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/131509>

Links:

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/145>

[2] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/108>

[3] <http://www.olafsw.de/a-better-qt-because-of-open-source-and-kde/>