

# **Reducing Development Barriers**

**By Natan Yellin**

# **How Do Normal Users Begin Developing?**

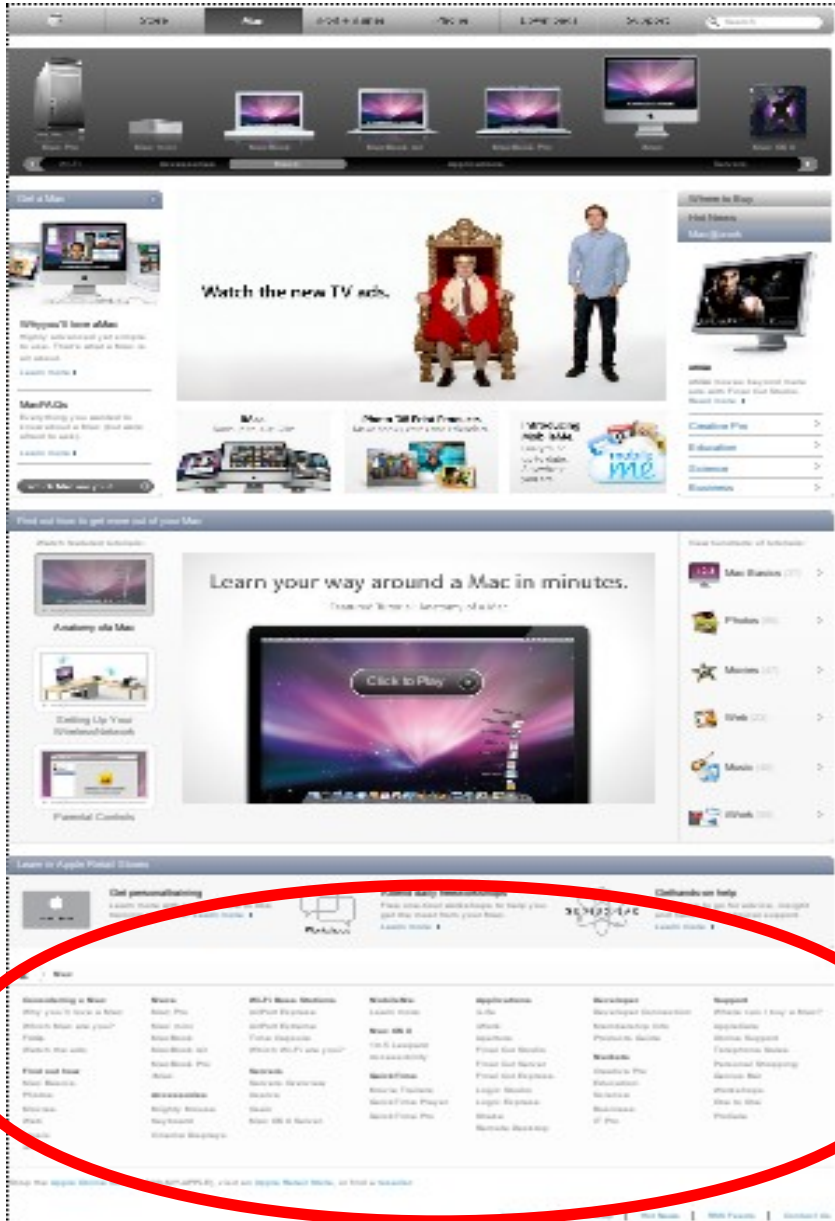
# Case Study: Mac OS X



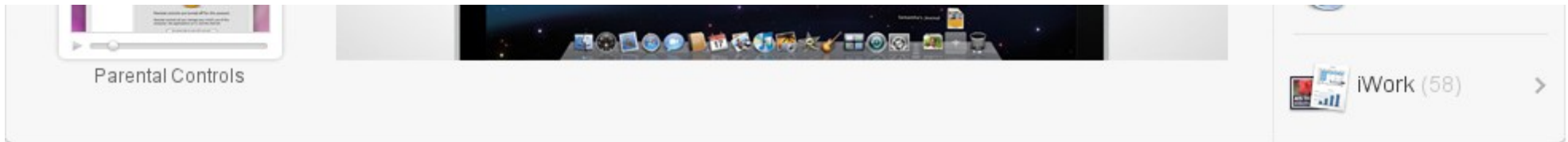
# Step 1: Apple.com






# Step 2: Find hidden links



# Step 3: Find development links



Learn in Apple Retail Stores

-  **Get personal training**  
Learn more with personal One to One training sessions. [Learn more](#) ▶
-  **Attend daily free workshops**  
Free one-hour workshops to help you get the most from your Mac. [Learn more](#) ▶
-  **Get hands-on help**  
The place to go for advice, insight and hands-on technical support. [Learn more](#) ▶

Mac

<b>Considering a Mac</b> Why you'll love a Mac Which Mac are you? FAQs Watch the ads	<b>Macs</b> Mac Pro Mac mini MacBook MacBook Air MacBook Pro iMac	<b>Wi-Fi Base Stations</b> AirPort Express AirPort Extreme Time Capsule Which Wi-Fi are you?	<b>MobileMe</b> Learn more	<b>Applications</b> iLife iWork Aperture Final Cut Studio Final Cut Server Final Cut Express Logic Studio Logic Express Shake Remote Desktop	<b>Developer</b> Developer Connection Membership Info Products Guide	<b>Support</b> Where can I buy a Mac? AppleCare Online Support Telephone Sales Personal Shopping Genius Bar Workshops One to One ProCare
<b>Find out how</b> Mac Basics Photos Movies Web Music iWork	<b>Accessories</b> Mighty Mouse Keyboard Cinema Displays	<b>Servers</b> Servers Overview Xserve Xsan Mac OS X Server	<b>Mac OS X</b> 10.5 Leopard Accessibility	<b>QuickTime</b> Movie Trailers QuickTime Player QuickTime Pro	<b>Markets</b> Creative Pro Education Science Business IT Pro	

# Step 4: Overview page

Developer Connection


ADC Member Site | Contact Us | Search ADC

Dev Centers | on iTunes | Information

## Mac Developer Program

Apple expertise. From concept to market.

The Mac Developer Program offers a range of technical resources and support for developers and IT professionals innovating with Mac OS X. [Learn more](#)




### Mac Dev Center

Fast track your development process with access to pre-release software, Coding Headstarts, the Reference Library, and development videos through ADC on iTunes.

[Visit Mac Dev Center](#)

## A message for iPhone Developers



We have decided to drop the non-disclosure agreement (NDA) for released iPhone software. [Learn more](#)

**Free iPhone SDK**  
Start your development with the iPhone SDK. [Download now](#)

**iPhone Dev Center**  
Tap into a wealth of technical resources. [Visit now](#)

### ADC Membership Programs

Access pre-release software, the resources in the Mac Dev Center, and technical support. [Learn more](#)

### Developing Tools and Technologies



Why you'll love to develop on your Mac. [Learn More](#)



### iPod and iPhone Accessories

- Designing accessories that use the dock connector
- Designing cases for iPod and iPhone





# Summary

- Covers *everything* developers need to know:
  - Programming languages
  - Toolkits
- Includes all necessary resources:
  - Tutorials
  - API reference
  - IDE installation
- 4 clicks only





# Case Study: Ubuntu Linux



**“Linux For  
Humans”**

# Step 1: Ubuntu.com

The screenshot shows the Ubuntu.com homepage with the following elements:

- Header:** Ubuntu logo, navigation links (Products, Support, Community, Partners, News), and a search bar.
- Main Banner:** "Ubuntu 8.10 : Coming Soon" with a sub-headline "Can't wait? Download the beta now. Test it and give us your feedback to make an even better release ‡". A "Download Ubuntu 8.04 LTS Upgrade" button is on the right.
- Left Column:** Four sections: "Get Ubuntu" (download or buy), "Get Support" (documentation or professional support), "Get Involved" (share know-how), and "Get Developing" (share expertise, circled in red).
- Center:** "About Ubuntu" section with a paragraph describing the OS and two links: "Learn more about Ubuntu" and "Take the desktop tour". Below are "Desktop Edition" (with laptop image) and "Server Edition" (with server rack image), each with a "Learn more" link.
- Right Column:** "ubuntu 8.10" countdown timer showing "18 Days to go", a link to "add this countdown to your website", and a "Press Room" section with a link to "Ubuntu server team wants to know – how do you Ubuntu?" dated "25th September, 2008".





**Just Kidding**

# This page doesn't actually tell you anything



▶ Products ▶ Support ▶ Community ▶ Partners ▶ News

 Search

## Community

Get Certified  
Ubuntu Training  
[learn more»](#)

▶ Code of Conduct

▼ Get Involved

▶ Developers

    Mentoring

▶ Non-technical Users

▶ Technical Users

▶ Wiki

▶ Donate

▶ Report a Problem

▶ The Ubuntu Story

You are here: [Home](#) » [Get Involved](#) » [Development](#)

## Developer Zone

Ubuntu is developed through an open community process. Anyone with the necessary technical skills can contribute to the development of Ubuntu. If you want to learn, you can find a mentor within the development team to help you along.

Information about the development of Ubuntu can be found in the [developer documentation](#), which is maintained in the wiki. It explains how the development team is structured, provides technical information about developing Ubuntu, and indexes other useful resources for current and prospective Ubuntu developers.



Get Ubuntu



Get Support



Get Involved



Get Developing

# Step 2: Find the link to the Developer Zone



Products Support Community Partners News

 Search

## Community

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Ubuntu Training  
[learn more»](#)

Code of Conduct

You are here: [Home](#) » [Get Involved](#) » [Development](#)

Get Involved

### Developer Zone

Developers

↳ [Mentoring](#)

↳ [Non-technical Users](#)

↳ [Technical Users](#)

↳ [Wiki](#)

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Report a Problem

The Ubuntu Story





# Step 3: Oh, *this* helps!



## Ubuntu Development

### Overview of Development

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If you have been directed to this page for advice on contributing to Ubuntu as a developer, you may also be interested in [Contributing To Ubuntu](#).

### Working with Other Developers

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### Starting points

[Ubuntu Wiki](#) explains the role of developers in the Ubuntu project and how to join the team.

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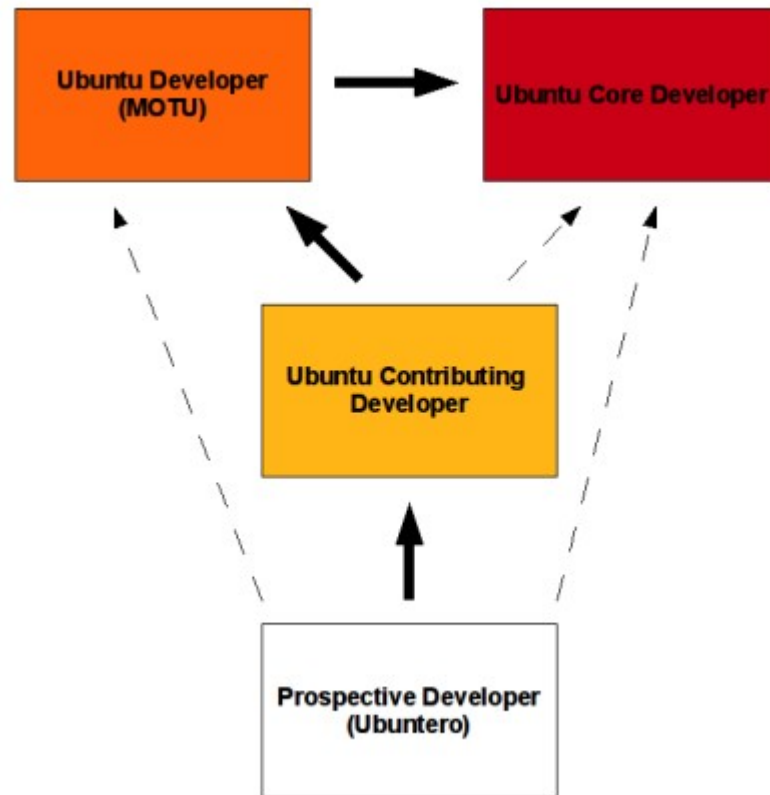
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1. [Overview of Development](#)
2. [Working with Other Developers](#)
  1. [Starting points](#)
  2. [Communication](#)
  3. [Bugs and the Bug Squad](#)
  4. [Release Critical bugs](#)
3. [The Release Process](#)
4. [Packaging](#)
  1. [Working with Debian-format Packages](#)
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  4. [Derivative Distributions](#)
  5. [Upstream](#)
  6. [Building](#)
  7. [Tools](#)
  8. [New Packages](#)
5. [The Package Archive](#)
6. [Installation media](#)
7. [Language packs](#)
8. [Other Resources](#)



**Huh?**

# Step 4: Wait a minute...

Search  Titles Text Log in / Register  
Ubuntu Community Support Partners Wiki Planet

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Ubuntu Development >> Immutabile Page **Info Attachments** More Actions: [Find Page](#) [User Preferences](#)

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## Ubuntu Development

<a href="#">Home</a>	<a href="#">Getting Started</a> Get started here!	<a href="#">Packaging Guide</a>	<a href="#">FAQ</a>	<a href="#">Knowledge Base</a>	<a href="#">Events</a>
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  2. Communication
  3. Bugs and the Bug Squad
  4. Release Critical bugs
3. The Release Process
4. Packaging
  1. Working with Debian-format Packages
  2. Working with Ubuntu Packages
  3. Revision control (Bazaar)
  4. Derivative Distributions
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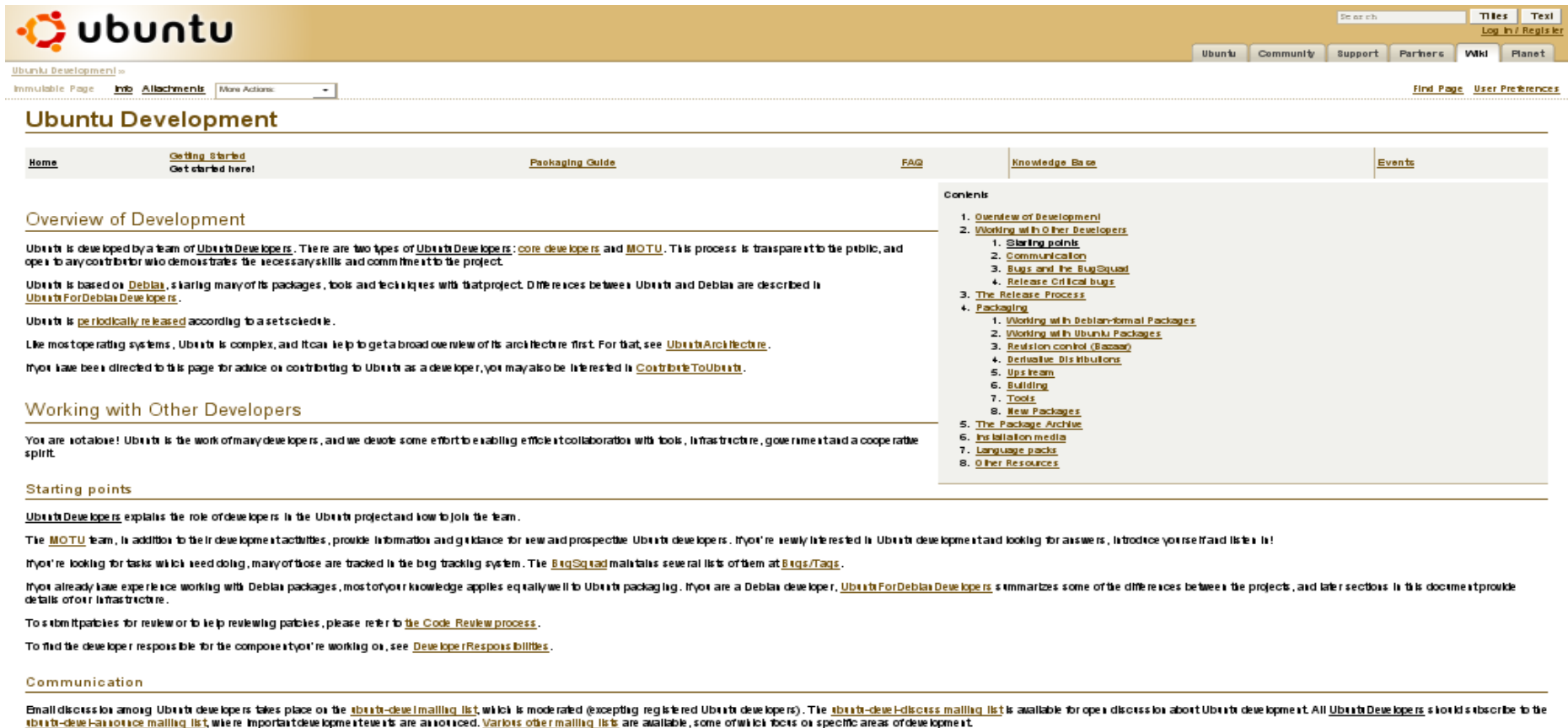
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# Step 4: Wait a minute...

# Is “Packaging” a synonym for “Programming?”



The screenshot shows the Ubuntu Development Wiki page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Ubuntu logo, a search box, and links for 'Titles', 'Text', 'Log in / Register', 'Ubuntu', 'Community', 'Support', 'Partners', 'Wiki', and 'Planet'. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'Ubuntu Development'. A secondary navigation bar contains links for 'Home', 'Getting Started', 'Packaging Guide', 'FAQ', 'Knowledge Base', and 'Events'. The main content area is titled 'Overview of Development' and contains several paragraphs of text. A 'Contents' sidebar is visible on the right side of the page, listing various sections of the document. The text in the main content area discusses the development process, the role of developers, and the relationship between Ubuntu and Debian.

Ubuntu Development

Home [Getting Started](#) [Packaging Guide](#) [FAQ](#) [Knowledge Base](#) [Events](#)

[Get started here!](#)

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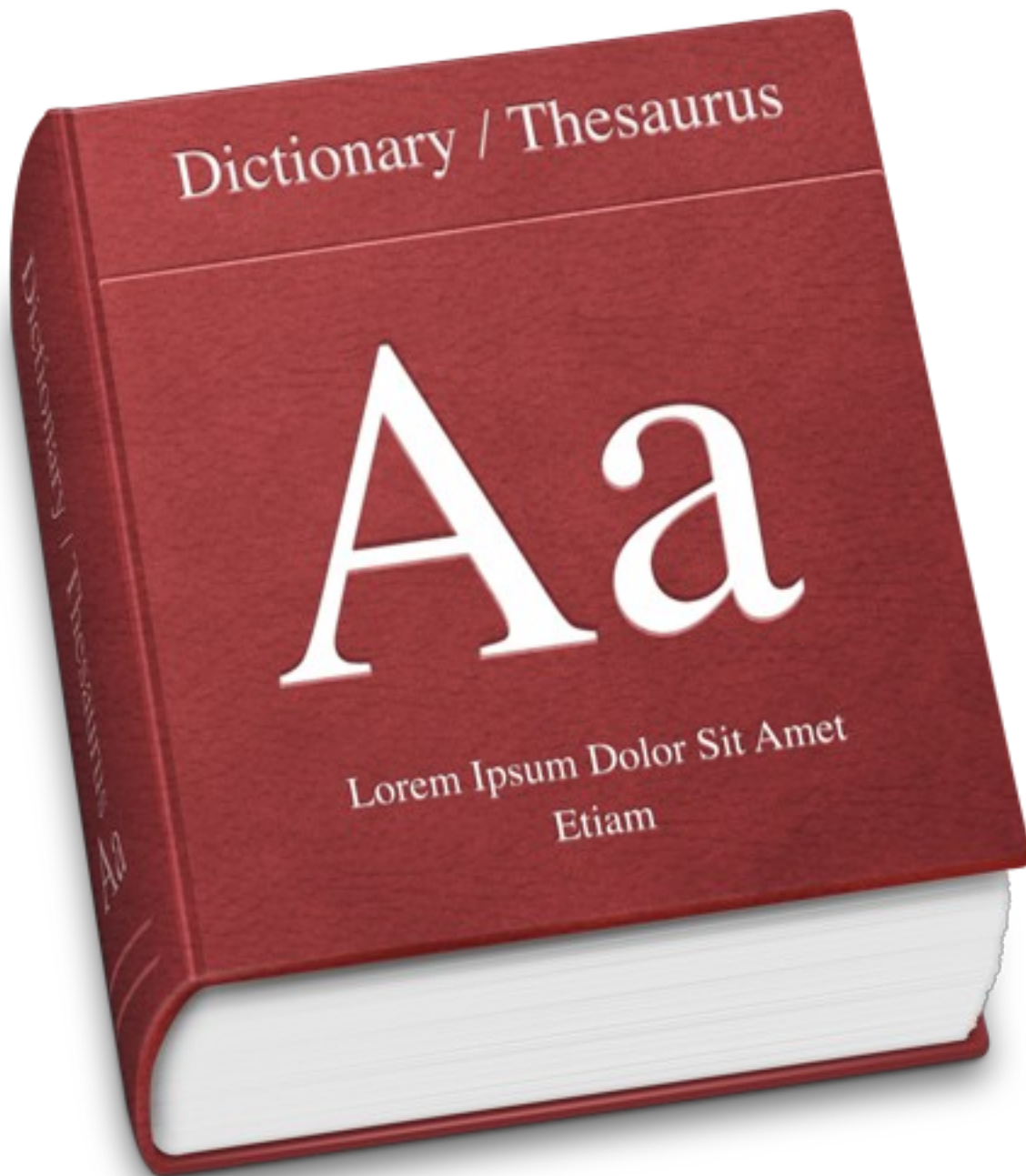
Contents

1. Overview of Development
2. Working with Other Developers
  1. Starting points
  2. Communication
  3. Bugs and the Bug Squad
  4. Release Critical bugs
3. The Release Process
4. Packaging
  1. Working with Debian-format Packages
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  5. Upstream
  6. Building
  7. Tools
  8. New Packages
5. The Package Archive
6. Installation media
7. Language packs
8. Other Resources

Dictionary / Thesaurus

Aa

Lorem Ipsum Dolor Sit Amet  
Etiam



# Umm...



Search  [Titles](#) [Text](#)

[Log In / Register](#)

[Ubuntu](#) [Community](#) [Support](#) [Partners](#) [Wiki](#) [Planet](#)

[Ubuntu Development](#) »

Immutable Page [Info](#) [Attachments](#) [More Actions](#) -

[Find Page](#) [User Preferences](#)

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[Home](#) [Getting Started](#) [Packaging Guide](#) [FAQ](#) [Knowledge Base](#) [Events](#)  
Get started here!

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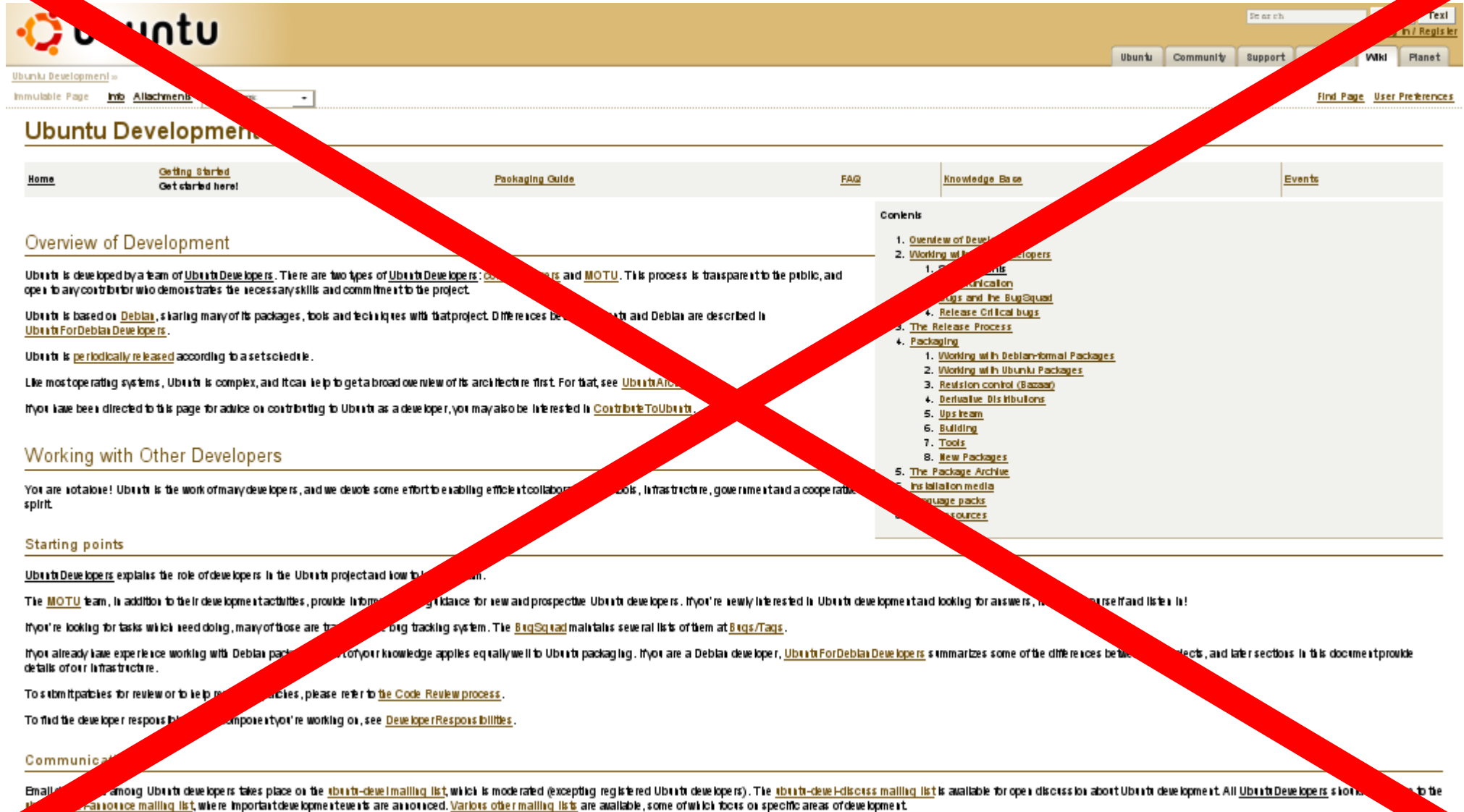
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#### Contents

- [Overview of Development](#)
- [Working with Other Developers](#)
  - [Starting points](#)
  - [Communication](#)
  - [Bugs and the Bug Squad](#)
  - [Release Critical bugs](#)
- [The Release Process](#)
- [Packaging](#)
  - [Working with Debian-format Packages](#)
  - [Working with Ubuntu Packages](#)
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# Umm...



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**200 Page Views Later....**

# We're not even counting the steps any more...



The image shows a screenshot of the GNOME website homepage. At the top, there is a dark navigation bar with links for Home, News, Projects, Art, Support, Development, and Community. Below this is a blue header section with the GNOME logo and the text "GNOME: The Free Software Desktop Project". Underneath the header are five buttons: About, Latest Release, Support, Contribute, and Contact. The main content area features a large blue banner with the GNOME logo, the text "GNOME 2.24", and the subtitle "Launching the GNOME Mobile platform". Below the text are three icons representing a desktop monitor, a laptop, and a mobile phone, each with the GNOME logo on its screen.

Home | News | Projects | Art | Support | Development | Community

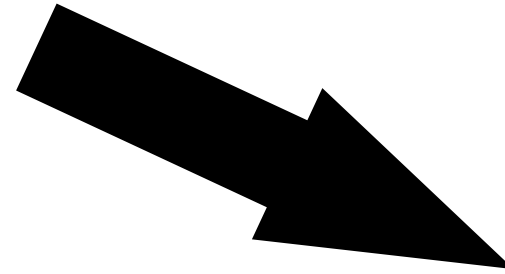
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 **GNOME 2.24**  
Launching the GNOME Mobile platform

**\*\*Sigh**



 **GNOME 2.24**  
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# Woohoo! An up-to-date developer page



## Developer's Home Page

Welcome to the GNOME Developer's Site. This site is for those who develop, or are interested in developing GNOME, and applications for GNOME.

On this site you will find information about current GNOME projects, developer news, documentation, information on how to get involved, plus much more.

If you have any comments or questions about this site, please send a message to [webmaster@gnome.org](mailto:webmaster@gnome.org).

### [Release Planning](#)

A feast of essential GNOME future planning information.

### [Documentation](#)

The Complete GNOME Development Documentation. This includes whitepapers, tutorials, guides, API reference, standards, and FAQs.

### [Development Tools](#)

The Developer Tools section explains the tools used to develop GNOME and GNOME applications. You will find pointers and tutorials on the tools. If you have a bug to report you will also find the Bug Tracker here.

### [Getting Involved](#)

So you want to get involved with GNOME. This will show you how to become a member of the

#### Navigation

[Home](#)  
[Release Planning](#)  
[Documentation](#)  
[Development Tools](#)

# **A Closer Look**



# “Last Modified 2006”

© 2003-2004,2007 by [The GNOME Project](#)  
Last modified 2006/04/06 16:48:02 UTC  
[Optimised for standards](#). Hosted by [Red Hat](#).

# Let's try this anyway...



GNOME™ [Users](#) · [Developers](#) · [ViewCVS](#) · [FTP](#) · [Bugzilla](#) · [Software Map](#) · [Contact](#)

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# Close up: This looks nice

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The Complete GNOME Development Documentation. This includes whitepapers, tutorials, guides, API reference, standards, and FAQs.

# At last?



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## GNOME Developer Documentation

See our [Documentation Library](#) for development guides, API reference, and manuals for developer tools.

You should start with our [Overview of the GNOME Platform](#). This presents a high-level overview of the different pieces of the GNOME Platform: libraries to write user interfaces, to integrate with the desktop, to do inter-process communication, use the virtual file system, provide accessibility, and multimedia.

Those areas are listed below with descriptions of what they contain.

[Programming Guides](#)  
In-depth, detailed descriptions of the GNOME architecture; documentation that tie the elements together and includes examples.

[API Reference](#)  
Straight reference documentation for the GNOME API

One can also find some useful books available on the [Books](#) page.



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## Programming Guides

See also GNOME's [developer documentation library](#).

### [Optimizing GNOME Software](#)

Information on tools and techniques for optimizing GNOME software.


### [GNOME Programming Guidelines](#)

Guidelines for GNOME developers

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## Documentation

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# Backtracking

**How are users  
introduced to  
development tools?**



## Development Tools

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The GNOME Bug Tracker allows you to send information about bugs you encounter to the GNOME developers in an organized manner.

### [Glade Builder](#)

The graphical interface builder for GTK+ and GNOME programs. It is used to rapidly prototype and build applications with.

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A collection of useful scripts to help you accomplish simple (often repetitive) tasks.

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Want to enter the wonderful world of distributed version control? Try the Bzr playground, making it easy to hack on GNOME if you do not have an SVN account. People with a SSH key known to GNOME can easily push changes back to SVN and are able to host private branches.

# A Closer Look



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# 1 Oops...



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# 2

# “GNOME Bug Tracker”



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# 2

## “GNOME Bug Tracker” Why is this the first item?



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# 3

# “GNU Build Tools”



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# 3

# “GNU Build Tools” Uh oh...



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# “GNU Build Tools” The Page of No Return



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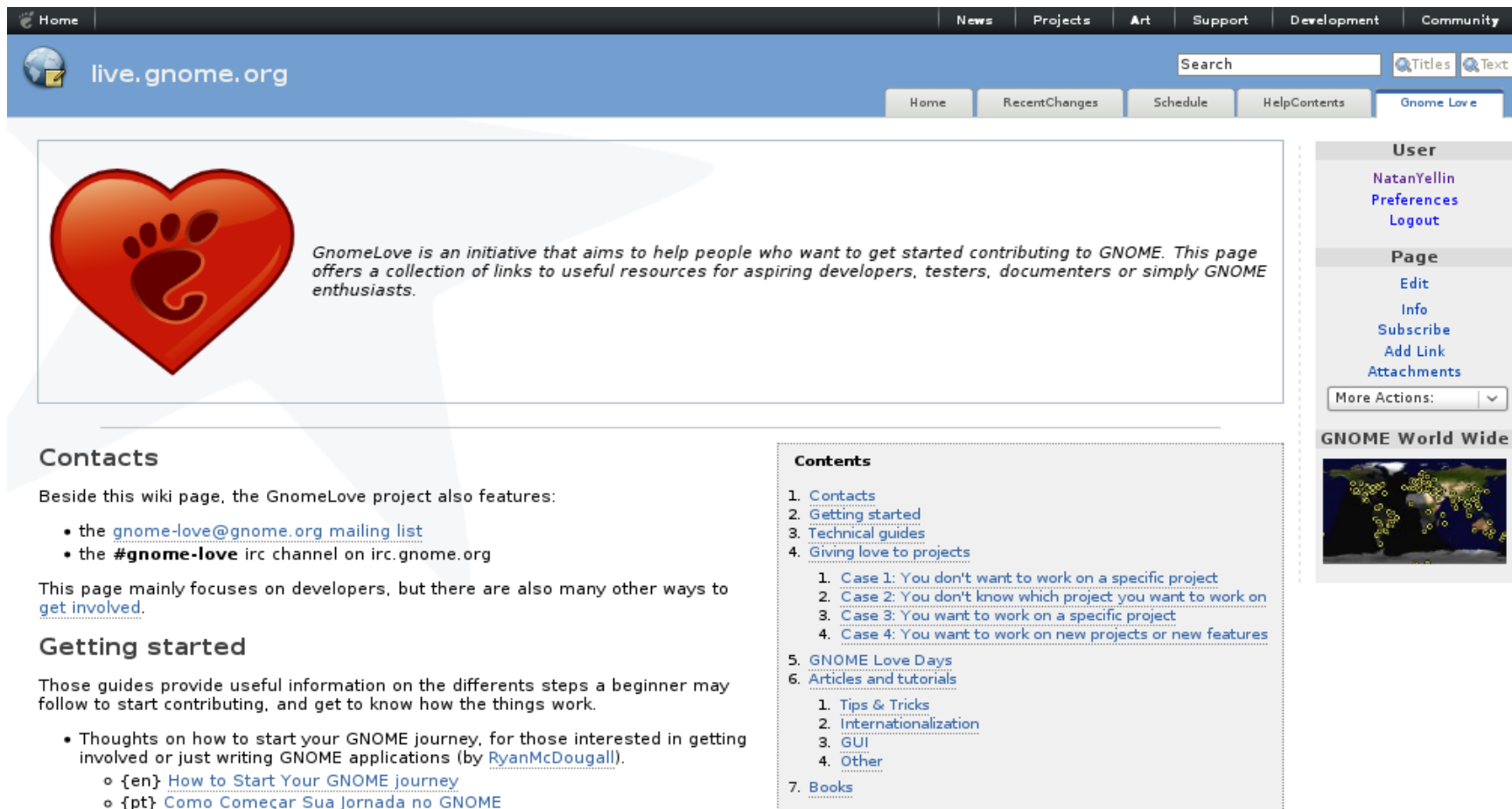
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**Moving on**

# http://live.gnome.org/GnomeLove



The screenshot shows the live.gnome.org website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, News, Projects, Art, Support, Development, and Community. Below this is a search bar and a secondary navigation bar with links for Home, RecentChanges, Schedule, HelpContents, and Gnome Love. The main content area features a large red heart icon with a black paw print inside. To the right of the icon is a paragraph of text: "GnomeLove is an initiative that aims to help people who want to get started contributing to GNOME. This page offers a collection of links to useful resources for aspiring developers, testers, documenters or simply GNOME enthusiasts." Below this is a "Contacts" section with a list of links: "gnome-love@gnome.org mailing list" and "#gnome-love irc channel on irc.gnome.org". To the right of the main content is a sidebar with a "User" section (NatanYellin, Preferences, Logout), a "Page" section (Edit, Info, Subscribe, Add Link, Attachments), and a "GNOME World Wide" section with a world map icon. At the bottom of the main content area is a "Contents" section with a list of links: "Contacts", "Getting started", "Technical guides", "Giving love to projects", "GNOME Love Days", "Articles and tutorials", and "Books".

live.gnome.org

Search

Home RecentChanges Schedule HelpContents Gnome Love

**User**

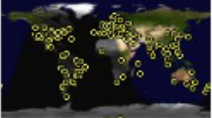
- NatanYellin
- Preferences
- Logout

**Page**

- Edit
- Info
- Subscribe
- Add Link
- Attachments

More Actions: ▾

**GNOME World Wide**



**Contacts**

Beside this wiki page, the GnomeLove project also features:

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- the [#gnome-love](#) irc channel on [irc.gnome.org](http://irc.gnome.org)

This page mainly focuses on developers, but there are also many other ways to [get involved](#).

**Getting started**

Those guides provide useful information on the different steps a beginner may follow to start contributing, and get to know how the things work.

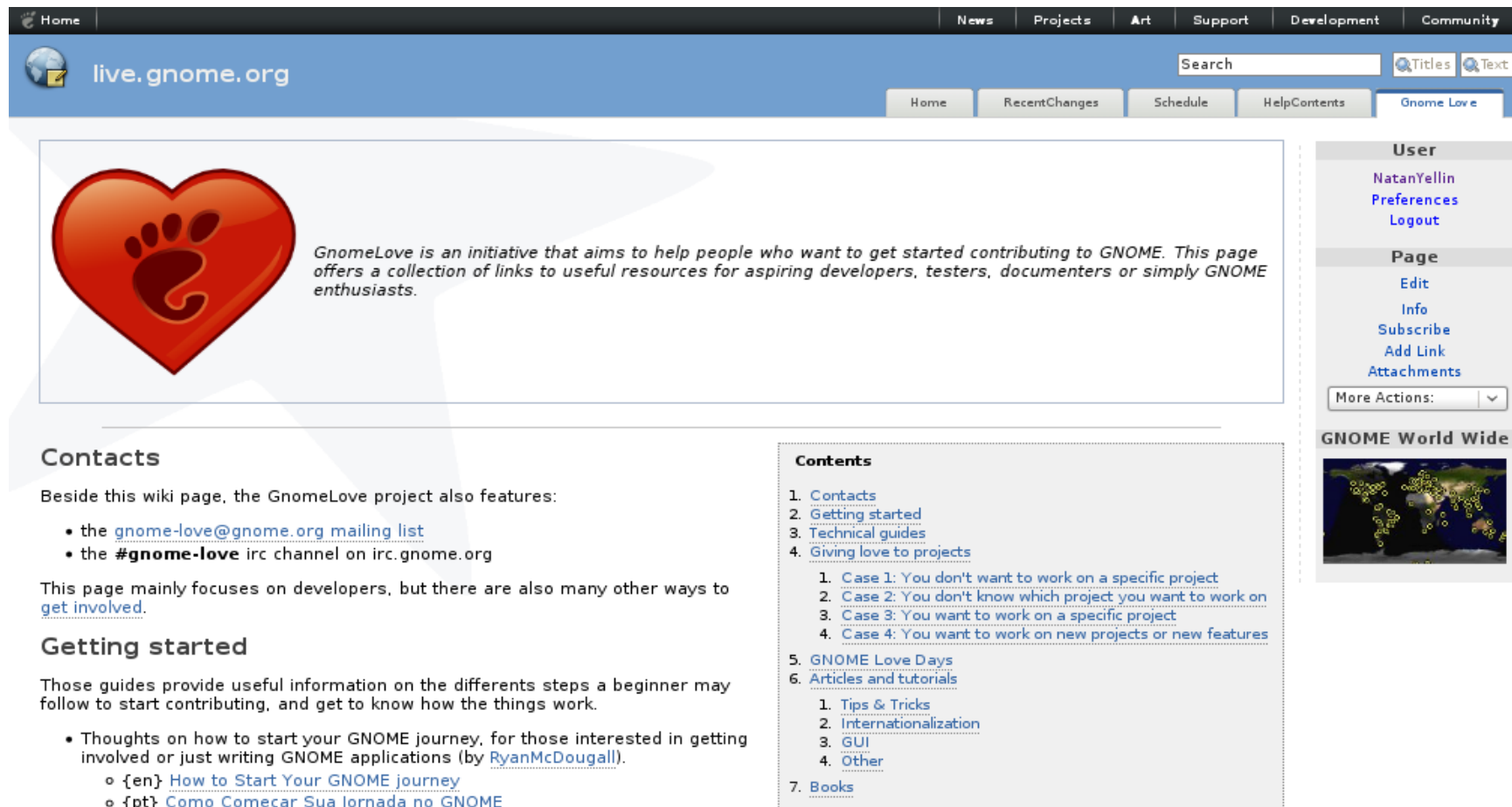
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**Contents**

- [Contacts](#)
- [Getting started](#)
- [Technical guides](#)
- [Giving love to projects](#)
  - [Case 1: You don't want to work on a specific project](#)
  - [Case 2: You don't know which project you want to work on](#)
  - [Case 3: You want to work on a specific project](#)
  - [Case 4: You want to work on new projects or new features](#)
- [GNOME Love Days](#)
- [Articles and tutorials](#)
  - [Tips & Tricks](#)
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- [Books](#)

# This page (surprisingly) is useful

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live.gnome.org

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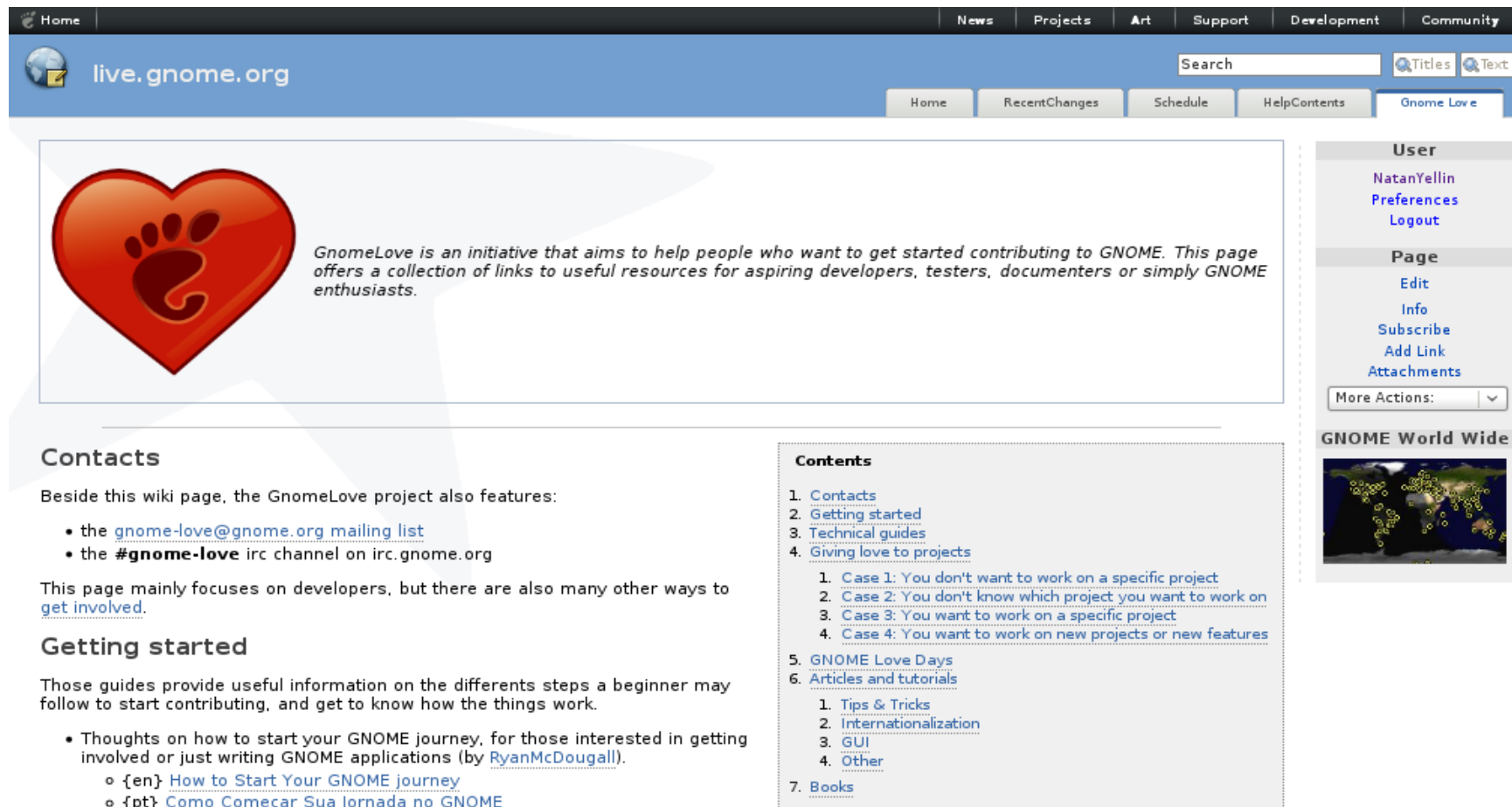
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1. [Contacts](#)
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  1. [Case 1: You don't want to work on a specific project](#)
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# It can only be found by clicking on every link on gnome.org

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Home News Projects Art Support Development Community

live.gnome.org Search Titles Text

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### User

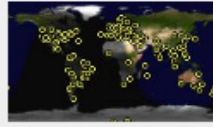
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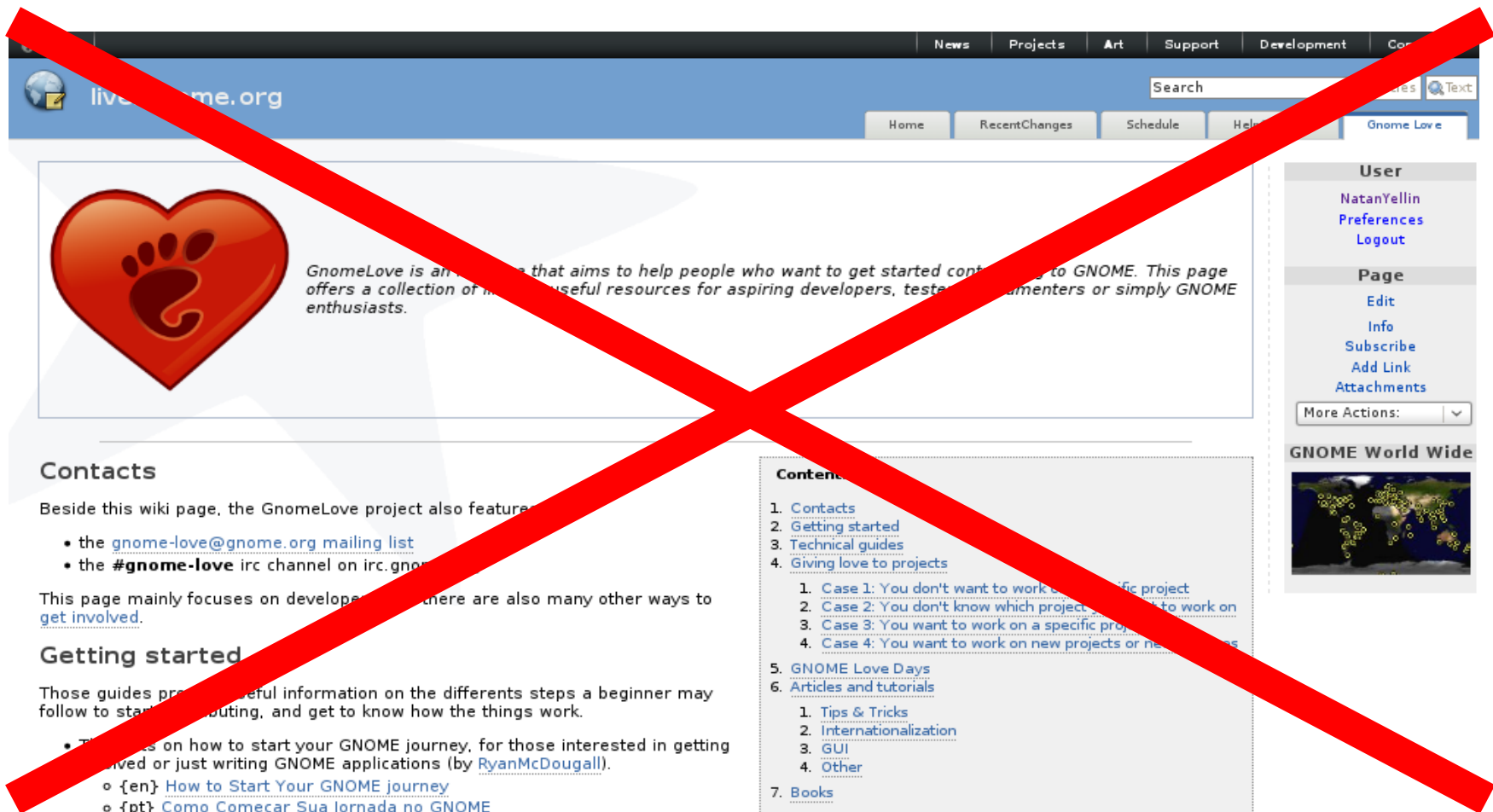
### GNOME World Wide





# Most of it's useful content hasn't been updated in years.

## <http://live.gnome.org/GnomeLove>





# **Another Example**



# GNOME Documentation Library

 Search

## Guides

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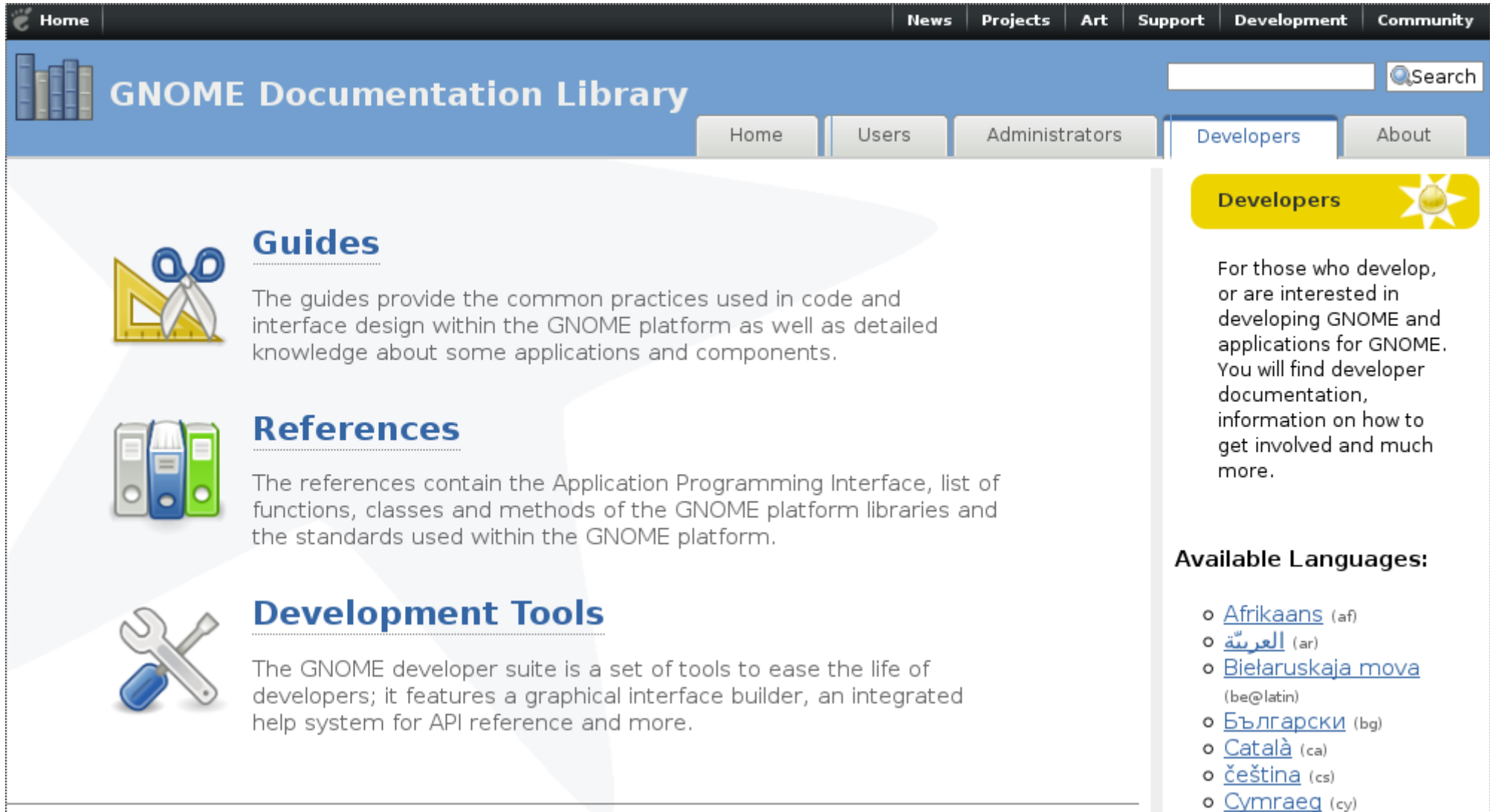
### Developers

For those who develop, or are interested in developing GNOME and applications for GNOME. You will find developer documentation, information on how to get involved and much more.

### Available Languages:

- o [Afrikaans](#) (af)
- o [العربية](#) (ar)
- o [Беларуская мова](#) (be@latin)
- o [Български](#) (bg)
- o [Català](#) (ca)
- o [čeština](#) (cs)
- o [Cymraeg](#) (cy)

# This one is impossible to find without Google



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Home News Projects Art Support Development Community

GNOME Documentation Library Search

Home Users Administrators Developers About

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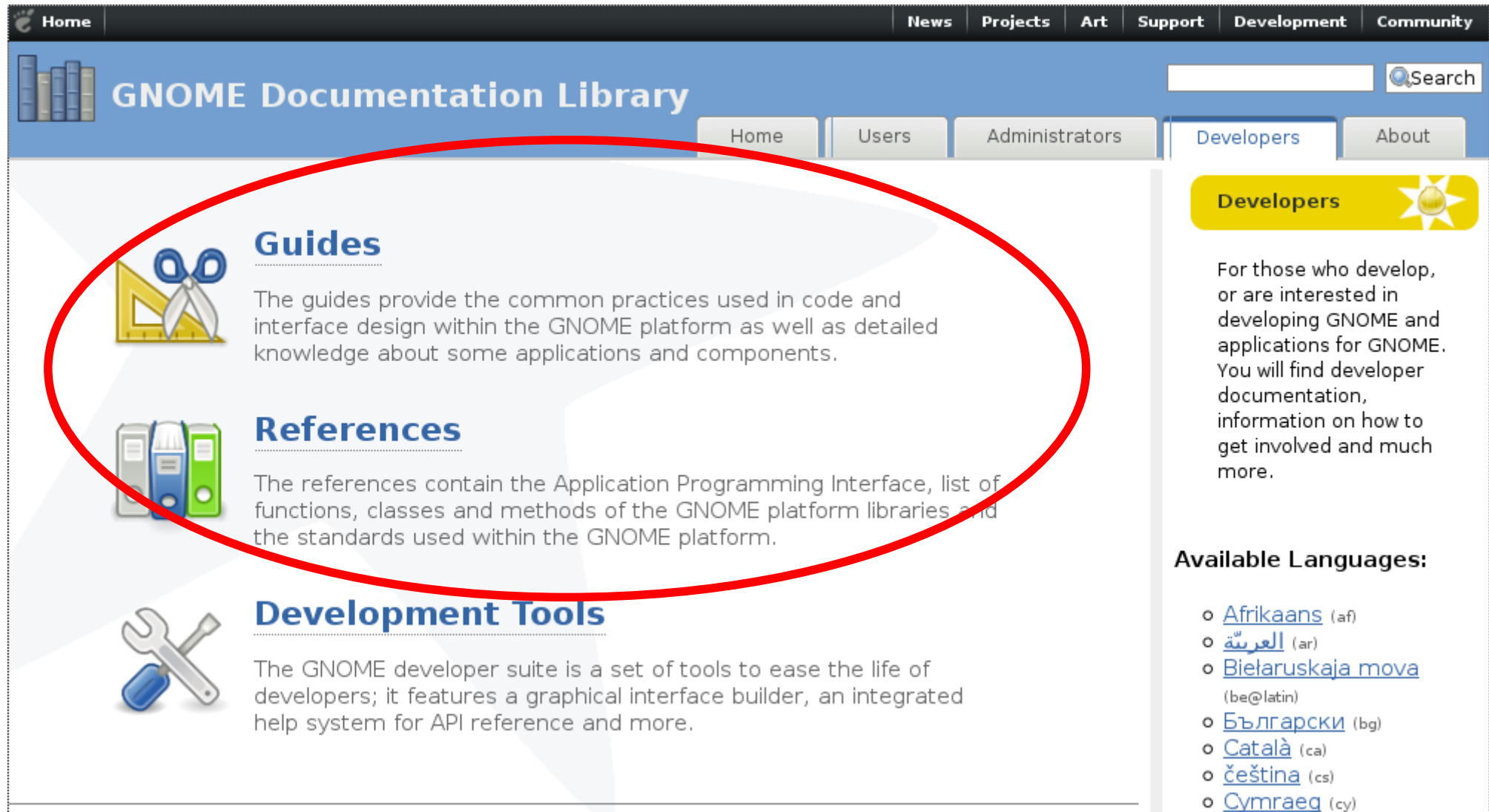
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# These are useful, but only if you already know something about programming



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Home News Projects Art Support Development Community

GNOME Documentation Library

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Home News Projects Art Support Development Community

## GNOME Documentation Library

Home Users Administrators **Developers** About

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- [Cymraeg](#) (cy)

# “Oh! So this must be where I install an IDE”

The screenshot shows the GNOME Documentation Library website. The navigation bar includes links for Home, News, Projects, Art, Support, Development, and Community. The main header features the site title and a search bar. Below the header, there are tabs for Home, Users, Administrators, Developers, and About. The Developers tab is active, highlighted in yellow with a sun icon. The main content area is divided into three sections: Guides, References, and Development Tools. The Development Tools section is circled in red. The right sidebar contains a Developers section with a description and a list of available languages.

Home News Projects Art Support Development Community

## GNOME Documentation Library

Home Users Administrators Developers About

### Guides

The guides provide the common practices used in code and interface design within the GNOME platform as well as detailed knowledge about some applications and components.

### References

The references contain the Application Programming Interface, list of functions, classes and methods of the GNOME platform libraries and the standards used within the GNOME platform.

### Development Tools

The GNOME developer suite is a set of tools to ease the life of developers; it features a graphical interface builder, an integrated help system for API reference and more.

#### Developers

For those who develop, or are interested in developing GNOME and applications for GNOME. You will find developer documentation, information on how to get involved and much more.

#### Available Languages:

- [Afrikaans](#) (af)
- [العربية](#) (ar)
- [Bielaruskaja mova](#) (be@latin)
- [Български](#) (bg)
- [Català](#) (ca)
- [čeština](#) (cs)
- [Cymraeg](#) (cy)



## Development Tools

[accerciser](#) [more versions, languages, or options...]

[anjuta-manual](#) [more versions, languages, or options...]

[bug-buddy](#) [more versions, languages, or options...]

[glade](#) [more versions, languages, or options...]

See also: [documentation on development version](#)

[gtk-doc-manual](#) [more versions, languages, or options...]

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Home News Projects Art Support Development Community

# GNOME Documentation Library

Home Users Administrators **Developers** About



## Development Tools

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**Developers** 

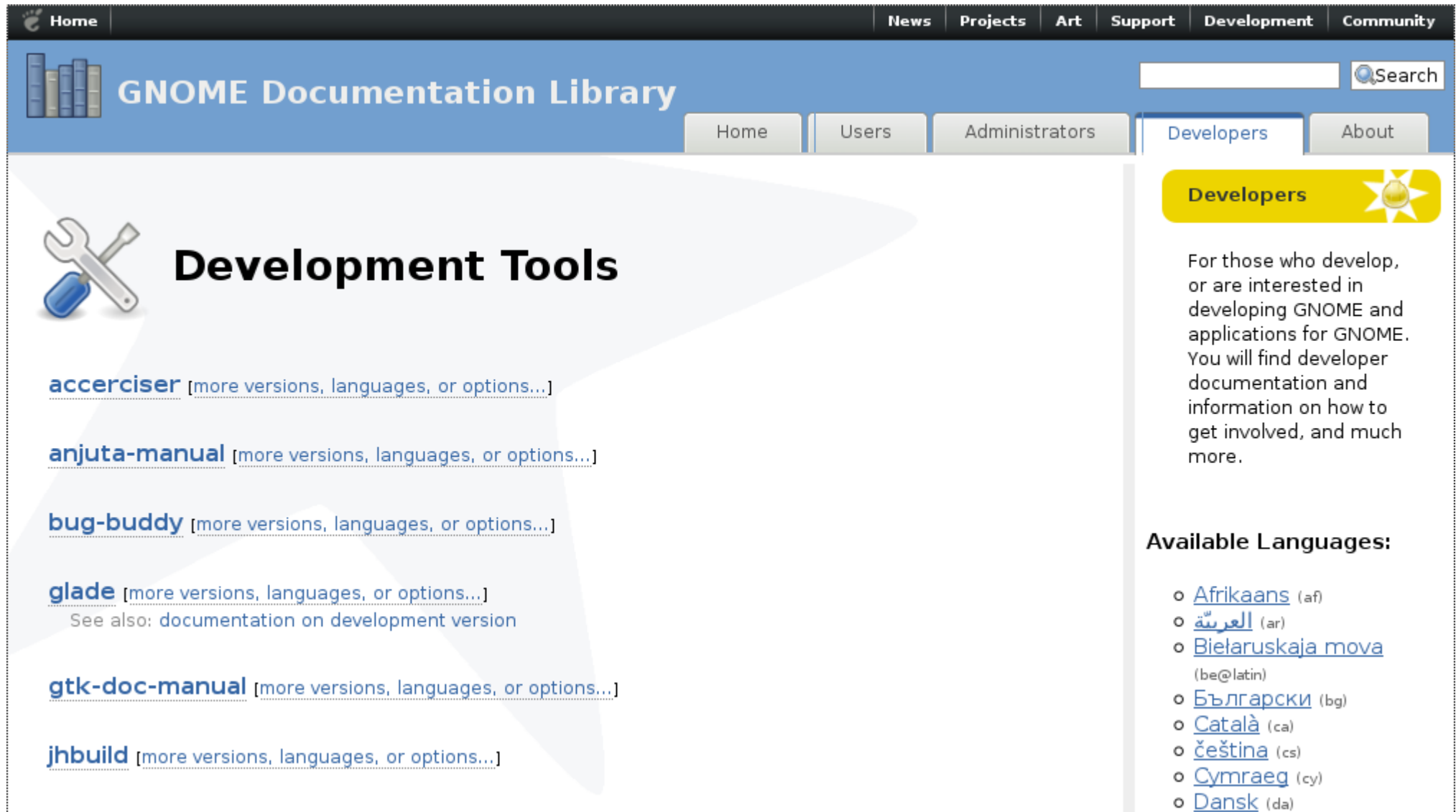
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# Never mind...




The screenshot shows the GNOME Documentation Library website. The main navigation bar includes links for Home, News, Projects, Art, Support, Development, and Community. The site title is 'GNOME Documentation Library' with a search bar. A secondary navigation bar has tabs for Home, Users, Administrators, Developers (selected), and About. The 'Development Tools' section is highlighted with a large blue arrow. It lists several tools with links to their documentation and options for different versions and languages. A sidebar on the right features a 'Developers' section with a yellow background and a sun icon, containing text about developer documentation and a list of available languages.

Home News Projects Art Support Development Community

GNOME Documentation Library Search

Home Users Administrators **Developers** About

 **Development Tools**

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# **Another case study**

# Fedora Linux



# Step 1: FedoraProject.org



## NAVIGATION

- [Home](#)
- [Get Fedora](#)
- [Join Fedora](#)
- [Get Help](#)

## TOOLS

- [Docs](#)  
Fedora documentation.
- [Wiki](#)  
Collaborative knowledge.
- [Planet](#)  
The voices of the Fedora community.
- [Communicate](#)  
Speak with Fedora.
- [Events](#)  
Meet the Fedora

## Fedora 9. Make waves.



[What's new in Fedora 9? Read the release notes. >>](#)

Fedora is a Linux-based operating system that showcases the latest in free and open source software. Fedora is **always free for anyone to use, modify, and distribute**. It is built by people across the globe who work together as a community: the Fedora Project. The Fedora Project is open and anyone is welcome to join.

The Fedora Project is out front for you, **leading the advancement of free, open software and content**.

[Learn more. >>](#)

# Step 2: “Join Fedora”



## NAVIGATION

- [Home](#)
- [Get Fedora](#)
- [Join Fedora](#)
- [Get Help](#)

## TOOLS

- [Docs](#)  
Fedora documentation.
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- [Home](#)
- [Get Fedora](#)
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- [Docs](#)  
Fedora documentation.
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## WEBSITE LANGUAGE

## Join Fedora.

To get started, [set up an account](#) using the [Fedora Account System](#).

If you want to take an active hand in making Fedora even better, there are many ways to help. What role do you want to fill?

Click on a role below to learn more about how you can help the Fedora Project.



Content Writer



Designer



People Person



OS Developer



Translator



Web Developer  
or Administrator

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- [Home](#)
- [Get Fedora](#)
- [Join Fedora](#)
- [Get Help](#)

### TOOLS

- [Docs](#)  
Fedora documentation.
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### WEBSITE LANGUAGE



# Where is App Developer?



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- [Home](#)
- [Get Fedora](#)
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### WEBSITE LANGUAGE



# Let's try OS Developer



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- [Home](#)
- [Get Fedora](#)
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- [Get Help](#)

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### WEBSITE LANGUAGE

# OS Developer

---

**Description of this role:** Communicate through code.

**Skills you possess or want to learn:**

- Python, C, RPM/Packaging, Bugfiling

**Teams/projects associated with this role:**

- [Bug triage](#), [Docs](#), [Fonts](#), [Internationalization \(I18n\)](#), [Infrastructure](#), [Packaging](#), [Testing project](#), [Usability](#), [Websites](#),

**Tasks typical in this role:**

- Test/break Fedora, design & build OS , file bugs, build packages, code for OS, develop new features

“Design & build OS... develop new features”

That sounds like what I'm interested in...

## OS Developer

---

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# Wait a minute... Why is there no actual information on getting started?

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---

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**Like with Ubuntu, the Fedora development pages don't even link to GNOME's documentation pages.**

**They assume that new developers with no experience will know where to go by themselves.**

**Even if developers do find GNOME's website, all the issues mentioned earlier apply.**



# FAILURE

WHEN YOUR BEST JUST ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.

[www.despair.com](http://www.despair.com)

# Summary

**Three websites and no good documentation...**



**GNOME**



**ubuntu**



**Fedora**



- There's no central location for documentation- some docs are found on distributions websites and some on project websites. **Users don't know where to look.**
- Most of the existing documentation (excluding API reference) isn't up to date.
- There are very few tutorials for helping people with no coding experience write their first program.
- **The current documentation isn't geared towards newcomers.**



**It doesn't have to be this way.**



# Proposal: One Developer Resource

- Create one central developer website.
- This can be hosted at Freedesktop.org.
- Clicking on ubuntu.com's “Get Developing” button should take you to the Freedesktop developer website.
  - There *still* will be a page to learn about packaging on the Freedesktop website. Now, *more* people will be able to use that page *after* they learn to write their first program.
- The website should be a wiki to allow anyone to update tutorials and documentation.

# Making this happen.

1. We need to setup a wiki at [develop.freedesktop.org](http://develop.freedesktop.org).
2. We need distributions to support the effort and add their own documentation to the wiki.
3. When the wiki is in a usable state, we can request that the distributions work with us to make it fit in transparently with their own sites and brands.
  - E.g. If the user came from [FedoraProject.org](http://FedoraProject.org) we can show them the Fedora logo at the top of each wiki page along with a link back to [FedoraProject.org](http://FedoraProject.org).
  - We can also show Ubuntu users their all-important guide to packaging at every corner.

**Thank you for listening.**