

**Rescue and renew:  
How to get  
legacy open source projects  
unstuck**

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openSUSE 2021

# Overview

- **Who I am, who you are**
- **Stories: Autoconf and pipenv**
- **How projects get stuck & unstuck**
- **Join me**

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# Autoconf

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## Re: Autoconf Digest, Vol 187, Issue 4

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**From:** Keith Bostic

**Subject:** Re: Autoconf Digest, Vol 187, Issue 4

**Date:** Sat, 25 Jan 2020 10:32:44 -0800

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>  
> *Unfortunately, the improved AC\_PROG\_CC has not yet made it into an*  
> *Autoconf release, primarily due to a lack of volunteers willing to*  
> *invest the time to help with the process.*

Nick, is there someone we could pay to do a new release of the autoconf toolset?

--  
--keith

=====  
Keith Bostic  
address@hidden

# Autoconf

## Autoconf 2.70 release long TODO

- Find not-yet-merged patches
  - Develop list of "downstream" redistributors of Autoconf to check for desirable patches, starting with:
    - Debian
    - Fedora
    - Ubuntu
    - Arch
    - OpenEmbedded
    - Yocto
    - <https://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/autoconf/2020-03/msg00070.html>
    - OpenBSD
    - FreeBSD
    - NetBSD
  - Inventory and copy patches from distributions' patched builds into Savannah (estimate: 5-10 patches per downstream, many duplicates) [this + above: about 2 days of work]
  - Inventory and migrate patches from mailing list into Savannah (estimate: 300-500 patches)
    - can be parallelized, might take a week or 2
- Prioritize, review, and merge patches (1 person-month + MongoDB high-priority work parallelizable)
  - Deduplicate patches and match to bug reports
    - estimate: 2-3 full-time weeks. parallelizable
  - Prioritize patches to merge, minimizing disruptive changes
    - Patches that can be merged as-is with low risk - merge during beta
    - Patches needing significant additional work - consult MongoDB for desirability
      - if low-priority: defer to 2.71
      - if high-priority: rework and merge
    - Bugs with no patch - consult MongoDB again, but defer if possible
    - estimate: < 1 week
  - Merge fixed bugs
    - estimate: 1 week if no problems discovered in the process
- Find regressions
  - Recruit testers
    - Maintainers of closely related projects (a few hours)
      - Automake
      - Libtool
      - Gnulib

# Autoconf



That's true, but I'm sure  
it's the last real problem.

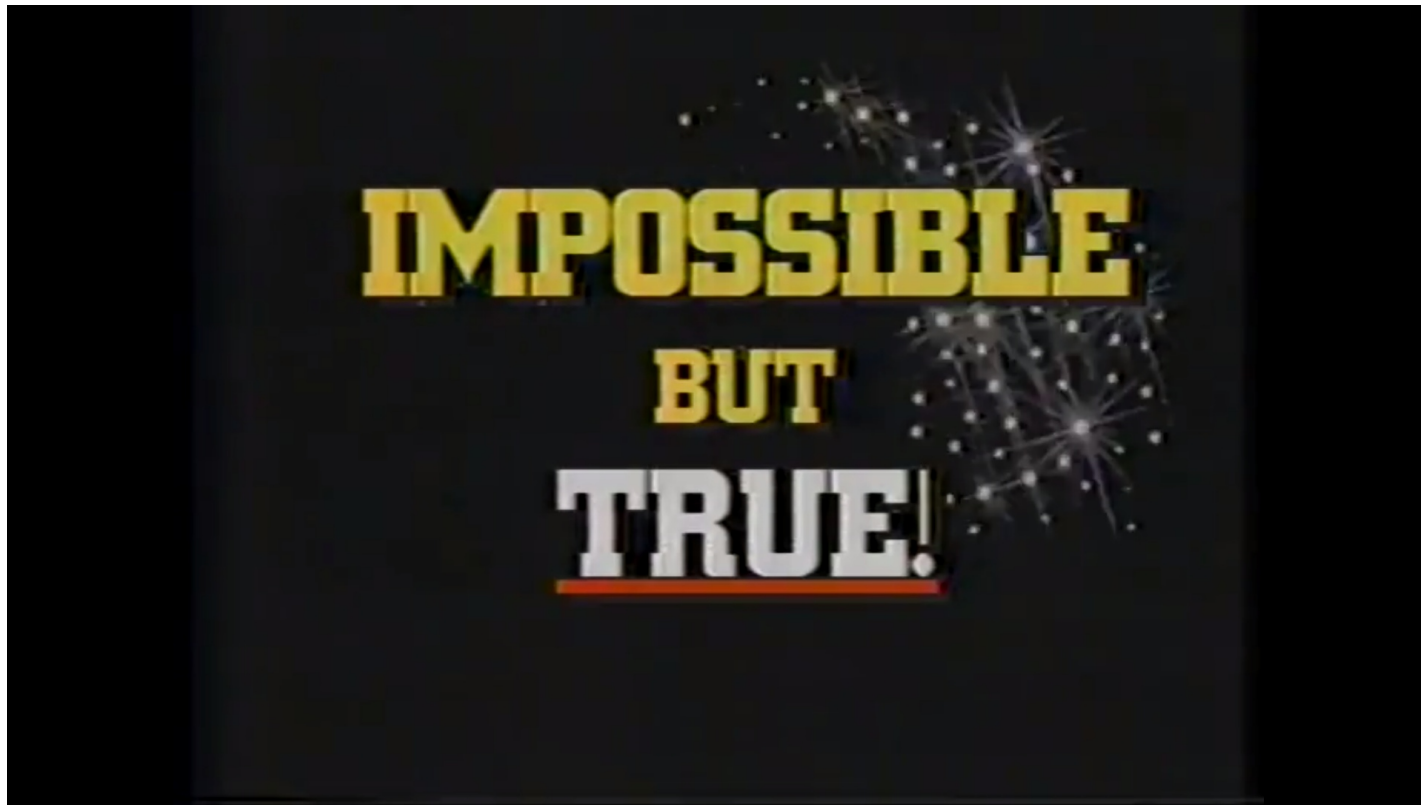
# Autoconf: Lessons

- **Look for existing contributors & funders**
- **Watch out for fixed-price**
- **Headache if you don't have CI**

# Pipenv



# Pipenv



# Pipenv: Lessons

- **You can do a lot with a little**
- **Complement what's missing**

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# Stucknesses

- **Strategy**
- **Team**
- **Interface**
- **Workflow**
- **Money**

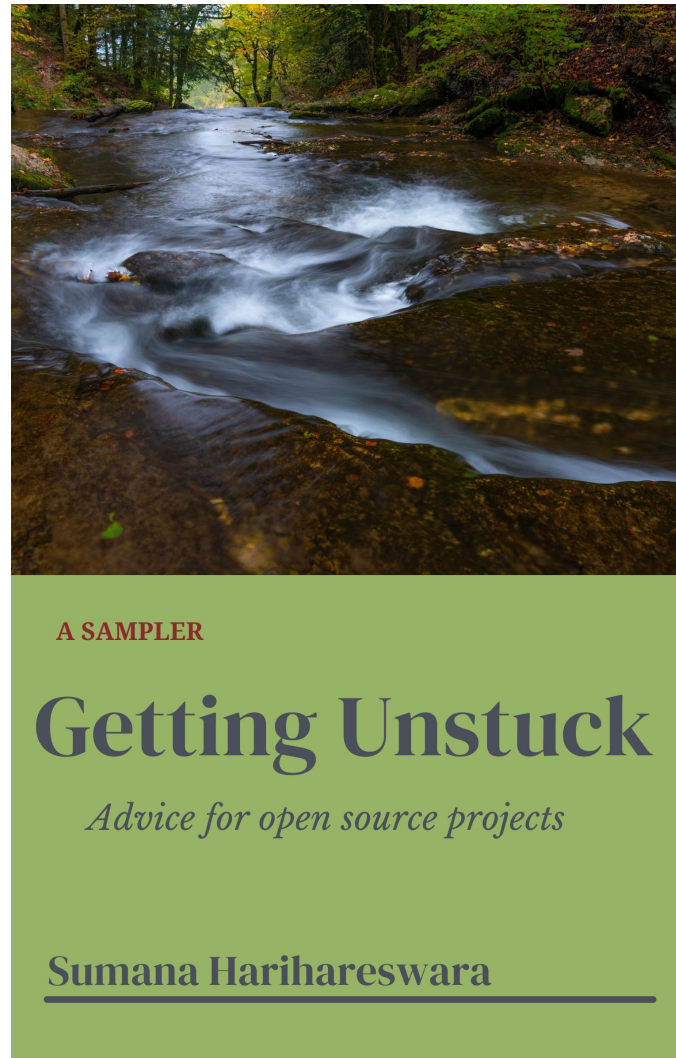
# Sequence

- 1. Settling in**
- 2. Taking charge**
- 3. Making change**
- 4. Passing the baton**

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# My book



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