

Desktop Summit 2011 Survey Results Report

1 Introduction

The **Desktop Summit 2011** was held from 6th to 12th of August as a week long conference in Berlin, Germany. It was the second joint summit of KDE and GNOME communities. The first took place in Gran Canaria, Spain in 2009. The goal of this conference was to promote further collaboration between the two communities by sharing ideas and technologies of the Free Desktop and Free Software.

This survey was designed to gather information and opinions from the attendees of the Desktop Summit 2011 in order to improve upcoming summits. Roughly 750 people attended the conference over the 7 days including 3 days of talks and 4 days of workshops and BoF sessions.

2 Methodology

The survey was sent out to the mailing list of attendees and 192 people completed the survey from 6th to 18th of September. The survey consisted of 35 questions in total, answers included multiple choice, single choice and open text forms. However two questions are omitted due to the reason being unsuitable for the public.

3 Findings

The overall result of the survey was positive and encouraging. It can be said that the Desktop Summit 2011 was a success and more joint summits should follow. Below is the overview of the questions and answers.

Press	8.33%
Advertisement	2.08%
Social networks	28.65%
PlanetGNOME	29.69%
PlanetKDE	41.67%
Personal contact	50.00%
Other	19.27%

1) How did you find out about the Desktop Summit?

From the *figure 1*, most of the attendees were informed about the Desktop Summit through personal contact (50%), Planet KDE (42%), Planet GNOME (30%) and social networks (29%).

Figure 1

Note: the answers were multiple choices, thus the percentage counting base is 192 in total.

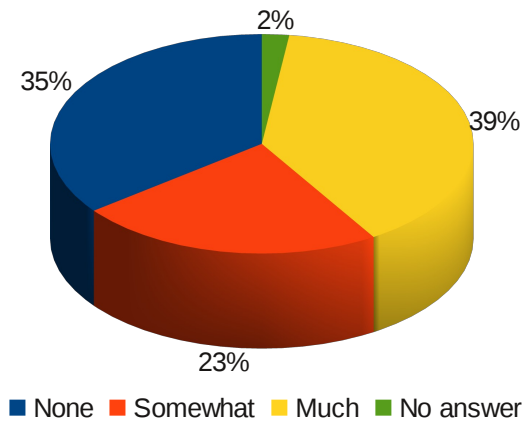


Figure 2

2) How much did the location affect your attendance?

As one can see in *figure 2*, for the majority of people, location affects their attendance. For 35% of the attendees the location does not matter.

Comment: following this question, a sub-question asking why it matters (e.g. travel expense, interest in location, etc.) is suggested for future surveys.

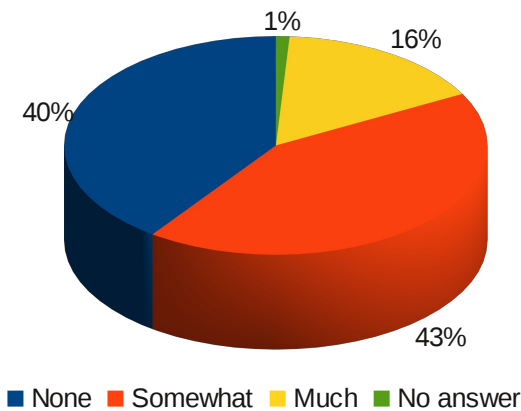


Figure 3

3) How much did the dates affect your attendance?

From this result, one can say that the dates do not have a big impact on people's decision to attend the conference.

4) Which communities are you involved in?

Note: Some people that they are involved both in GNOME or KDE and other communities, thus the sum adds up to more than 192.

GNOME	73
KDE	95
Both GNOME and KDE	12
Other	30

Figure 4

5) What is your main role in these communities?

Figure 5 indicates the role of attendees in their communities. Most of the attendees are developers (59%) and users (14%).

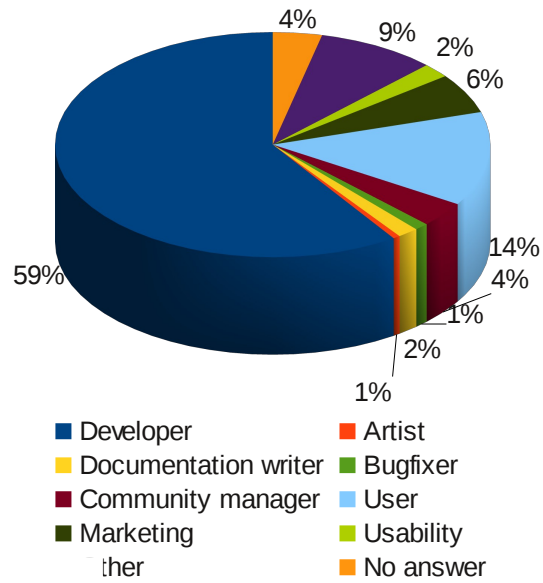
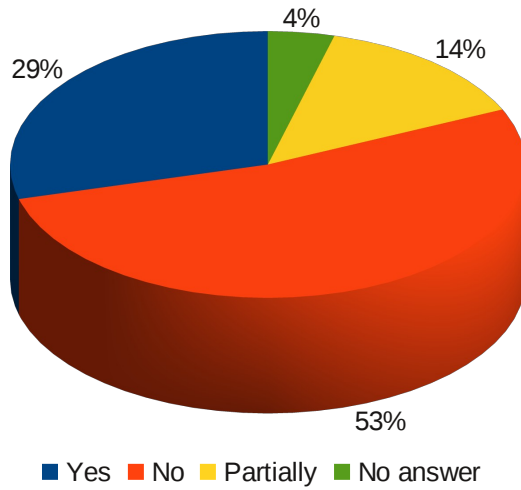


Figure 5



6) Did your employer sponsor your attendance at the Desktop Summit?

A majority of the attendees were not or only partially funded by their employers.

Figure 6

7) Which days of the Desktop Summit did you attend?

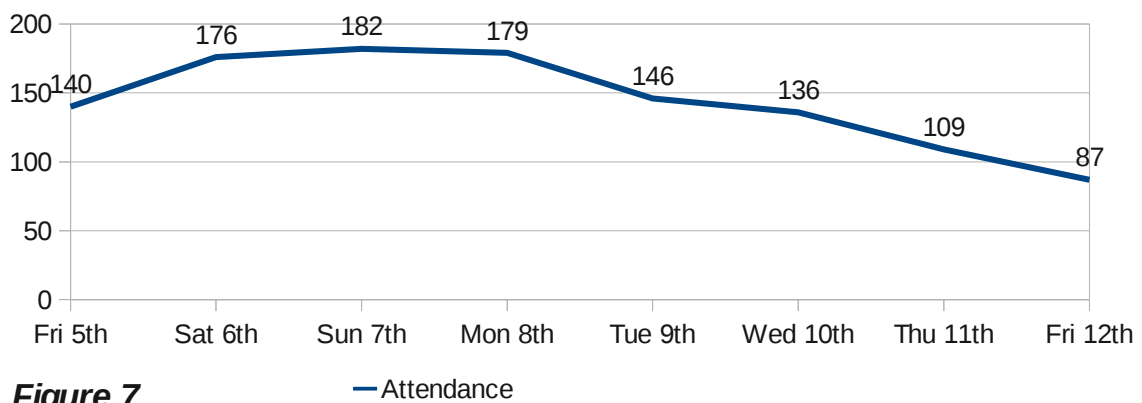
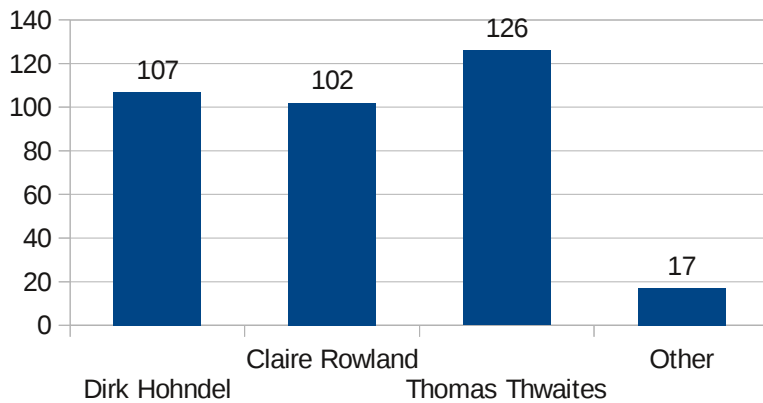


Figure 7

From figure 7 it is noticeable that during the days when the talks were held had the most attendants participating.

This result can be interpreted that talks played an important role during the conference.



8) Did you attend the keynotes? Whose keynote did you attend?

Figure 8 shows that attendance for each keynote was about the same.

Figure 8

9) What do you think about keynotes since they were not directly related to the Free Desktop?

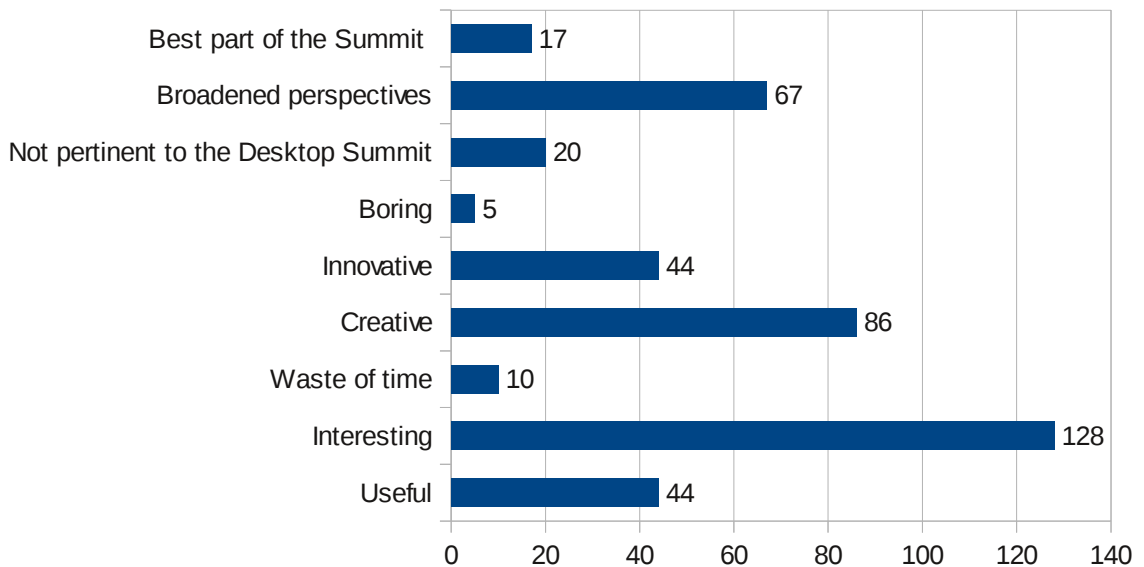


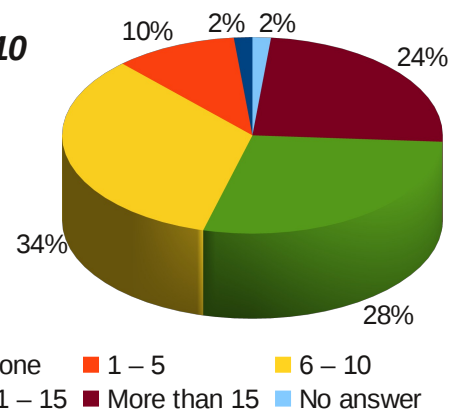
Figure 9

The answer suggests that most of the attendees were positive about the keynotes though they were not directly related to the Free Desktop. From this result, one can say that the off-topic keynotes should be encouraged in the future conferences.

Figure 10

10) How many talks did you attend?

Figure 10 shows that most of people attended 6-10 talks (34%) and 11-15 talks (28%) or more (24%).



11) What were the main reasons you attended specific talks?

This open question is related to the question 10 to see the motivation for selecting certain talks. 135 people answered. The major reasons can be summed up under the following keywords:

- Personal interest
- To gain knowledge
- Related to work

12) Did the talks meet your expectations?

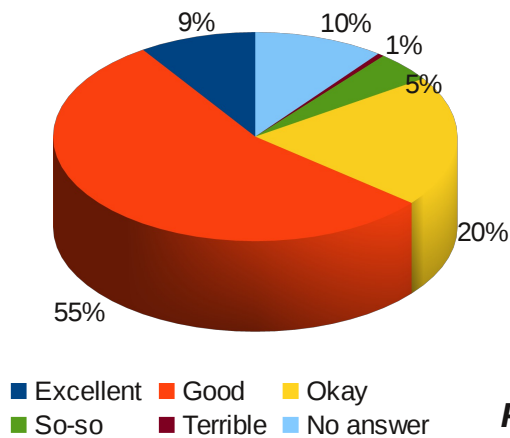


Figure 11

This question had five sub-questions on different aspects of the quality.

[Scope and Depth]

Figure 11 shows that more than half of the attendees consider the quality of the talks to be good and excellent.

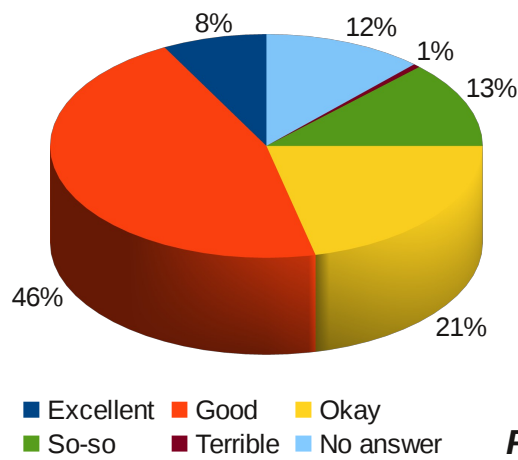


Figure 12

[Level of Technical Details]

Figure 12 shows that most attendees were satisfied with the level of technical data, but also suggests that there is room for improvement.

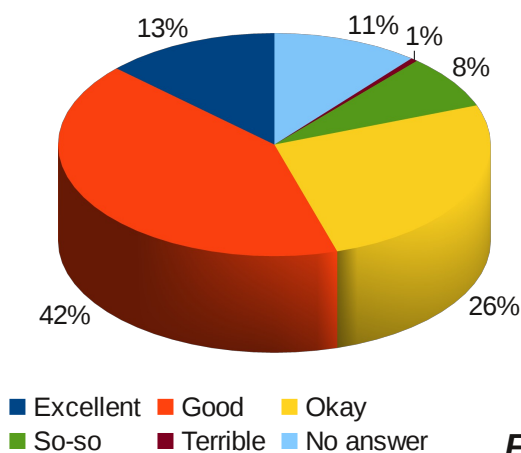


Figure 13 surveys.

[Topics Covered]

Most people were satisfied with the range of topics that were covered, but some felt that important topics were missing.

Comment: a question about missing topics should be included in future

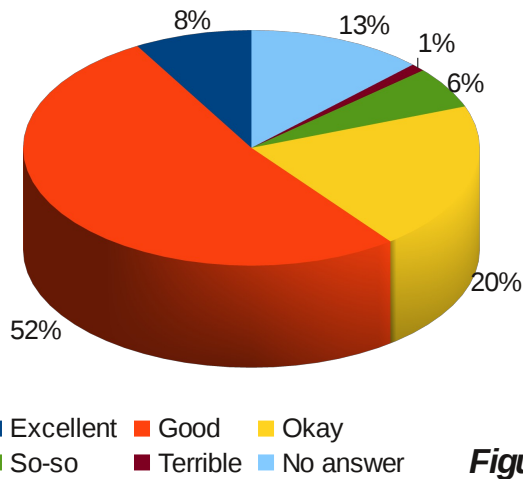


Figure 14

[Presenter Content]

Figure 14 reflects opinions of attendees on presenter content. The majority of people were satisfied. However there is room for improvement.

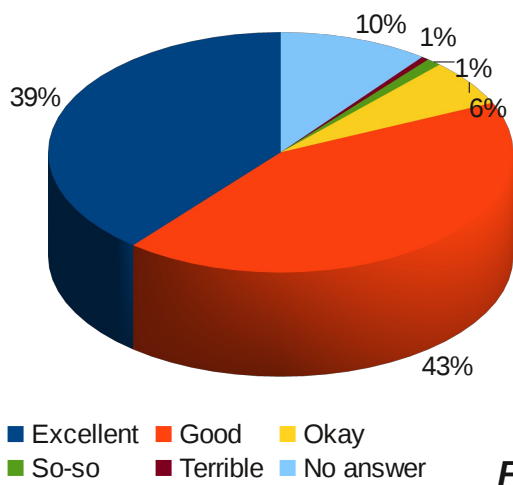


Figure 15

[Presenter Knowledge of Material]

Most attendees rated presenters' knowledge of their material as good or excellent. The result indicates that the presenter knowledge of material met the expectations of attendees more than other aspects.

13) What about the presentation part of the Desktop Summit could be improved?

Only 28% of the people answered this question. Below are the most frequently mentioned aspects.

- Wireless internet connection
- Presenting skills
- Technical issues: projector, recording video and audio
- Presentation time too short

14) Did you attend any BoFs?

63% of people answered that they attended (including partially); 33% said they didn't attend BoFs.

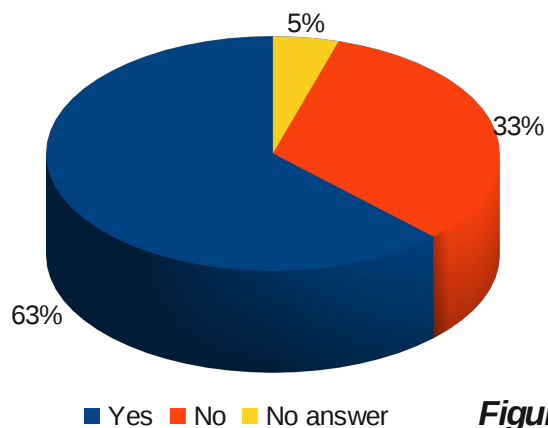
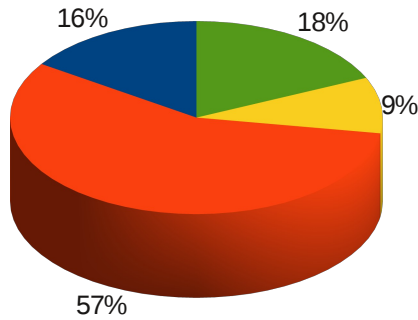


Figure 16



- Talks are more important
- Both are equally important
- BoFs are more important
- No answer

Figure 17

15) How do you rate the importance of talks vs. BoFs?

Figure 17 shows that a majority of the people consider both talks and BoFs are equally important.

Comment: Correlating result with affiliation may be interesting.

16) Were there any BoFs that stand out for you as being particularly effective or useful?

Only 25% of people answered this question. Below are the most frequently mentioned BoFs.

- Amarok meeting
- KDE-related BoFs

Comment: This question is not very meaningful as individual's interest or the project involved in is different.

17) How useful was the time you weren't attending talks of BoFs? What did you get done?

29% of people answered this question. Below are the most frequently mentioned answers.

- Socializing
- Sightseeing in Berlin
- Hacking
- Developing

18) How valuable were the booths/exhibits? Should this part of the Desktop Summit be expanded or eliminated?

55% of people answered this question and below are the most frequently mentioned answers.

- Not useful, but if sponsors want to have them then leave it.
- Could have more companies (it can be a point for networking with companies)

19) While you were at the Desktop Summit, did you have an opportunity to work on an area of collaboration between GNOME and KDE or other desktop projects? If so, what did you work on?

43% of people answered this question. Among them the result had slightly more Yes than No. Among the yesses, most frequently mentioned collaboration was in management.

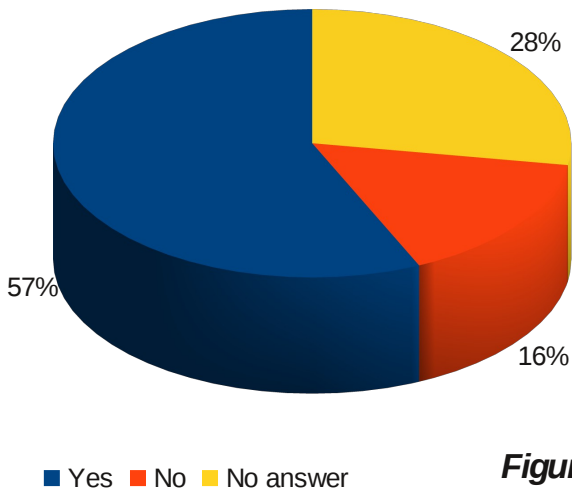


Figure 18

20) Was the event inclusive of all communities and encouraged collaboration?

Asking on encouraging collaboration, 57% of people said Yes, 16% of people said No.

While a majority of attendees felt that the event fostered collaboration, there is a room for improvement.

21) (continuing with Q. 22) Why or why not?

42% of people answered this question. Below are the most frequently mentioned reasons.

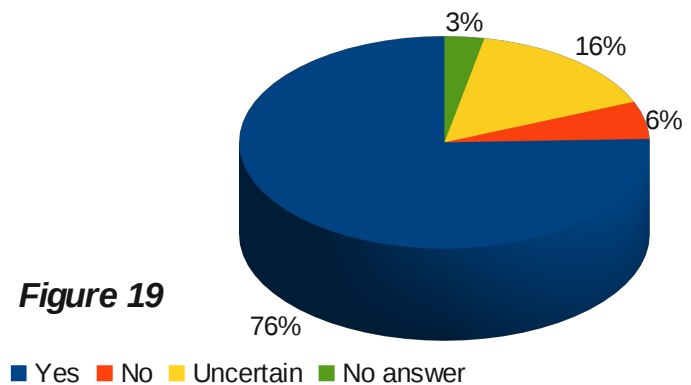
Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No separation among the communities Mixed talk program (improved compared to Gran Canaria) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impression that Akademy and GUADEC were running side by side Other desktop communities were missing (XFCE, Fluxbox, Enlightenment etc.)

22) Would you like to see another Desktop Summit?

76% answered yes to this question and 16% uncertain.

The result reflects that the attendees are in favor of more joint events.

Figure 19



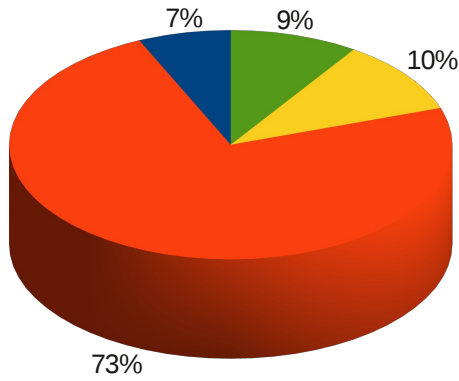


Figure 20

■ No
 ■ In two years
■ In three years or more
 ■ No answer

23) We've had two Desktop Summit conferences, one every two years. Would you like to see another one?

Figure 20 shows that people like the idea of a biannual joint conference.

24) What if anything would you like to see done differently at a future Desktop Summit?

42% of people answered this question and below are the most frequently mentioned answers.

- More participation of non-KDE and non-GNOME contributors
- Higher level of talks
- More hacking space during the days of talks
- More power plugs
- Better wireless internet
- More talks focused on collaboration between the desktops

25) What events did you attend?

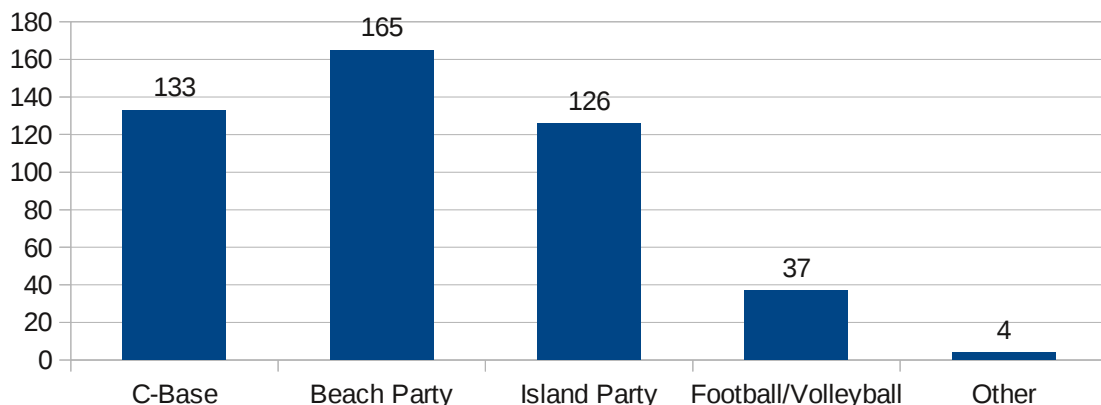


Figure 21

26) How did you like the social events?

This question had four sub-questions on different events. Overall most people liked and enjoyed the social events.

[C-base]

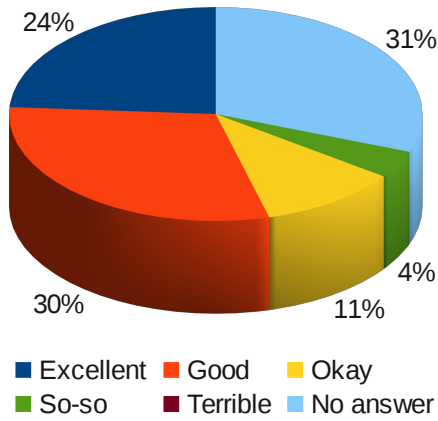


Figure 22

[Beach Party]

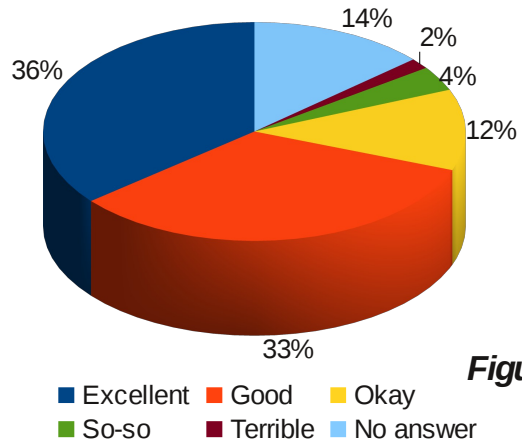


Figure 23

[Football/Volleyball]

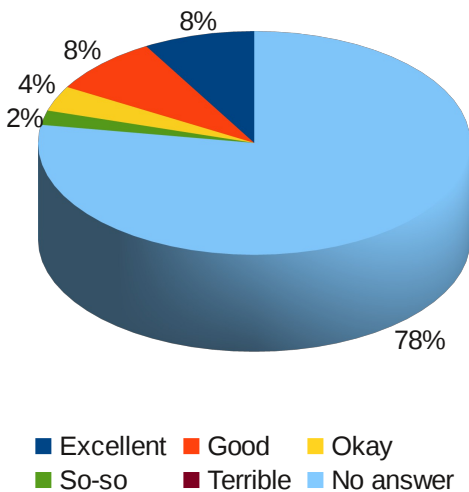


Figure 24

[Island Party]

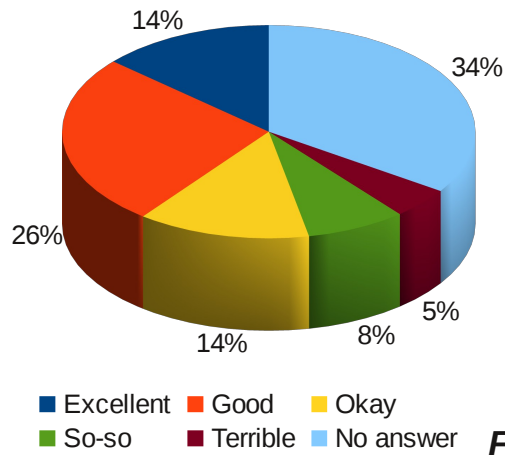


Figure 25

27) Was there anything that you especially liked or didn't like about the social events?

41% of people answered this question. Below are the most frequently mentioned answers for what people didn't like about the social events.

- Too long queue for foods and drinks
- Not enough vegetarian/vegan food
- Music was too loud when people are forced to stay inside
- Lack of space for just talking and relaxing

28) How did the Desktop Summit team do?

This question had three sub-questions on different aspect.

[Web site]

Figure 26 shows that in terms of the Desktop Summit web site, attendees were quite satisfied.

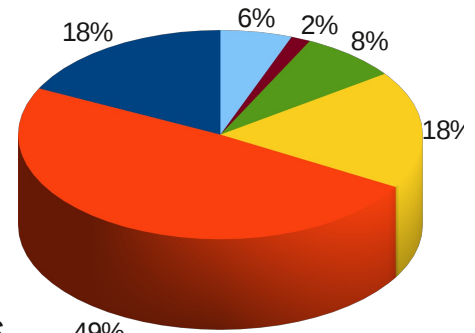


Figure 26

■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Okay
■ So-so ■ Terrible ■ No answer

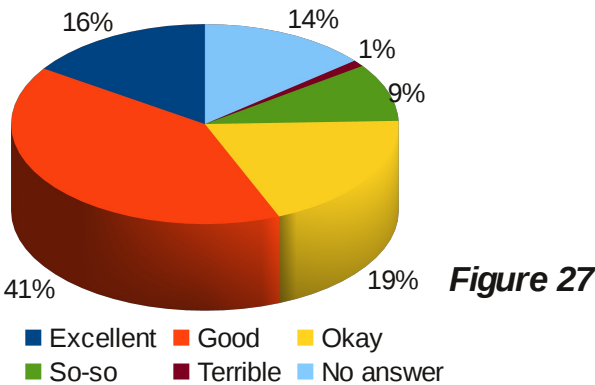


Figure 27

■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Okay
■ So-so ■ Terrible ■ No answer

[Wiki]

From figure 27 it can be assumed that the wiki page was useful up to certain extent, however, improvement should be made for the next Desktop Summit.

[Information Desk]

This result indicates that the information desk was very helpful to the attendees.

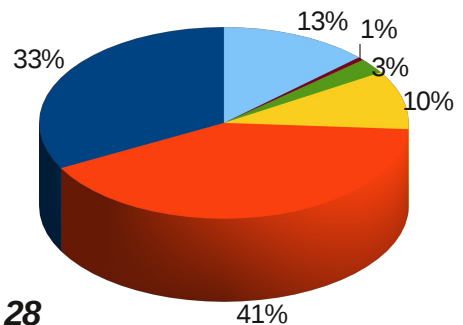


Figure 28

■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Okay
■ So-so ■ Terrible ■ No answer

29) Was there other information that should have been provided?

24% of people answered this question. Below are the most frequently mentioned answers.

- Information board (rather than announcing the changes in every session)
- More choices/information for vegetarians/vegans
- Better explanation on registration procedure (it was a bit confusing)
- Map of venue

30) What did you think about the name badge with the information folded inside? How helpful was the information? How much did you use it?

73% of people answered this question. Below are the most frequently mentioned answers.

- Very useful/helpful/awesome
- Used very frequently for checking the schedule
- Possible suggestion: print badge and the schedule separately?

31) How did the registration process work for you? Comments?

64% of people answered this question. Below are the most frequently mentioned answers.

- Bit confusing on the web site
- Easy for those who already had KDE Identity account but not for others
- Worked fine

32) How was the schedule for you? (considering talks, BoFs and workshops and events...was it too much? Not enough? Too early? Not late enough? More concurrent sessions? Or fewer? What suggestions do you have about the schedule?)

55% of people answered to this question and below are the most frequently mentioned answers.

- Too early in the morning, especially the day after the party
- Perhaps more time between the talks to allow some time for discussion
- Hacking place during the days for talks
- Improved since the last time
- Talks could be spread out over 4 days

33) What are your overall impressions of Desktop Summit Berlin 2011? What did you like of dislike?

53% of people answered to this question and below are the most frequently mentioned answers.

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great event / experience• Excellent• Location was nice• Nice, geeky and open	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hacking area closed too early• Bad wireless internet• Mensa did not meet the expectation (hassle to get/return the mensa card)

4 Conclusion

Regarding the answers from the survey, the second Desktop Summit that was held in Berlin, 2011 can be considered as a success in different aspects; talks, workshops and BoFs, events and services. The Desktop Summit 2011 promoted collaboration between KDE and GNOME not only on matters of desktop but also on different topics. However there is always some space for further improvements in future Desktop Summits. To summarize the comments and suggestions from the attendees;

- 1) improve the quality and content of talks as well as presenting skills of presenters (e.g. providing some training to presenters before the event)
- 2) consider lengthening the time of talks or breaks
- 3) be better prepared for technical procedures (video and audio recording)
- 4) provide places for hacking throughout the conference
- 5) improve the websites to be more useful
- 6) include other communities

In conclusion, the Desktop Summit 2011 gave attendees a great opportunity to bring different communities together and to collaborate by sharing ideas and knowledge.