R packages from a Fedora perspective

José Abílio Matos[*]
Porto University - Portugal

Abstract

Fedora is a Linux distribution that showcases the latest in free and open source software. It serves as the common root where other Linux distributions branch, with the best known being Red Hat Enterprise Linux, CentOS and Scientific Linux.

Both Fedora, R and most R packages are free software as defined by the Free Software Foundation. Although Fedora and R share such an important feature technically they have different goals. The purpose of R is to work in the largest possible set of platforms (assuming that there are interested developers). The purpose of Fedora is to package the largest possible set of free software packages and have them smoothly integrated into a single set.

When packaging R packages in Fedora the chalenge becomes then how to bring together these different goals. This talk deals with some of these issues. It should be noted that these challenges are common to other free software projects like Perl, Python, TeX (and others languages) on one side and Linux distributions on the other.

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[*]jamatos@fep.up.pt