Maintaining and releasing orphaned packages

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Orphaned Packages

- Number of orphaned packages is increasing
  - Maintainer is too busy to respond or has moved on
  - Packages are not released on latest ROS distro
- Examples
  - No usb camera driver for Kinetic until July, 2017, though Kinetic was released in May, 2016
  - 90 unreleased repositories for Kinetic and 366 for Lunar
Solutions

• Ideal solution: Find a new maintainer!
  • Easier said than done...
• What happens when no one volunteers? Is that package not needed? Should it disappear?
  • Were USB camera drivers really not necessary in Kinetic?
• Our proposed practical solution:
  • “ROS Orphaned Package Maintainers”
  • A team of volunteers with “minimum” effort
• Role of unmaintained package maintainers
  × Investigate incoming issues and pull requests
  × Merge and tag new version in source repository
  ✓ Release repository into ROS ecosystem (run bloom)
Activities

• Released several unmaintained packages
  • camera_umd, gscam, libuvc, libuvc_ros, usb_cam, executive_smach_visualization, shared_autonomy_manipulation

• Preparing a REP for a ROS Orphaned Package Maintainer initiative

• How to contribute
  • Join our team!
  • We are partially funded by NEDO (Japanese govt) until 2019
  • Any resources (funds, skill, time, motivation, ...) are welcome!