Introducing the Wasteland

Not really a Dplug tutorial this time.
Motivations for creating a plug-in framework

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  => Benefits from more eyeballs.
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  => Obvious drive to make that part reusable across products.
  => Benefits from more eyeballs.
- Lots of such frameworks kept private in the industry = Slate / Arturia / u-he / Voxengo / Melda / Blue Cat Audio Soundtoys / Pulsar Audio all have one...
  > probably dozens more exist. Only a few are open-source.
Motivations for creating Dplug specifically

- Software companies seem to mechanically lead to burn-out.

Reasons:
- top-down product design
- added value captured by top
- work organization straight from factory work

“Suffering is the commodity that you provide.” - some blog
What if you exit the software industry and make your own software company?

- **top-down product design**
  - => choose the product you make

- **added value captured by top**
  - Remove hierarchy (one-man companies are common)
    - => producer get every cent of added value
    - => Reminder: in audio books, Audible keeps 87%
  - or mutualize the profits!

- **work organization straight from factory workers**
  - => self-employed
    “On est jamais mieux servi que par soi-même.”
Dplug revolves around being low-stress

- **low-touch** => *shouldn’t need to communicate too often.*

- **stable** => *keep maintenance low, to let product live a long time with minimal work.*

- **forkable** => some popular frameworks are products and not forkable

- **not rent-seeking** => *it is not a product, and you are not a client.*

(Obviously, could change if forked.)
The implicit Dplug ideal

- Software companies that grow horizontally around a shared core, instead of vertically at the expense of human capital. => less oppression
Newfound efficiency and challenges

- Stability is good, and forced (because open-source)
- Open-source typical problems are all here.
- Lots of work/conflicting constraints over core.
- Contributions = more work in practice.

- Company A
- Company B
- Company C

Framework

I want this

Please review and complete my PR.

I don’t have time
It’s the same for other plugin frameworks

=> Open-source is typically draining
=> Death by maintainer overwork is the \textbf{surest way} to kill Dplug (at least this fork)

\textbf{Solutions}

- Be a net-positive contributor = do not take energy from maintainer.
- Dplug must avoid popular “success”, which would mean \textit{death} because it’s free of charge. At one point it’s easier to remove from the internet than do support.
- Filter out people that won’t stick around?
- Reward “net-positive” contributors. \textit{With what?}
What’s in a plugin?

UX work
2 month

UI work
1 month

DSP work
2 month

The rest
(pre-ssets, website, optimization, licensing, demos, manual)

1 month

in mythical man-months.
What’s in a plugin?

UX typically the most valuable part.

(it’s almost never DSP)
What’s in a plugin?

Kinda reusable but often very specific

Very specific and not reusable.

=> the very reusable parts are in the framework in the first place.
An idea: the Wasteland

- A collection of widgets / UIElement (UX)
  - No context
  - No questions asked
  - No maintenance from anyone.
  - It doesn’t even compile.
  - Just a drop of a file from private projects with a licence header.

- Opened to anyone that sticked around for a while with net positive contributions. Free of charge but very closed.

- (Licensing up to copyright holder.)

- Not sure for DSP, since everyone like to do its own.
  The world doesn’t really benefit from stock standard DSP.

Goals:
- time to market
- share know-how
- reward sticking around
- act as missing tutorials
- contributions that don’t take maintenance effort!
Would lower cost to create one product but not necessarily to maintain one.
Conditions for Wasteland access

- **1. Commitment** = have a commercial product based upon Dplug on the market, since **one year**.

- **2. Net-positive** contributions. **No support questions** except legal. It is just disallowed.

- **3. No known sweatshops.** Access revoked at first sign of worker mistreatment.

**In short:**

Have both the “Dplug User” and “Plugin Vendor” badge on Discord.
Special Discord channel = #wasteland
Access granted to wasteland repository.
Same for dplug-aax.
Incenticize giving back **how**?
What do you think?