Precursor Systems

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Precursor Contributes Widget to munkireport
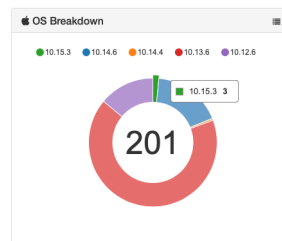
Contact: Alex Narvey

Precursor Systems is pleased to announce that company founder Alex Narvey created a custom widget for the munkireport project to share with the munkireport community.

munkireport is an open source software project that many Mac administrators use to monitor their implementation of munki – the open source project behind Precursor's implementation of Managed Software Center. Precursor also utilizes munkireport to provide a monthly report of certain Admin activities to our clients each month.

We began seeing colored charts of macOS 10.15 Catalina adoption being posted by other Mac Admins on the macadmins Slack channel and wanted to view such a chart in our implementation of munkireport. But while munkireport does have a widget to report on OS versions the display is bar graph only.

So Alex decided to make his own custom widget. The "widget" is a special PHP file served up by munkireport that accesses information from the munkireport database and displays it using javascript. In this case, Alex had to learn some javascript D3.js graphing calls but after much experimentation and a couple of hints/tweaks from munkireport author Arjen Van Bochoven and munkireport module maven Jon Crain, Alex was able to successfully get his OS Breakdown "donut" module to work and posted it to Github.com for other Mac admins to incorporate into their own munkireport implementations.

"It was so much fun digging into the coding of this project" said Precursor founder Alex Narvey, "And I was really excited to give something back to the Mac Admins community by sharing this on Github."

Precursor Systems was founded in March 1994 by Alex Narvey to provide support for computer-based professionals in the Publishing, Printing, Prepress, Digital Imaging, Audio and Video industries.

More information is available at our web site: http://www.precursor.ca/
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