Dedicated to supporting the
FreeBSD Project and Community

Upcoming Events
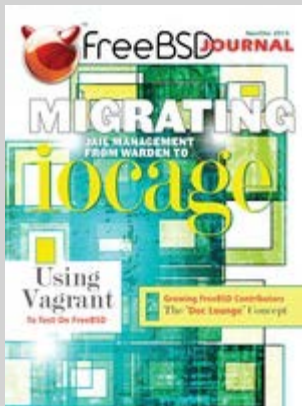
FOSDEM 2016
January 30-31, 2016
Brussels, Belgium

FreeBSD Storage Summit
February 22, 2016
Santa Clara, CA

USENIX FAST '16
February 22-25, 2016
Santa Clara, CA

FreeBSD Journal

The November/December issue of the *FreeBSD Journal* is now available!

Don't miss articles on The BSD Router Project, Using Vagrant to Test on FreeBSD, and more.

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See what others are saying about the Journal:

"Awesome! This is the best way to popularize FreeBSD!!" San Jose,

Message from the Executive Director

Dear FreeBSD Community Member,
The Foundation is entering 2016 at full steam ahead. We're attending conferences to spread the word about FreeBSD, funding new projects, and continuing to showcase the hard working members of the FreeBSD community. Of course, this is only some of work we're embarking on for the coming year. Stay tuned for even more announcements surrounding our efforts to help the FreeBSD Project and community. Your continued support makes this all possible. We wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to all we accomplish together in 2016.

Deb

Development Projects Update

A new year is upon us, and so is a new Foundation-sponsored project. Bjoern Zeeb has been awarded a project grant to finalize and integrate the work done to make the VIMAGE network stack virtualization infrastructure production ready.

The VIMAGE project builds upon FreeBSD's jail lightweight virtualization mechanism. The initial VIMAGE work was supported by NLNet and the FreeBSD Foundation, and has been available as a kernel compile-time option for some time. Unfortunately, a number of stability and reliability issues have prevented the project from enabling VIMAGE in the default GENERIC kernel.

With the recent interest in container technologies, FreeBSD users are attempting to use VIMAGE despite the "experimental" label, and are encountering warnings about leaked memory and concerns about stability. FreeBSD users and appliance builders strongly desire using it in production and in their projects.

Bjoern will test and update incremental patches from the VIMAGE perforce repository, and present them for review before committing them to the FreeBSD subversion repository. The main areas of focus

Why Choose FreeBSD?

"[Acceleration Systems](#) is a Cloud based Service Provider, delivering WAN Optimization in a SaaS model. Our solution enables businesses to gain productivity and a substantial increase in network performance, especially over challenged links. Many members of our team have built the infrastructure of prior companies with Open Source software and have a common mindset to support the community and the projects that power the internet.

FreeBSD plays a major role in our flagship product, the Remote Business Accelerator. Though the majority of our team has roots in Linux, FreeBSD was selected for its lean footprint, extensive ports tree, and carrier grade applications supported on this incredibly stable operating system. Members of our team endorsed it as the system of choice with experience dating back 15 years to FreeBSD 4.1 while at the University of Kentucky.

We are thankful for the opportunity to build a product with the flexibility the BSD license presents. The Acceleration Systems team is happy to contribute to this project and help keep the internet a great place to learn and produce!"

– *Jack McKinney, VP Engineering, [Acceleration Systems](#)*

are network stack teardown and ordering, and addressing the remaining memory leaks on teardown.

The work will be validated with scripted integration testing, in order to find interactions and possible race conditions between different network stack layers and interactions of layer-crossing components like firewalls.

This project is expected to be completed by early March 2016 and delivered in the FreeBSD 11.0 release.

-- contributed by Ed Maste

Conference Recap: SCaLE 14x

The 14th annual SCaLE was held this past weekend at the Pasadena Convention Center. At over 3,600 registered attendees, 2 days of tutorials, 2 days of presentations over 17 tracks, and a busy exposition, this year was bigger and better than ever. The new venue was also a hit as it provided plenty of space for the "hallway track" and easy walking access to the many restaurants in downtown Pasadena.

This year, the FreeBSD Project had 2 booths in the expo area: Denise and John from iXsystems handed out copies of PC-BSD and FreeNAS and swag items at the FreeBSD Project booth and Deb and Dru from the Foundation staffed the FreeBSD Foundation booth, handing out informational material and accepting donations for the Foundation.

We had a great turnout at our table, with people interested in trying out FreeBSD for the first time, or excited to try it again after hearing about all the added features over the years. It was great to see the many young girls and boys stopping by to find out about FreeBSD, and we had the privilege of listening to a couple of girls talk about their project to populate various monarch websites with their tracking information, using open source software.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation at the event! We raised over $300!!

Groff the BSD Goat, again joined us for the event, and as usual, was very popular. Many people wanted their pictures taken with Groff, which is always fun.

Dru presented "Doc Like an Egyptian" which discussed the goals and pitfalls of documentation projects and her experience of migrating the FreeNAS and PC-BSD documentation to Sphinx. Check out the [interview](#) with Dru.

We attended Sarah Sharpe's keynote on "Improving Diversity with Maslow's Hierarchy", to help us in our efforts to make the Project more diverse.

One of the conference organizers talked to us about a BSD track next year. It's great to see the growing interest in FreeBSD, and we want to encourage more FreeBSD and other BSD contributors to submit talks for next year's SCaLE conference.

This is one of many open source conferences that we plan on attending this year, to promote FreeBSD. Check out our upcoming event calendar to find out where we're going to be next.

-- contributed by Dru Lavigne and Deb Goodkin

Faces of FreeBSD Series: Sean Bruno

Next up in the Faces of FreeBSD series reboot is Sean Bruno. You can find his full interview on the blog.

Please take a minute and read more about Sean and stay tuned for future interviews with FreeBSD enthusiasts who are advocating for FreeBSD, improving FreeBSD, writing for FreeBSD, running conferences, and helping in other various ways.

Fundraising Update: The 2016 Campaign is Off and Running!

We kicked off our 2016 fundraising efforts, and we've already received three Silver level donations from VMWare, Tarsnap, and Acceleration Systems, as well as many individual donations. Our fundraising goal is to raise $1,250,000 so we can continue our current level of support for the FreeBSD Project and community. We don't have our final numbers for 2015 yet, but we raised around $650,000. This is where our reserves come into play. We know there are a lot of opportunities to fund projects to further the development of FreeBSD, and to support the Project. One reason we keep the reserves is to cover under-funded years like last year.

Our 2016 budget has been approved by the board, and will be published on our website by the end of the month. Our plans for spending will be around the same as last year, with some spending reductions for conference/event sponsorships and hardware purchases for the Project infrastructure. Fortunately, so many companies are now sponsoring BSD-related conferences, that we can spread our funding to help with more FreeBSD and open source events around the world.

We recognize that we have to work harder to raise awareness of what we do to support the Project, work closer with more commercial vendors to show them the value they get from the work we do, and look into alternative revenue sources.

The good news is that we started the year strong by meeting with commercial users, attending the SCaLE and FOSDEM open source conferences, and reaching out to other open source projects to work together on building a healthy ecosystem and safe and diverse community. We've also begun reaching out to donors and revenue sources outside our community.

We have a lot of great ideas and plans this year to help FreeBSD. Some of those plans include more software development projects, supporting more FreeBSD classes, workshops, and presentations around the world, spreading the word about FreeBSD to recruit more people to the Project, getting more people and organizations to use FreeBSD, and continuing supporting the release engineering efforts.

We can't do this without you. We need your help to spread the word about FreeBSD and why the Foundation needs donations to continue its work. You can tell your upper-management, marketing, and financial teams the value they are getting from using FreeBSD and why they should donate to the Foundation. We even have a [template](#) you can use for asking your company to make a donation . If you need help, email me at deb@freebsdfoundation.org.

Click [here](#) to donate now. Here's to a great 2016!

-- contributed by Deb Goodkin