

- John Baldwin • Member of the FreeBSD Core Team
- Brooks Davis • Senior Software Engineer at SRI International, Visiting Industrial Fellow at University of Cambridge, and past member of the FreeBSD Core Team
- Bryan Drewery • Senior Software Engineer at EMC Isilon, member of FreeBSD Portmgr Team, and FreeBSD Committer
- Justin Gibbs • Founder and President of the FreeBSD Foundation and a Senior Software Architect at Spectra Logic Corporation
- Daichi Goto • Director at BSD Consulting Inc. (Tokyo)
- Joseph Kong • Senior Software Engineer at EMC and author of *FreeBSD Device Drivers*
- Steven Kreuzer • Member of the FreeBSD Ports Team
- Dru Lavigne • Director of the FreeBSD Foundation, Chair of the BSD Certification Group, and author of *BSD Hacks*
- Michael W. Lucas • Author of *Absolute FreeBSD*
- Ed Maste • Director of Project Development, FreeBSD Foundation
- Kirk McKusick • Director of the FreeBSD Foundation and lead author of *The Design and Implementation* book series
- George V. Neville-Neil • Director of the FreeBSD Foundation and coauthor of *The Design and Implementation of the FreeBSD Operating System*
- Hiroki Sato • Director of the FreeBSD Foundation, Chair of Asia BSDCon, member of the FreeBSD Core Team, and Assistant Professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology
- Benedict Reuschling • Vice President of the FreeBSD Foundation and a FreeBSD Documentation Committer
- Robert Watson • Director of the FreeBSD Foundation, Founder of the TrustedBSD Project, and University Senior Lecturer at the University of Cambridge

S&W PUBLISHING LLC

PO BOX 408, BELFAST, MAINE 04915

- Publisher** • Walter Andrzejewski
walter@freebsdjournal.com
- Editor-at-Large** • James Maurer
jmaurer@freebsdjournal.com
- Art Director** • Dianne M. Kischitz
dianne@freebsdjournal.com
- Office Administrator** • Michael Davis
davism@freebsdjournal.com
- Advertising Sales** • Walter Andrzejewski
walter@freebsdjournal.com
Call 888/290-9469

FreeBSD Journal (ISBN: 978-0-615-88479-0) is published 6 times a year (January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, November/December).

Published by the FreeBSD Foundation, 5757 Central Ave., Suite 201, Boulder, CO 80301
ph: 720/207-5142 • fax: 720/222-2350
email: info@freebsd.foundation.org
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“This one goes to 11.”

There are certain generational jokes we cannot avoid. For those of us who grew up with, or at least have seen, the film *This is Spinal Tap*, the number 11 always elicits the line that is the title of this month's letter.

The 11th major release of FreeBSD is now out and John Baldwin covers what is new and exciting in 11 in his article in this issue.

Making 11 major releases of a complete operating system over a span of 23 years is a major achievement. Thousands of fingers have touched the docs, ports, and source trees over the years, and even more have consumed, repurposed, and deployed the code onto desktops, servers, laptops, and embedded systems. Getting to where we are today is nothing short of amazing to those of us who continue to work on FreeBSD. This is why I want to take a slight departure from my typical letter to talk about a particular set of folks who are working to help the FreeBSD Project and need your help.

Most readers know that the *FreeBSD Journal* is supported not only by your subscriptions, but largely by the FreeBSD Foundation, of which I am one of the directors. I joined the board of the FreeBSD Foundation because I knew that I could apply my non-technical skills to help the FreeBSD community in ways that engineers might not normally do, including producing this magazine, the production of teaching and marketing materials, and fundraising. It is on the fundraising front that I wish to talk to you here.

The FreeBSD Foundation exists to support FreeBSD through the funding of many different parts of the FreeBSD ecosystem. We give direct financial support to BSD-related conferences, including AsiaBSDCon, BSDCan, EuroBSDCon, and many newer conferences that you might not have heard of as yet. In addition, the Foundation sponsors the growing number of developer summits held throughout the year. Although many have predicted that the Internet and associated technologies would reduce the need for face-to-face meetings, that turns out to have been false. In fact, much of the best work being done on FreeBSD begins at these developer meetings.

The Foundation employs engineering resources—from the head of release engineering, to the full-time, and contract staff who fill the technical holes in our software firmament not otherwise being filled in by the community. This support allows for the timely, stable, and reliable releases you have come to expect. The Foundation

has also hired a full-time marketing director to help the Project reach those who have yet to learn how great FreeBSD is, and to help the community grow.

Finally, the Foundation funds much of the hardware on which the Project now runs. Whether that is release builds, package servers, or the growing continuous integration infrastructure, the Foundation has been here to provide the hundreds of thousands of dollars required over the last several years to make sure that the software produced by the community can easily and efficiently be consumed by the entire world.

Unlike in the Linux world, the FreeBSD Project is completely open. Anyone is welcome to join and there is no tax levied by the FreeBSD Foundation to attend events such as developer meetings or vendor summits. Unfortunately, that openness has a downside. As the FreeBSD Project has grown, so have its needs, and that means that the Foundation is always in fundraising mode. Although I could appeal to each and every one of you to send a donation to the Foundation, that is not what the final paragraph of this letter is about.

Help Support FreeBSD <https://www.freebsd.foundation.org/donate>

I know many of this *Journal's* readers work in technology companies. Quite a few, and I'm assuming the majority of you, work at companies that use FreeBSD every day in some capacity. This is where we need you. Help us by figuring out how to connect the FreeBSD Foundation to the companies you work with, or know of, that have an interest in the continuing success of FreeBSD. Whether it is through me directly (gnn@freebsd.foundation.org), or with the Foundation's Executive Director (deb@freebsd.foundation.org), those connections are absolutely necessary to the continuing success of both the FreeBSD Foundation and the FreeBSD Project.

I know that what I'm asking may not come naturally to those who work in the trenches of engineering. "Talk to management?! That's the last thing..." and so we have a few suggestions on this web page (<https://www.freebsd.foundation.org/donate/donation-letter/>) of how you might start that conversation.

Thank you

George Neville-Neil

Editor in Chief of the *FreeBSD Journal*

Member of the Board of Directors of the FreeBSD Foundation

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