conference REPORT

by Conor Beh

LinuxFest Northwest 2019

There was a great turnout from the FreeBSD community for the 20th Anniversary of LinuxFest Northwest, April 26 to 28. I had the chance to join our friends in the Linux camp and open-source community for three FreeBSD-related talks and a large table presence at the conference. Despite LinuxFest Northwest's somewhat out-of-the-way location, the diversity of talks and the low-stress atmosphere attracted people from all over the world.

LinuxFest Northwest 2019 kicked off bright and early Saturday morning with the opening of the expo hall. Two Washingtonians, myself and Jason Barbier, staffed the table. Joining us from farther afield were FreeBSD Foundation Executive Director Deb Goodkin, Core Team member Sean Chittenden, and Oregonians Michael Dexter and Rodney Grimes. Several other community members also made their presence known, and many productive discussions were enjoyed. Staffing the table gave me an opportunity to both interact with the community at large and talk to people who were not aware of FreeBSD's presence in open source. Later that day, I attended a talk on the security repercussions of out-of-band management systems. No matter how good the security of the operating system, a chip right on the mainboard of the system can ruin the system in a heartbeat. A link to the talk can be found here. Sadly, I missed Jon "Maddog" Hall's talk titled *Fifty Years of Unix, Internet, and More*. I heard the talk was a resounding success and covered several instances of early BSD history.

We wrapped up the evening with some great dinner conversations. The next morning, I gave the first of three FreeBSD talks presented this year. *FreeBSD at Work: Building Network and Storage Infrastructure with pfSense and FreeNAS* was a resounding success. I had a lot of fun presenting for the first time and the community made it a great experience. Shortly after, came Michael Dexter's talk, *FreeBSD is Everywhere*, which was extremely well received and covered some great points on the importance of the project. In the early afternoon, Allan Jude gave a talk on *OpenZFS: The Best Filesystem for Every OS*. His talk covered the wonders of OpenZFS and why it truly is an excellent cross-platform filesystem. Sadly, the venue for this talk filled up extremely fast and I was unable to attend in person. A video will hopefully be posted soon.

Attending LinuxFest Nortwest as a presenter was a tremendous experience. The community-driven component of the conference was both humbling and inspiring for me as someone who came straight from the Microsoft world to FreeBSD. Like many others, I am glad that events like this exist. I extend my thanks to the FreeBSD Foundation for their support of my attendance, FreeBSD cofounder Rodney Grimes, and my friend and mentor Michael Dexter. ●

Coner Beh is a student in Washington state. Conor has an interest in FreeBSD system administration and storage and virtualization infrastructure.