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Welcome to the September/October issue of the *FreeBSD Journal*. These past few months have seen a flurry of activity, including three conferences and the final stages of the 12.1 release process. Developers and users met in northern Virginia near Washington, DC, for vBSDCon 2019 in early September, followed by EuroBSDCon 2019 in Lillehammer two weeks later. Developers met again in Santa Clara, California, for a developer and vendor summit in mid-October. As Brad Alexander relates, conferences are an excellent place for FreeBSD community members to connect with each other. Bugs previously open for months can be resolved within a few hours at a conference due to the increased productivity of face-to-face time. *FreeBSD Journal* authors and editorial board members attend many of these conferences, and we would be happy to meet you in person. You can find lists of upcoming events on the FreeBSD events page at <https://www.freebsd.org/events/events.html> as well as the FreeBSD Foundation events page at <https://www.freebsd.foundation.org/news-and-events/upcoming-events/>.

One of the things I most like about FreeBSD is the community of users and developers. It is true that FreeBSD produces source code, documentation, packages, and releases. However, those products are generated and used by individuals. We spend time not only working together, but also building friendships as we chat on IRC or Slack, hack on code at conferences, or enjoy a nice dinner or museum visit during a conference. I have several close friends in FreeBSD's community, and as a community we share life together. This includes celebrating new faces in the community, new jobs and better jobs, and new offspring. Sharing life also entails supporting each other in hard times and mourning as we celebrate the lives of friends who have passed. This October, developer Kurt Lidl (lidl@) passed after a battle with cancer. We are grateful for all of Kurt's contributions to BSD (<https://www.freebsd.foundation.org/blog/in-memorial-of-kurt-lidl/>). Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

We always love to hear from our readers. If you have feedback on any of our articles or suggestions for topics for a future article, please email us at:

info@freebsdjournal.com

John Baldwin

Chair of the *FreeBSD Journal* Editorial Board