Foundation REPORT

BY DEB GOODKIN

Now that 2020 is upon us, I wanted to take a minute to share with *Journal* readers what an amazing year 2019 was for supporting the FreeBSD Project and community! Why do I say that? Because as I reflect over the last year, I realize how many events we've attended all over the world and how many lives we've touched in so many ways. From advocating for FreeBSD to implementing FreeBSD features, my team has been there to help make FreeBSD the best open-source project and operating system out there.

In 2019, we focused on supporting a few key areas where the Project needed the most help. The first area was software development. Whether it was contracting FreeBSD developers to work on projects like WiFi support or providing internal staff to quickly implement hardware work-arounds, we've stepped in to help keep FreeBSD innovative, secure, and reliable. Software development includes supporting the tools and infrastructure that make the development process go smoothly, and we're on it with team members heading up the continuous integration efforts, and we're actively involved in the clusteradmin and security teams. In fact, last year we committed over 1,200 code changes; reviewed and provided feedback on hundreds of other developer changes, and improved the continuous integration test pass rate by almost 100%! Read more about our Software Development Projects and CI and Testing Advancements.

Our advocacy efforts focused on recruiting new users and contributors to the Project. We attended and participated in 38 conferences and events in 21 countries. From giving FreeBSD presentations and workshops to staffing tables, we were able to have 1:1 conversations with thousands of attendees. You can see a full recap of our advocacy efforts here.

Our travels also provided opportunities to talk directly with FreeBSD commercial and individual users, contributors, and future FreeBSD user/contributors. We've seen an increase in use and interest in FreeBSD from all of these organizations and individuals. These meetings give us a chance to learn more about what organizations need and what they and other individuals are working on. The information helps inform the work we should fund.

Last year also marked a significant change for the *FreeBSD Journal*. The Foundation chose to make it a free publication. As you can see from above, a big part of the FreeBSD Foundation's mission is to raise awareness of FreeBSD throughout the world. The *FreeBSD Journal* is an excellent venue for keeping those interested in FreeBSD up-to-date. The articles are timely and informative. Therefore, the Foundation decided that the benefit of making it freely accessible to everyone outweighs the cost of producing it.

In 2019, your donations helped us continue our efforts to support critical areas of FreeBSD such as:

- Operating System Improvements: providing staff to immediately respond to urgent problems and implement new features and functionality allowing for the innovation and stability you've come to rely on.
- Improving and increasing test coverage, continuous integration, and automated testing with a full-time software engineer to ensure you receive the highest-quality, secure, and reliable operating system.
- Security: providing engineering resources to bolster the capacity and responsiveness of the security team, giving you peace of mind when security issues arise.

> **"We've stepped in to help keep FreeBSD innovative, secure, and reliable."**

- Growing the number of FreeBSD contributors and users from our global FreeBSD outreach and advocacy efforts, including expansion into regions such as China, India, Africa, and Singapore.
- Offering FreeBSD workshops and presentations at more conferences, meetups, and universities around the world.
- Providing opportunities such as developer and vendor summits and company visits to help facilitate collaboration between commercial users and FreeBSD developers, as well as helping to get changes pushed into the FreeBSD source tree and creating a bigger and healthier ecosystem.
- Providing the professionally published *FreeBSD Journal* for anyone and everyone wanting to stay informed about the latest FreeBSD developments.

We've accomplished a lot this year, but we are still only a small 501(c)(3) organization focused on supporting FreeBSD and not a trade organization like many other open-source foundations.

For us to continue and increase our efforts for FreeBSD we depend 100% on your donations. We need your help to continue and increase the work we are doing. Your support directly impacts the Project.

If you love FreeBSD like we do, please help us spread the word and, if you haven't already done so, please make a donation today. Together we can accomplish even more for FreeBSD.

DEB GOODKIN is the Executive Director of the FreeBSD Foundation. She's thrilled to be in her 15th year at the Foundation and is proud of her hardworking and dedicated team. She spent over 20 years in the data storage industry in engineering development, technical sales, and technical marketing. When not working, you'll find her on her road or mountain bike, running, hiking with her dogs, skiing the slopes of Colorado, or reading a good book.