

SCALE 18x Conference Recap

BY DEB GOODKIN

On March 4, members of the Foundation team and FreeBSD Community headed to Pasadena, California for a packed agenda of FreeBSD activities at [SCALE 18x](#). We began the event by teaching an all-day [Getting Started with FreeBSD](#) workshop led by FreeBSD contributor Roller Angel, with FreeBSD Security Officer Gordon Tetlow, FreeBSD Foundation Founder and President Justin Gibbs, and myself. Despite current events, we had an excellent turnout and if you're looking for something to occupy your time right now, I've [included the notes](#) so you can do this at home.

That evening we ran a BoF called Why FreeBSD is For Me. We started at 8 p.m. and continued until the cleaning crew kicked us out. Over 15 people attended to learn more about our favorite open source operating system. To encourage attendee interaction, we formed a circle around all the tables and just let people jump in with their questions. We discussed some very thoughtful questions, such as What are our challenges? What SoCs work best with FreeBSD? Will the Raspberry 4 be supported? and many more.

We also had a FreeBSD table in the Expo Hall. Even with lower attendance, we enjoyed a lot of people stopping by our table. It didn't hurt that we had a big bottle of hand sanitizer that we shared with anyone who asked. Many students stopped by to tell us how much they enjoyed the workshop. Some wanted to get into tech. I met a math teacher who was interested in teaching some middle-school-level, hands-on workshops, so I'm excited to work with him and get him to one of the BSD conferences. I also spoke with a few people who were curious about how to contribute to the Project and quite a few who wanted to try out FreeBSD on their systems.

When I gave my talk [FreeBSD, The Other Unix-Like Operating System and Why You Should Get Involved](#) we unfortunately experienced a little technical difficulty with the projector not displaying my slides. Then, after what seemed like hours, I found a cable with a button on the podium and pushed it which magically made everything work!

In the end, SCALE was, yet again, another successful advocacy effort to encourage more people to use and contribute to FreeBSD.

As will unfortunately be the case for most of us in this industry now, SCALE was the last in-person event we will be able to attend for a while. Don't worry though, we're already working on how to make more online tutorials and how-to guides available so it will be easy for more folks to try out FreeBSD. In the meantime, please check out the how-to guides we already have!



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.