

# FreeBSD Foundation Year-end Update

BY DEB GOODKIN

**T**he Foundation has faced some challenging years during my tenure, but I'd say 2020 is hands down the winner. Running a non-profit is challenging in itself. However, I can easily say, running a donation-driven, non-profit whose sole purpose is to support a free and open-source computer operating system, during a pandemic, is extremely difficult! That being said, I could not be prouder of what we've accomplished this past year to help make FreeBSD the secure, reliable, and high-performance operating system you rely on.

Although it's been a rough year setting everyone up to work from home (while remaining productive), dealing with childcare issues, and worrying about how Covid-19 might affect

us, our family, and friends, we were still able to accomplish more than we ever have in the past!

For over 20 years, we've been here to support the FreeBSD community and Project around the globe. With the pandemic preventing in-person events this year, we recognized the growing need for us to step in and help connect the community. We know that FreeBSD contributors thrive on meeting face-to-face and that these opportunities are what drive so much work on the Project. With that in mind, we set out to determine what we could do to better help connect the community.

We pulled together as a team to provide more online/virtual opportunities for the community and beyond and to encourage more people to engage with and join our community. This included:

- Producing the highly successful FreeBSD Fridays series, which provides introductory FreeBSD talks and workshops on various areas of the operating system.
- Continuing to bring FreeBSD to new conferences and other venues such as podcasts and webinars.
- Creating more educational content, including new and updated how-to guides, case studies to show how companies are using FreeBSD, and blog posts highlighting work going on in the Project.
- Organizing and running the first ever virtual Vendor Summit that allowed more developers and commercial users from around the world to engage with each other.

Meanwhile, we funded a record-breaking number of software projects. These included LLDB backend improvement and target server, vulnerability mitigations and proactive security, Linuxu-

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lator application compatibility improvements, WiFi and graphics infrastructure improvements, 5x if\_bridge performance increase, Git migration support, and pkgbase development.

But that's not all! Our internal staff worked on code reviews, bug triage, 3rd-party CI integration, arm64 support, improvements and enhancements to many subsystems including the x86 pmap layer, rtd and kernel ELF loader, threading library, RISC-V, Capsicum, build system, tool chain and FreeBSD-update among others, security issues, vulnerability mitigations, Syzkaller kernel code coverage, network stack stability, new kernel interfaces, machine-dependent optimizations, docs and manpages, DTrace bug fixes, Valgrind port, and much more!

In 2021, we will continue to support software development work and online/virtual opportunities. In fact, if we meet our fundraising goal, we will be increasing our FreeBSD support by growing our software developer team to make sure FreeBSD stays not only relevant over the next few decades, but also serves as a leader in secure and trusted operating systems.

We know this is a difficult time for everyone. If you are able, please consider [supporting our efforts by giving a financial contribution](#). Your donation makes a direct impact on the FreeBSD Project. Thank you to all of you who have already made a financial contribution this year. We are grateful for your support.

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**DEB GOODKIN** is the Executive Director of the FreeBSD Foundation. She's thrilled to be in her 16th 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.

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