Canonical, Ubuntu, FOSS and The Community

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Introductions

• About me...
  – Been involved with Linux/FOSS since mid '90s
  – gnokii project, kernel drivers, PowerPC
  – Joined Canonical in March 2009 by way of IBM LTC and Linuxcare
    • Manage hardware enablement/kernel team spread across Taiwan, China, UK and USA

• About you...
  – Hardware Engineers ? Software Engineers ?
  – Debian Users ? Ubuntu ? Other Linux ?
  – Managers ? Students ?
Canonical

- Founded in 2004
- The commercial sponsor of the Ubuntu project
- 280+ Employees
- Highly distributed workforce
  - 25+ Countries
  - Offices in Taipei, London, Montreal & Lexington
  - Over 60% employees work from home offices...
Picture from my Home Office... :)
Ubuntu - Overview

• Based on Debian GNU/Linux
• First release April 2004
  – “Jaunty Jackalope” (April 2009) marked 10th release
  – “Karmic Koala” release in October 2009
• Time based releases (April/October)
  – 18 month support for regular releases
  – 3/5 year support for “LTS” releases
    • LTS != server specific
      – But good for servers!
    • LTS release every ~2 years
Ubuntu - Overview

- Variant/Derivative releases include
  - Server Edition
  - Netbook Remix
  - Kubuntu
  - Edubuntu
  - Xubuntu

- Architectures supported include x86, x86-64 & ARM
  - Ports to PowerPC/PS3 and SPARC
Ubuntu – Governance 1/3

- Ubuntu Teams
  - Focus on particular aspects of Ubuntu including
    - Marketing
    - Documentation
    - Laptops
    - Servers

- Local Community Teams (LoCo Teams)
  - Geographically based
    - http://www.ubuntu-tw.org
  - Lug tie-ins
Ubuntu - Governance 2/3

- Technical Board
  - Responsible for technical direction Ubuntu takes
  - Makes final decisions over any matter which requires technical supervision in Ubuntu.
    - package selection, packaging policy, installation system and process, toolchain, kernel, X server, library versions and dependencies etc. etc.
  - Chaired by Matt Zimmerman
Ubuntu – Governance 3/3

- Ubuntu Community Council
  - Supervises the social structures and community processes of Ubuntu
  - Approves the creation of a new Team or Project, and appointment of team leaders
  - Responsible for the Code of Conduct and tasked with ensuring that maintainers and other community members follow its guidelines
  - Custodian of the Code of Conduct and is responsible for dispute resolution, should it be required
Helping to Grow Linux & FOSS

- Canonical (obviously!) sees growing Linux & FOSS as important
- Contribute directly
  - Developing code
- Facilitating Internationalisation/Translation
- Tools
  - Launchpad - bugs
  - Bazaar - code
- Reach
  - Ubuntu focus on desktop/user experience
  - Ship-it program
  - Can buy Ubuntu pre-installed
Linux Kernel Development @ Canonical

- Distributed kernel team
  - Provides kernel for base Distribution
  - Works with OEM/ODM for hardware enablement
    • New drivers etc.
- Ubuntu kernels re-based off mainline for each release
  - Seek to stay close to Debian & other distros
- Bug fixes for current and LTS releases
- Ensuring new code goes upstream
  - Both Canonical & externally developed
Interacting with The Community - Why

• With very few exceptions, Linux community want to help companies get involved
• Managers - encourage engineers to participate in community
  - Seek mentors/help if unsure
    • Free – mailing lists etc.
    • Commercial – vendors such as Canonical
• Many benefits in long run
  - Code reviewed
  - Help with ongoing maintenance etc. etc.
  - Doing the Right Thing
Interacting with The Community - How

- Use the same tools
  - Source code management
  - Test/debug
- Fit into culture/rules
  - Release/discuss early, release often
  - Patch submission
  - Coding styles
- Stay involved
  - Build reputation - based on person more than company
- Contribute hardware
Rallying Around

- Linux and FOSS is the way forward
- All of us present have the ability to influence where the industry goes
- Shrinking margins of HW bring greater focus to SW costs – FOSS is an ideal solution
- Growing number of companies that can help in the transition
  - Canonical among them :)
Close

• Questions?

• Two invitations
  – Presentation on Software Development in Virtual Environments
    • By Martin Pool, tomorrow at Coscup
  – Inaugural Ubuntu Hardware Summit
    • September 15
    • Grand Victoria Hotel, Taipei
    • http://www.ubuntu.com/hardware-summit

• Thankyou!