

Canonical, Ubuntu, FOSS and The Community

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Coscup Taipei, August 2009

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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!