A New Flame:

Experiences Starting an Open Source Operating System

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What is an illumos?

- An Open Source operating system

- Based on Solaris (POSIX/UNIX)

- By the community

- For the community

- Core of several commercial projects

illumos

Roots

- BSD begat SunOS

- SunOS & SVR4 begat Solaris

- Solaris begat OpenSolaris

- OpenSolaris begat illumos (Aug 3, 2010)

Why illumos?

Why illumos?

Why illumos?

Why illumos?

- FOSS Continuity for OpenSolaris

- Ability to fork(2)

- Home for Collaboration

Attitude Counts

- Tap turns off
  - bad? no!
  - freedom to innovate!
- Optimism and energy critical
- Demonstrate pace
- Avoid the FUD

Code First!

Make sure you have something to show when you announce!

VAPORWARE

This tiny invisible disc will cure what ails you.

Events

- Community events drive momentum

- User group meetings

- SCALE 9X, SCALE 10X!

- Open Storage Summit

- Hackathons

- FOSDEM, etc.

Think Global!

- Not just MPK17
- Not just SFBAY
- Euro. Russia. India.
- Local user groups
- Local events
- Localized software and documentation
- Next: Mars?

GSoC

- Students are the future

- Great way to appeal outside your core community

- Identification of good projects key

- Good mentors are critical

Governance

- Less is more
- Separate admin & tech
- Ends to a mean

Press Relations

- Press releases = buzz

- Early "announce"

- Trade press

- Slashdot

Commercialization

- Critical to success

- Don't yield control

- OS development

- Marketing

Partnerships

- ISV relationships = commercial sponsors

- IHV relationships = broad H/W support

- FOSS relationships = community collaboration

Hardware Partners

- IHV adoption critical

- Biggest? intel! others too!

- How to get them involved?

- Through vendors!

- Show me the $$

Hardware Partners
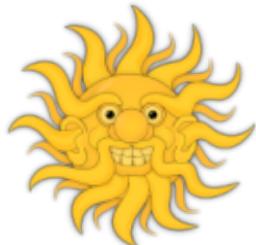
OS Vendors/Derivatives
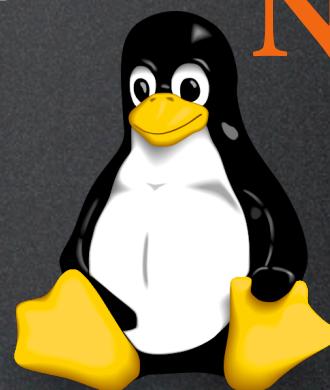
- Diversity drives strength

- Commercial distros make for great contributors

- Free alternatives for wide adoption

- Some abortive or problematic efforts

OS Vendors/Derivatives

FOSS Interactions

- Code sharing

- Cross fertilization

- Lots of good ideas

- FreeBSD/NetBSD

ZFS Working Group

- Challenge: cabal

- Challenge: privacy

- Challenge: S:N ratio

- Result: awesome innovations

- Result: awesome collaboration
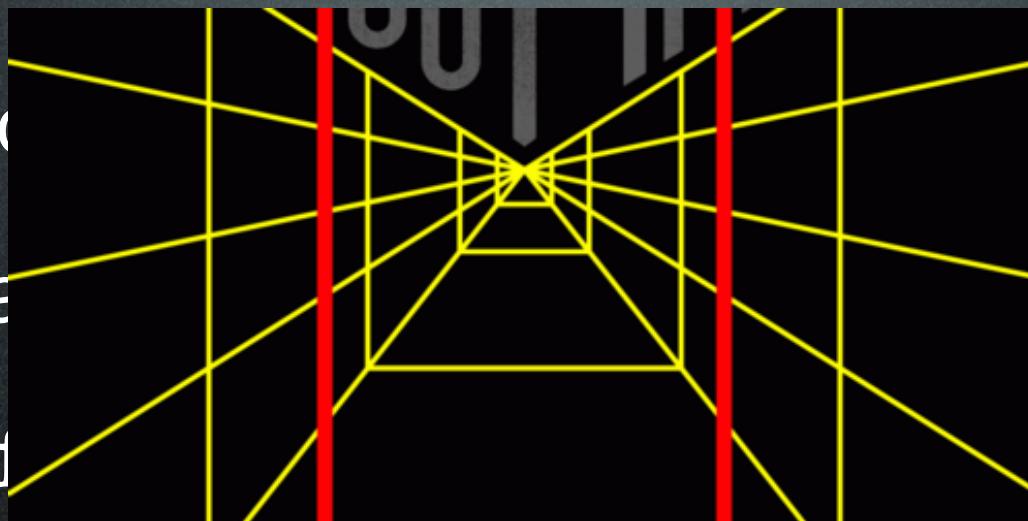
Cool Innovations

- KVM on illumos

- ZFS enhancements

- DTrace enhancements

- Protocol enhancements

Stay on Target!

- Kno
- Qua
- Diff
- It's okay to disagree

Licensing : Religion

Distributed ownership

GPL = anathema to
commercialization

Copyright assignment
problematic

Meritocracy

- 10% do 90%

- Identify the 10%

- Grow the 10%

- Not just code

- But sometimes just the code

Toxic People

- Slime exists, accept it

- Don't feed the troll

- Delegate enforcement

- Sometimes best to just ignore

Lawyers

- SFLC

- What's up with NetApp?

- Like any tool, can be useful

- But can also hurt you if misused

Foundation

Delegation

- Make yourself redundant

- BDFL should be "symbolic"

- Good devs usually rotten admins

- And vice versa

- Extends to other areas

Futures

- More innovations

- Replace remaining closed bits

- Compiler liberation!

- Foundation

- World domination!