

# BSD: the other free operating system

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# BSD? What's that?

Remember these?

- *vi*
- *cs**h*
- *sendmail*
- *named* (BIND)
- *OpenSSH*
- The Internet



# A little history

- UNIX was a research project until 1982.
- Universities had access to the UNIX source code.
- The Computer Sciences Research Group (CSRG) at the University of California, Berkeley (UCB) wrote much new code.
- The code was released on tapes called “Berkeley Software Distribution”, or BSD.



# BSD in the 80s

- UNIX was ported to the VAX, which required virtual memory support. The first widely distributed UNIX for the VAX was 3BSD.
- The American Defense Advanced Research Projects Administration (DARPA) wanted to update their network, ARPANET.
- The new protocols were called “Internet Protocols”.
- DARPA gave the contract to BBN and UCB.
- The first operating system to support the Internet Protocols was 4.1c BSD.



# But is it free software?

- UNIX was not free software.
- All work done at UCB was available without licensing conditions.
- The tapes contained both UNIX and UCB code, so they could only go to UNIX license holders.
- In the late 80's, the CSRG worked to extricate the Berkeley code from the UNIX code.
- The results were released as the “Berkeley Networking Tapes”, Net/1 and Net/2.
- They were not complete operating systems.



# A free UNIX operating system

- In the early 90s, Bill Jolitz ported 4.3BSD to the Intel 386 architecture.
- Some old CSRG members formed a company called Berkeley Software Design, Inc. (BSDI).
- BSDI marketed a commercial operating system called BSD/386, later BSD/OS.
- Bill Jolitz wanted a free version, and created 386BSD.
- Later, other people used this basis to create NetBSD (April 1993), FreeBSD (June 1993) and OpenBSD (October 1995).



# But is it UNIX?

- UNIX is a trade mark of AT&T.
- AT&T is a modem test command.



# But is it UNIX?

- UNIX is a trade mark of The Open Group.
- The Open Group awards licenses after proving specific functionality and purchasing power.
- The BSDs have not purchased a UNIX name.
- Microsoft has purchased a UNIX name for “Windows NT”.
- The Eighth edition of AT&T Research UNIX was based on 4.1cBSD.
- To be sure, look at the code.





# But is it UNIX?

Seventh Edition Research UNIX *sys/dev/rl.c* (1978):

```
rlstrategy(bp)
register struct buf *bp;
{
    register struct rl *rlp;
    int drive, dsize;

    drive = minor(bp->b_dev);
    rlp = &rl[drive];
    dsize = 0;

    ...

    sp15();
    if(rltab.b_actf == NULL)
        rltab.b_actf = bp;
    else
        rltab.b_actl->av_forw = bp;
    rltab.b_actl = bp;
    if(rltab.b_active == NULL)
        rlstart();
    sp10();
}
```



# But is it UNIX?

FreeBSD *sys/i386/isa/wd.c*:

```
void
wdstrategy(register struct buf *bp)
{
    struct disk *du;
    int     lunit = dkunit(bp->b_dev);
    int     s;

    /* valid unit, controller, and request? */
    if (lunit >= NWD || bp->b_blkno < 0 || (du = wddrives[lunit]) == NULL
        || bp->b_bcount % DEV_BSIZE != 0) {

        bp->b_error = EINVAL;
        bp->b_flags |= B_ERROR;
        goto done;
    }
    s = splbio();
    bufqdisksort(&drive_queue[lunit], bp);

    if (wdutab[lunit].b_active == 0)
        wdustart(du);    /* start drive */

    ...

    splx(s);
    return;
}
```



# But is it UNIX?

## Linux *drivers/ide/ide-disk.c*:

```
static ide_startstop_t do_rw_disk (ide_drive_t *drive, struct request *rq, unsigned l
{
    if (IDE_CONTROL_REG)
        OUT_BYTE(drive->ctl, IDE_CONTROL_REG);
    OUT_BYTE(0x00, IDE_FEATURE_REG);
    ...
    if (rq->cmd == WRITE) {
        ide_startstop_t startstop;
        OUT_BYTE(drive->mult_count ? WIN_MULTWRITE : WIN_WRITE, IDE_COMMAND_R
        if (ide_wait_stat(&startstop, drive, DATA_READY, drive->bad_wstat, WA
            printk(KERN_ERR "%s: no DRQ after issuing %s\n", drive->name,
                   drive->mult_count ? "MULTWRITE" : "WRITE");
            return startstop;
        }
        if (!drive->unmask)
            __cli();          /* local CPU only */
    }
    ...
}
```



# But is it UNIX?

## Seventh Edition *sys/h/buf.h*:

```
struct buf
{
    int      b_flags;           /* see defines below */
    struct  buf *b_forw;       /* headed by d_tab of conf.c */
    struct  buf *b_back;       /* " */
    struct  buf *av_forw;      /* position on free list, */
    struct  buf *av_back;      /* if not BUSY*/
    dev_t   b_dev;            /* major+minor device name */
    unsigned b_bcount;        /* transfer count */
    union {
        caddr_t b_addr;       /* low order core address */
        int *b_words;         /* words for clearing */
        struct filsys *b_filsys; /* superblocks */
        struct dinode *b_dino; /* ilist */
        daddr_t *b_daddr;     /* indirect block */
    } b_un;
    daddr_t b_blkno;          /* block # on device */
    char    b_xmem;           /* high order core address */
    char    b_error;          /* returned after I/O */
    unsigned int b_resid;     /* words not transferred after error */
};
```

# But is it UNIX?

## FreeBSD `sys/sys/buf.h`:

```
struct buf {
    LIST_ENTRY(buf) b_hash;           /* Hash chain. */
    LIST_ENTRY(buf) b_vnbufs;        /* Buffer's associated vnode. */
    TAILQ_ENTRY(buf) b_freelist;     /* Free list position if not active. */
    TAILQ_ENTRY(buf) b_act;          /* Device driver queue when active. *new* */
    struct proc *b_proc;             /* Associated proc; NULL if kernel. */
    long    b_flags;                 /* B_* flags. */
    unsigned short b_qindex;         /* buffer queue index */
    unsigned char b_usecount;        /* buffer use count */
    int    b_error;                  /* Errno value. */
    long    b_bufsize;               /* Allocated buffer size. */
    long    b_bcount;                /* Valid bytes in buffer. */
    long    b_resid;                 /* Remaining I/O. */
    dev_t   b_dev;                   /* Device associated with buffer. */
    struct {
        caddr_t b_addr;              /* Memory, superblocks, indirect etc. */
    } b_un;
    caddr_t b_kvabase;               /* base kva for buffer */
    int    b_kvabase;                /* size of kva for buffer */
    void    *b_saveaddr;             /* Original b_addr for physio. */
    daddr_t b_lblkno;                /* Logical block number. */
    daddr_t b_blkno;                 /* Underlying physical block number. */
};
```

# But is it UNIX?

Linux *include/linux/fs.h*:

```
struct buffer_head {
    /* First cache line: */
    struct buffer_head *b_next;          /* Hash queue list */
    unsigned long b_blocknr;            /* block number */
    unsigned short b_size;              /* block size */
    unsigned short b_list;              /* List that this buffer appears */
    kdev_t b_dev;                       /* device (B_FREE = free) */

    atomic_t b_count;                   /* users using this block */
    kdev_t b_rdev;                       /* Real device */
    unsigned long b_state;               /* buffer state bitmap (see above) */
    unsigned long b_flushtime;           /* Time when (dirty) buffer should be written

    struct buffer_head *b_next_free;    /* lru/free list linkage */
    struct buffer_head *b_prev_free;    /* doubly linked list of buffers */
    struct buffer_head *b_this_page;    /* circular list of buffers in one page */
    struct buffer_head *b_reqnext;     /* request queue */

    struct buffer_head **b_pprev;       /* doubly linked list of hash-queue */
    char * b_data;                       /* pointer to data block */
    struct page *b_page;                 /* the page this bh is mapped to */
    void (*b_end_io)(struct buffer_head *bh, int uptodate); /* I/O completion */
    void *b_private;                     /* reserved for b_end_io */

    ...
};
```

# Comparing UNIX and BSD

```
7th:      int      b_flags;          /* see defines below */
FBSD:     long     b_flags;          /* B_* flags. */

7th:      dev_t    b_dev;           /* major+minor device name */
FBSD:     dev_t    b_dev;           /* Device associated with buffer. */

7th:      unsigned b_bcount;        /* transfer count */
FBSD:     long     b_bcount;        /* Valid bytes in buffer. */

7th:      union {
7th:          caddr_t b_addr;        /* low order core address */
7th:          int *b_words;          /* words for clearing */
7th:          struct filsys *b_filsys; /* superblocks */
7th:          struct dinode *b_dino;  /* ilist */
7th:          daddr_t *b_daddr;      /* indirect block */
7th:      } b_un;
FBSD:     struct {
FBSD:         caddr_t b_addr;        /* Memory, superblocks, indirect etc. */
FBSD:     } b_un;

7th:      daddr_t b_blkno;          /* block # on device */
FBSD:     daddr_t b_blkno;          /* Underlying physical block number. */

7th:      char     b_error;          /* returned after I/O */
FBSD:     int      b_error;          /* Errno value. */

7th:      unsigned int b_resid;      /* words not transferred after error */
FBSD:     long     b_resid;          /* Remaining I/O. */
```

# Why such a secret?

- BSD developers are not commercially oriented.
- No companies to market BSD.
- BSD is “for experts”, not so easy to use.
- BSD lawsuit scared people off.





# The BSD wars

- In 1992, UNIX Systems Laboratories sued BSDI, alleging copyright infringement.
- The case was settled out of court in 1994.
- BSD may no longer be called UNIX.
- People are still afraid of litigation.



# The BSD license

- Written late, after separation from UNIX.
- The fewest restrictions of any free software license.
- A bone of contention in the “UNIX wars”.
- A good choice for embedded systems.



# The BSD license

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3. Neither the name of the University nor the names of its contributors may be used to endorse or promote products derived from this software without specific prior written permission.

# The BSD license

The old version of the license contained an additional clause, to which rms objected:

3. All advertising materials mentioning features or use of this software must display the following acknowledgement:  
This product includes software developed by the University of California, Berkeley and its contributors.

# Differences between BSDL and GPL

The BSD license is:

- Shorter.
- Not so restrictive.
- “Compatible” with GPL.
- Less of a hassle for software developers.
- Less suitable for releasing proprietary code.



# What about free UNIX?

- UNIX was not free software.
- Attempts were made to make old versions of UNIX available under less restrictive licenses.
- SCO created an “ancient UNIX” license for \$100 US.
- Attempts were made to make old versions of UNIX available under less restrictive licenses.
- Finally, in January 2002, UNIX was made available under a BSD license.



# UNIX is free

Date: Wed, 23 Jan 2002 15:03:37 -0800  
From: Dion Johnson <dionj@caldera.com>  
To: wht@minnie.tuhs.org  
Cc: dmr@bell-labs.com, ken@plan9.bell-labs.com, grog@lemis.com,  
John Terpstra <jht@caldera.com>, drew@caldera.com, maddog@li.org,  
evan@starnix.com, phatch@caldera.com, ransom@caldera.com  
Subject: Liberal license for ancient UNIX sources

Dear Warren, and friends,

I'm happy to let you know that Caldera International has placed the ancient UNIX releases (V1-7 and 32V) under a "BSD-style" license. I've attached a PDF of the license letter hereto. Feel free to propogate it as you see fit.

I apologize that this has taken so long. We do not have a well regulated archive of these ancient releases, so we must depend upon you UNIX enthusiasts, historians, and original authors to help the community of interested parties figure out exactly what is available, where, and how.

...  
Anyway, here it is. Feel free to write to us if you want to understand more about how/why Caldera International has released this code, or you have any other comments that we should hear.

Sincerely,

Dion L. Johnson II - dionj@caldera.com  
Product Manager and one of many open source enthusiasts in Caldera Intl.

# What's that devil?

- It's not a devil, it's a daemon.
- A daemon is a process which runs forever doing work for others.
- Examples are web servers and mail servers.
- Daemons create copies of themselves by forking.
- Frequently cause of confusion.





# Integration

- No “distributions”, just three separate projects.
- Each project has a single code base.
- Userland and kernel matched to each other.
- Clear distinction between base system and add-ons.
- Man pages bundled with products.



# Systems administration

- Motto: “Use standard tools”.
- Nothing like SMIT, SAM, *linuxconf* or *YaST*.
- System-specific startup configuration defined in a single file, */etc/rc.conf*.
- Default startup configuration defined in a single file, */etc/default/rc.conf*.
- Other */etc/rc\** files perform specific functions, are not expected to change.



# System startup: init

- *init* has not adopted the System V extensions which Linux also uses.
- No “run levels”.
- Two states: single user mode, multi user mode.
- Recently, NetBSD introduced a new configuration scheme which has also been ported to FreeBSD.



# The UNIX File System

- Derived from the old UNIX file system round about 1982.
- Originally called “Fast File System” (ffs).
- Adopted in UNIX System V.4 as “UNIX File System” (ufs).
- Uses 64 bit byte pointers, 32 bit block pointers.
- Limited to 1 TB file system and file size.
- UFS 2 currently under development, supports 64 bit block pointers.



# The UNIX File System

- File partitioning BSD-specific, does not need a PC partition table.
- In conjunction with PC partition table, requires only one partition.
- No journalling; uses “soft updates” and checkpointing instead for better performance than journalling.
- Has a reputation for stability: c’t magazine tried 170 hot shutdowns but didn’t break it.



# Userland tools

- Many tools derived from the original BSD code, for example *csch*.
- No AT&T tools. *vi* was based on *ex*, so it couldn't be used.
- Most of the missing tools were replaced with GNU tools.



# The Ports Collection

- Collection of third-party software.
- Does *not* include base system functionality.
- Some ports duplicate base system functionality.
- Typically built from source (“port”).
- May be supplied as a binary “package”.
- NetBSD has different terminology: ports are called “packages”, and packages are called “pre-compiled packages”.



# The Ports Collection

Each directory contains subdirectories for individual ports:

```
$ ls java
```

```
CVS  
Makefile  
bluej  
bouncycastle  
bsh  
bugseeker  
bugseeker-demo  
collections  
cos  
cryptix-jce  
forte  
gnu-regexp  
guavac  
infobus  
jad  
jaf  
jakarta-oro  
jakarta-regexp  
janosvm  
java-cup  
javamail  
javavmwrapper  
javel  
jce-aba  
jdbcpool  
jde  
jde-emacs20  
jdk  
jdk-tutorial  
jdk11-doc  
jdk12-beta  
jdk12-doc  
jdk13  
jdk13-doc  
jdk14-doc  
jdom  
jfc  
jikes  
jlex  
jlint  
jre  
jsdk  
junit  
kaffe  
linux-ibm-jdk13  
linux-jdk  
linux-jdk13  
linux-jdk14  
mmake  
netrexx  
openjit  
perltools  
pkg  
shujit  
tya  
xalan-j
```





# Port contents

- A *port* is the framework from which a package is created.
- Functionally, a port is equivalent to an SRPM without the source tarball.
- Writing a port is equivalent to writing an RPM spec file.
- A port skeleton consists of a small directory tree with several files.
- No special tools (*rpm*, *apt*) needed to build ports.
- All done with standard UNIX tools: *make*, *patch*, etc.
- Most use BSD *make*, which is very different from GNU *make*.



# The Ports Collection

```
# cd /usr/ports/x11/xlogout/  
# ls -RC  
CVS                distinfo          pkg-comment      pkg-plist  
Makefile          files            pkg-descr  
  
./CVS:  
Entries          Repository       Root  
  
./files:  
CVS              patch-aa  
  
./files/CVS:  
Entries          Repository       Root
```



# Port Makefile

- Most of Makefile included from */usr/ports/mk/bsd.port.mk*.
- Only a few keywords required in port *Makefile*.
- Targets available for each step of porting.
- Target *package* builds a package.



# Port Makefile

```
# New ports collection makefile for:  xlogout
# Date created:                      1998-11-06
# Whom:                              Christian Weisgerber <naddy@mips.rhein-neckar.de>
#
# $FreeBSD: ports/x11/xlogout/Makefile,v 1.6 2001/11/03 22:22:34 naddy Exp $
#
PORTNAME=      xlogout
PORTVERSION=   1.1
CATEGORIES=    x11
MASTER_SITES= ftp://ftp.tu-darmstadt.de/pub/X11/other/
EXTRACT_SUFX=  .tar.Z

MAINTAINER=    naddy@FreeBSD.org

WRKSRC=        ${WRKDIR}/xlogout
USE_IMAKE=     yes
MAN1=          xlogout.1

.include <bsd.port.mk>
```



# Building ports

Nothing to it:

```
# cd /usr/ports/x11/xlogout  
# make install
```



# Building ports

Building a port performs the following:

- Checks whether the distribution source tarball is available locally. If not, it fetches it from the net.
- Verifies the checksums.
- Extract the source tree into a working directory.
- Applies any distribution patches.



# Building ports

- Applies any port patches that may be required to adapt the target software to BSD or the conventions of the Ports Collection.
- Configures the port (e.g. with *configure*).
- Builds (compiles) the program.
- Installs the program.



# Building a port

```
# make install
>> xlogout-1.1.tar.Z doesn't seem to exist on this system.
>> Attempting to fetch from ftp://ftp2.de.freebsd.org/pub/FreeBSD/ports/distfiles/.
Receiving xlogout-1.1.tar.Z (3466 bytes): 100%
3466 bytes transferred in 1.9 seconds (1.75 Kbytes/s)
===> Extracting for xlogout-1.1
>> Checksum OK for xlogout-1.1.tar.Z.
===> xlogout-1.1 depends on executable: imake - found
===> xlogout-1.1 depends on shared library: X11.6 - found
===> Patching for xlogout-1.1
===> Applying FreeBSD patches for xlogout-1.1
===> Configuring for xlogout-1.1
imake -DUseInstalled -I/usr/X11R6/lib/X11/config
make Makefiles
make includes
make depend
rm -f .depend
gccmakedep -f- -- -I/usr/X11R6/include -DCSRG_BASED -DFUNCPROTO=15
-DNARROWPROTO -- xlogout.c > .depend
===> Building for xlogout-1.1
cc -Os -pipe -I/usr/X11R6/include -DCSRG_BASED -DFUNCPROTO=15
-DNARROWPROTO -c xlogout.c
xlogout.c: In function 'main':
xlogout.c:52: warning: return type of 'main' is not 'int'
```



# Building a port

```
rm -f xlogout
cc -o xlogout      -L/usr/X11R6/lib xlogout.o -lXaw -lXmu -lXt -lSM -lICE
  -lXext -lX11     -lXp4 -Wl,-rpath,/usr/X11R6/lib
/usr/X11R6/lib/libXaw.so: warning: tmpnam() possibly used unsafely; consider
using mkstemp()
====> Installing for xlogout-1.1
====> xlogout-1.1 depends on shared library: X11.6 - found
/usr/bin/install -c -s xlogout /usr/X11R6/bin/xlogout
/usr/bin/install -c -m 0444 XLogout.ad /usr/X11R6/lib/X11/app-defaults/XLogout
install in . done
rm -f /usr/X11R6/man/man1/xlogout.1*
/usr/bin/install -c -m 0444 xlogout.man /usr/X11R6/man/man1/xlogout.1
gzip -n /usr/X11R6/man/man1/xlogout.1
install.man in . done
====> Generating temporary packing list
====> Registering installation for xlogout-1.1
====> Cleaning for XFree86-3.3.6
====> Cleaning for xlogout-1.1
```

# The team

- The *core team* or *core group* controls the project with a loose rein.
- *Committers* are developers with direct write access to the source tree.
- *Contributors* are developers without direct write access to the source tree.
- Many committers work on more than one BSD project.



# BSD releases

- Continuous development in the CURRENT branch, for developers only.
- Regular releases, called RELEASE.
- Separate bug fixes to releases in the STABLE branch.



# BSD development model

- The BSD projects maintain a single copy of the system sources for all releases.
- Sources maintained by CVS, allowing easy updating and backout of changes.
- Sources include the complete operating system, not just the kernel.
- CVS allows access to any version of any file in a single tree.
- Clear development model: complete project history is available.



# A CVS log: *sys/kern/kern\_exec.c*

```
RCS file: kern_exec.c,v
Working file: kern_exec.c
head: 1.110
branch:
locks: strict
access list:
symbolic names:
  RELENG_4_0_0_RELEASE: 1.107
  RELENG_4: 1.107.0.2
  RELENG_4_BP: 1.107
  RELENG_3_4_0_RELEASE: 1.93.2.3
  RELENG_3_3_0_RELEASE: 1.93.2.3
  RELENG_3_2_PAO: 1.93.2.1.0.2
  RELENG_3_2_PAO_BP: 1.93.2.1
  RELENG_3_2_0_RELEASE: 1.93.2.1
  POST_VFS_BIO_NFS_PATCH: 1.99
  PRE_VFS_BIO_NFS_PATCH: 1.99
  POST_SMP_VMSHARE: 1.99
  PRE_SMP_VMSHARE: 1.99
  POST_NEWBUS: 1.97
  PRE_NEWBUS: 1.97
  RELENG_3_1_0_RELEASE: 1.93
  RELENG_3: 1.93.0.2
  RELENG_3_BP: 1.93
  RELENG_2_2_8_RELEASE: 1.47.2.12
```



# A CVS log (2)

total revisions: 138; selected revisions: 138  
description:

-----  
revision 1.110

date: 2000/04/26 20:58:39; author: **dillon**; state: Exp; lines: +38 -29

Fix #! script exec under linux emulation. If a script is exec'd from a program running under linux emulation, the script binary is checked for in /compat/linux first. Without this patch the wrong script binary (i.e. the FreeBSD binary) will be run instead of the linux binary. For example, #!/bin/sh, thus breaking out of linux compatibility mode.

This solves a number of problems people have had installing linux software on FreeBSD boxes.

-----  
revision 1.109

date: 2000/04/18 15:15:18; author: **phk**; state: Exp; lines: +1 -2

Remove unneeded <sys/buf.h> includes.

Due to some interesting cpp tricks in lockmgr, the LINT kernel shrinks by 924 bytes.

-----  
revision 1.108

date: 2000/04/16 18:53:09; author: **jlemon**; state: Exp; lines: +6 -1

Introduce kqueue() and kevent(), a kernel event notification facility.

# Another CVS log

```
revision 1.152
date: 1997/10/06 09:58:11; author: jkh; state: Exp; lines: +41 -13
Hooboy!
```

Did I ever spam this file good with that last commit. Despite 3 reviewers, we still managed to revoke the eBones fixes, TCL 8.0 support, libvgl and a host of other new things from this file in the process of parallelizing the Makefile. DOH! I think we need more **pointy hats** - this particular incident is worthy of a small children's birthday party's worth of pointy hats. ;-)

I certainly intend to take more care with the processing of aged diffs in the future, even if it does mean reading through 20K's worth of them. I might also be a bit more careful about asking for more up-to-date changes before looking at them. ;)



# Project coordination

- Communication primarily by mail.
- Many special-purpose mailing lists.
- Some developers communicate in real time with *irc*.
- Source update with *CVSup* or *sup*.





# The NetBSD project

- Founded in April 1993.

## Goals:

- Architecturally clean.
- Highly portable.
- Highly interoperable.
- State-of-the-art security.



# NetBSD project coordination

- Core group of 5 members.
- Over 150 committers with direct access to source tree.
- How many users?



# The FreeBSD project

- Founded in June 1993.
- Core team of 9 members, elected by the committers.
- Over 250 committers with direct access to source tree.
- Over 2 million users.
- 4 releases per year.
- 8,000 applications in the “Ports Collection”.



# The OpenBSD project

- Derived from NetBSD in 1995.
- “Benevolent Dictatorship” under leader Theo de Raadt.
- Approximately 115 committers with direct access to the source tree.
- How many users?



# OpenBSD

- Portability.
- Standardization.
- Correctness.
- Proactive security.
- Integrated cryptography.
- Largely developed by non-Americans.
- Has proven to be a testbed for “cryptography inside an operating system”.



# Who uses BSD?

- Yahoo! (FreeBSD)
- Hotmail (FreeBSD)
- IBM (Whistle InterJet, FreeBSD)
- International Space Station (NetBSD)
- (*Censored*) (OpenBSD)
- Telstra Internet (FreeBSD)
- Apple computer (MacOS X)
- Who knows? (other embedded systems)



# Apple

- Apple MacOS X based on BSD.
- Apple's low-level operating system (Darwin) is free software.
- Apple developers have commit access to FreeBSD source tree.
- Changes in Darwin returned to FreeBSD.
- FreeBSD changes (SMP) planned for inclusion in MacOS X.



# Security

- No viruses.
- Include *OpenSSL* and *OpenSSH*.
- IPsec (OpenBSD was the first operating system to include it).
- Each project has a security team.
- Regular security advisories.





# Why so secure?

- UNIX was designed as a multi-user system.
- Different mail paradigms.
- More transparent command structure.
- Careful attention to detail.



# Desktop support

- BSD considered user-unfriendly.
- But it uses *exactly* the same desktop software as Linux.
- Linux applications software runs on BSD unchanged.
- Apple's MacOS X is based on BSD.
- “Desktop” software is seldom as powerful as command-line software.



# Which BSD?

- Difficult to put the projects into a box.
- All three projects produce high performance, portable, secure systems, but the slogans say...
- FreeBSD for performance: “The power to serve”.
- NetBSD for portability: “Of course it runs NetBSD”.
- OpenBSD for security: “Only one remote hole in the default install, in nearly 6 years!”.



# Current releases

- FreeBSD 4.7 was released in October 2002.
- FreeBSD 5.0 will be released in December 2002.
- NetBSD 1.6 was released in September 2002.
- OpenBSD 3.2 was released in November 2002.



# Mailing lists

- `FreeBSD-questions@FreeBSD.org`
- `NetBSD-help@NetBSD.org`
- `misc@OpenBSD.org`
- See web sites for signup instructions.



# Who supports BSD?

- FreeBSD Services support FreeBSD.
- FreeBSD Mall supports FreeBSD.
- Wasabi Systems support NetBSD.
- In Adelaide, Tellurian supports BSD.
- Many individuals.



# Is BSD better than Linux?

- For the end user, there's little difference.
- Changing in either direction takes an effort.
- If you like what you have, stick with it.



# Acknowledgements

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# For more information

- These slides are available at  
<http://www.lemis.com/slides/Installfest-2002.pdf>
- <http://www.FreeBSD.org/>
- <http://www.NetBSD.org/>
- <http://www.OpenBSD.org/>
- <http://www.apple.com/>
- <http://www.bsdi.com/>
- <http://www.wasabi.com/>
- <http://www.FreeBSDmall.com/>

