

Tens Years of **NYC*BUG** in Perspective

NYC*BUG

New York City *BSD User Group
A forum for discussion and a bridge for learning

versioning

- 10 years is actually December/January
- aimed at a broader audience than just people here
- start an UG?
- “organizational” angle

THIS IS A DOT RELEASE

my perspective

- I'm not the only one
- many other significant players
- my role exaggerated
- the “philosophical” one
- difficult talk: 10 years

I posit that

- We're not the best thing since sliced bread
- We're just a user group

But...

- Much significant impact, in NYC and beyond
- The community is better to have us
- Would be better if there were more like us

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What Was Clear

- No to “Hobbyism”
- No to “Professionalism”
- No to “Sales” (Apple 2004 meeting)
- Neither a software project nor technical meritocracy
- Free, open, loose
- Needed LOTS of planning (mailing list stats)
- Viewed ourselves as part of a wider community, whether they liked it or not
- People + Technology = success

For instance...

<http://mail-index.netbsd.org/regional-nyc/2004/01/13/0003.html>

Subject: Re: NYCBUG

To: None <At.Brown@morganstanley.com>

From: Michael Shalayeff <mickey@lucifier.net>

List: regional-nyc

Date: 01/13/2004 12:51:01

Making, drinking tea and reading an opus magnum from Andrew Brown:

> > <http://lists.freebsd.org/pipermail/freebsd-advocacy/2004-January/000873.html>

>

> i wonder if beer is involved...there's no mention of it in that posting.

they are just doing what linux group does... probably same ppl too

cu

And Became Clearer

- Hands-on approach
- The Unix Tradition
- We really didn't know what we were doing, but we wanted to do something
- There are separate BSD projects, but fundamentally more in common than dissimilar, not just license, but we're not naive idiots
- Topical focus: *BSD topics, classic Unix and **some** applications. Sysadmin and Dev.
- Bridge between developers and “end-users”

Context

Men (sic) make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please; they do not make it under circumstances chosen by themselves, but under circumstances directly encountered, given and transmitted from the past

2003/2004

“new” open source accepted in production

BSD Community: occasional civil wars

BSD on charts with OSX, pf

And UGs Suck

- Political infighting, cliquishness
- Treated as pet projects grasped tightly
- Technical solutions to organizational problems
- Shills for businesses
- Open or surreptitious platforms for member (s) promoting own business
- Something for the socially awkward to fill their time with
- Physical versus virtual world
- Gender and cultural diversity are distressing

The ABCs

the

Awkward

Boys

Club

JADG



Golden Equation

focus + people = success

- if either sucks, it won't work
- just because BSD, doesn't make it work
- reflect what people are doing
- “is it fun?” BER

The People

- project developers
- **use it in production, as a platform**
- small office/home user
- interested/like topic/have questions

2003

December: organizing

2004

- 2004-01-24 - NYC*BUG BOF @ LinuxWorld Expo**
- 2004-02-04 - OpenBSD Security
- 2004-03-03 - NetBSD crypto disk**
- 2004-04-07 - OS X, Darwin and BSD**
- 2004-05-05 - BSD Consulting
- 2004-06-02 - Hacking Your iBook
- 2004-07-07 - Secure Architectures
- 2004-08-04 - OpenBSD on Soekris**
- 2004-08-06 - NYCBUG InstallFest
- 2004-09-01 - Jail(8)
- 2004-10-16 - Meet McKusick & Allman
- 2004-11-03 - Lok Technology, Inc.
- 2004-12-15 - Holiday Party**

2005

2005-01-05 - Anatomy of a Hack

2005-02-02 - pkgsrc

2005-03-02 - OpenBSD on PA-RISC

2005-04-06 - FreeBSD port maintenance

2005-05-04 - Heimdal Kerberos on NetBSD

2005-06-01 - Open Source Software

2005-07-06 - OpenBSD IPsec stack

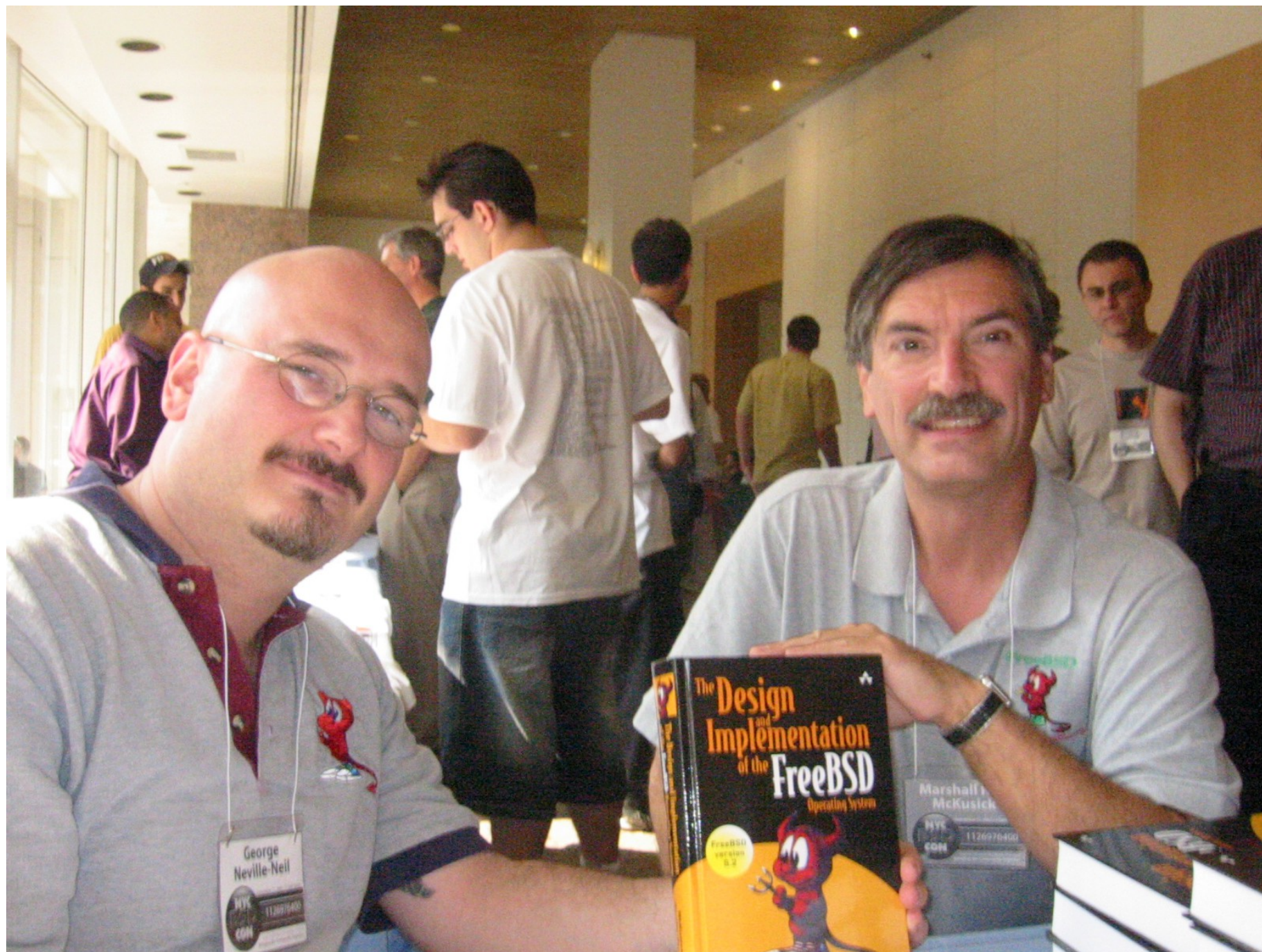
2005-08-03 - Challenges of large Unix environment

2005-09-17 - NYCBSDCon 2005

2005-10-05 - The Summer of Code

2005-11-02 - Time Mgmt for SysAdmins

2005-12-07 - Jail(8)



2006

2006-01-04 - Java on FreeBSD

2006-02-01 - Xen and the Art of SysAdmin

2006-03-01 - Systrace for Slackers

2006-04-05 - Open Forum

2006-05-03 - VPN & PAE

2006-06-07 - Open Forum

2006-07-05 - Sendmail Hacks

2006-08-02 - Open Forum

2006-09-06 - m0n0wall and PFSense

2006-10-04 - NYCBSDCon planning

2006-10-28 - NYCBSDCon 2006

2006-12-07 - Holiday Party



2007

2007-01-03 - pf(4)

2007-02-07 - Subversion

2007-03-07 - Enterprise Security Mgmt

2007-04-04 - OpenCVS

2007-05-02 - pkgsrcCon

2007-06-06 - DOS Mitigation

2007-07-05 - The Real Unix Tradition

2007-08-01 - Nagios

2007-08-23 - NYCBUG-NYPHP Social

2007-09-05 - Cryptography in Web Apps

2007-10-03 - IPv6 Implementation

2007-11-07 - IPv6 Workshop

2007-12-13 - 2007 NYTC Holiday Party

2008

2008-01-09 - SSARES

2008-02-06 - Open Meeting on OpenSSH

2008-03-05 - User Interfaces and How People Think

2008-03-20 - Building a High-Performance Computing Cluster Using FreeBSD

2008-04-02 - ZFS on FreeBSD

2008-05-07 - Managing OpenBSD Environments

2008-06-04 - NYCBSDCon 2008 Organizing Meeting

2008-07-02 - Configuration Management with Cfengine

2008-08-06 - Public Key sudo

2008-09-03 - Organizing NYCBSDCon 2008

2008-10-11 - NYCBSDCon 2008

2008-11-05 - Hardware Performance Monitoring Counters

2008-12-03 - Holiday Party





www.DATAGRAM.com



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COLOCATION

INTERNET ACCESS

OpenBSD
full

PC3SD



- Based on FreeBSD
- Graphical Installer
- GUI Software Installer
- Professional Support
- Automatic Updates



Tremulous



Amarok



nVidia
Settings



KMPlayer



Thunderbird

Session Edit View

[root@knight] ./root# cat

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2009

2009-01-07 - Introduction to Puppet

2009-02-04 - Postfix Performance Tuning

2009-03-04 - What's your biggest Time Management problem?

2009-04-01 - Git: A Case Study In Distributed Version Control

2009-05-06 - Open Forum

2009-06-03 - Building Better Tools

2009-07-01 - Next steps for GNUstep

2009-08-02 - BSDA Exam

2009-08-05 - BSD Certification: A Case Study in Open Source Community

2009-08-09 - BSDA Angoff Session

2009-09-02 - How to Get Started with Kernel Programming

2009-10-07 - XMPP Takes AIM: A Lot of Jabber about Real Time Applications

2009-11-04 - FreeBSD 8.0 New Release and Virtualized Networking for All

2009-12-02 - Holiday Meeting: Your Tips as Presents

2010

2010-01-06 - Hadoop a Worldwilde Tour

2010-02-03 - Systems Programming On A System On A Chip

2010-02-07 - BSD Certification SME Session

2010-02-07 - BSD Certification Exam

2010-03-03 - PFSense II, Rocking The Datacenter

2010-04-07 - Nepenthes

2010-05-05 - Scapy

2010-06-02 - Introduction to GDB for System Administrators and Programmers.

2010-07-07 - The Go Programming Language

2010-08-04 - Ivan Ivanov on Examples in Cryptography with OpenSSL

2010-09-01 - Bruno Scap on Building Email Infrastructure

2010-10-06 - Cooper Students Present

2010-11-12 - NYCBSDCon 2010

2010-12-01 - Holiday Meeting: Your Tips as Community Gifts

2011

2011-01-05 - An Introduction to WebDAV

2011-02-02 - BSD Networking

2011-03-02 - BigBlueButton

2011-04-06 - BSD High Availability

2011-05-04 - The Unix Method of Development Management

2011-06-01 - 'High Availability' with FreeBSD Jails and ZFS

2011-07-06 - Aggregating Metrics & Events

2011-08-03 - BSD Networking Topics

2011-09-07 - RP Counterattack and Net Sensor

2011-10-05 - Clang on FreeBSD

2011-11-02 - Free Database Systems: What They Should Be, And Why You Should Care

2011-12-07 - Holiday Meeting

2012

2012-01-04 - AWK

2012-01-26 - Cassandra LAN Party

2012-02-01 - BSD Networking Topics

2012-03-07 - TCL

2012-04-04 - The journey from user to contributor

2012-05-02 - The Useless Use of *

2012-06-06 - Networking by Example with the Packet Construction Set

2012-07-11 - Bring a Box, Rock Your tmux(1)

2012-07-28 - FreeBSD Bugathon

2012-08-01 - NAS: From Scratch

2012-09-05 - Trying to shoehorn FreeBSD onto embedded devices - why it's not as easy as it could be

2012-10-03 - Informal Discussion

2012-11-07 - Informal Discussion

2012-12-05 - unHoliday Meeting: Be a Grinch about Your Tech Gripe

2012-12-11 - Another Holiday Party

2013

2013-01-09 - What's New with FreeBSD

2013-02-06 - How SMPng Works and Why It Doesn't Work The Way You Think

2013-03-06 - BeagleBone with FreeBSD

2013-04-03 - MIPS on OpenBSD

2013-05-01 - Ansible

2013-06-05 - Using Xapian to Index your Ports Tree

2013-07-03 - zfs(8), More Proof UNIX is Dead

2013-08-07 - A Decade of NYC*BUG

2013-09-04 - PostgreSQL + ZFS on FreeBSD

2013-10-02 - Year after Sandy

2013-11-06 – Practical REGEX

2013-12-04 – Holiday Meeting

2014

- 2014, February 8: A daycon
- sponsor a dev?

Waves & Troughs

- long-term: what sets the pace?
- BSD as the software platform, method
- accept it and deal
- no one will die

What makes up NYC*BUG?

- membership question
- admin@: conspiracy of agnostics
- list members, meeting attendees
- expat & remote community

BSD-Licensed Organization

- fork it, copy it, don't make us responsible
- use the model
- come and go as you please
- doing stuff earns credibility
- KISS

"The Starfish and the Spider is a compelling and important book."
—PIERRE OMIIDYAR, CEO, Omidyar Network; founder and chairman, eBay Inc.

THE STARFISH AND THE SPIDER



THE UNSTOPPABLE POWER OF
LEADERLESS ORGANIZATIONS

ORI BRAFMAN and ROD A. BECKSTROM



Accomplishments

- Thousands raised for projects (4 x \$4k 2008 Con)
- An enabler for several people to get commit bits?
- Colocation for lots, including mirrors
- Role in FreeBSD east coast mirror
- Speaker launchpad
- Devs and “end-users” under one roof
- physical honesty versus virtual bravado
- Beck comment

**And is it possible?
NYC is a *BSD city**

Ways it isn't

- Bellwethers are Linux
- It's Berkeley, not Brooklyn
- One BSD group, 14 Linux ones
- Few Dragonfly or OpenBSD devs here, which matters in terms of our approach and foundations
- NetBSD people are drinking less

Ways it is/could be

- Those bellwethers are imploding?
- Some significant firms using it
- A bunch “converted” to it
- FreeBSD dev presence
- We have NYC*BUG, cons, an UG presence
- Plus our accomplishments (as in above)

Again: Not in Isolation

the objective factors, as opposed
to the subjective

Uphill Battle

- Slashdot View of the World
- BSDs have lost ground
- BSDs not flashy

How to Get a BSD City?

- Individuals matter: NetFlix example
- NYC*BUG assists the individuals
- Strengthen the projects in various ways
- “A forum for discussion and a bridge for learning”: admins and devs, industry and education with the right mix

Our Role

- Acclimate: lexicon, etc.
- The Network
- Human Fodder
- Money
- Software
- Services

Continuing Dev

- “Can I do \$project?”
- Framework/platform we provide

Some Hurdles

- Gender and cultural diversity
- Spread out responsibility more?
- More flash
- More cash
- Preparing with new speakers
- Relating to broader NYC UG community: HOPE, etc.
- More effective enabling framework: “Bazaar”, colo, mentoring, what?

How We Enable

- Blue Sky? No way:

inventions from the garage can usually stay there

- Modest, concrete role
- Jobs list and informally
- Hardware contacts?
- Sponsor a developer

Wouldn't it be nice?

- A few dozen similar BUGs around the world
- Conveyor belts for more devs, upstream
- More users
- To raise money without strings attached
- Utilize contacts (hardware, services, docs) for the broader community
- Finding and converting to BSD would be easier
- Pushing the projects

\$0.02 of Advice

- Start modest
- Mailing list collaboration over substituting yourself
- Develop a good core, build from there
- Leadership is organizational, not technical
- Formalities, titles are the best way to build an empty shell
- Adapt to your scenario? NYC or Tokyo versus provincial village in Wyoming
- Keep the big picture in mind, in practice
- Reach out
- Keep it fun: no one will die

Thanks

- Those who've passed through admin@
- Helpful remote people from projects and others
- Expatriate & remote members
- Meeting and con meeting space providers. It's NYC dammit.
- The sponsors along the way, even though we aren't some mass audience looking for sales spiels, but they do find quality
- “The broad core”: huge numbers of people with a role in meetings, lists, colo, and beyond. They maintain our continuity.

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NYC*BUG Questions?
Tokyo Collaboration?

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talk@lists.nycbug.org

irc:

channel: nycbug
(freenode these days)