

2011 Predictions

Rikki asks the Magic 8 Ball (actually, her Facebook friends) what 2011 will bring. Also, updates on Gnome and CeBIT.

By Rikki Kite

New Year's might be my favorite holiday – no one expects any gifts, we all get a fresh start, and a toast and midnight kiss is encouraged. Best of all, New Year's is cross-cultural, celebrated by Linux users and their Windows-running friends alike. In the spirit of fresh starts and New Year's resolutions, I asked my Facebook friends to chime in with their 2011 predictions for the tech world. Luckily, my friends have strong opinions and are always eager to share them!

Tech journalist and former openSUSE Community Manager *Joe "Zonker" Brockmeier* quickly chimed in, saying, "2011 is going to be the year of Linux taking a firm backseat to vendor brands: Red Hat on the server, Ubuntu on the desktop, Android on Mobile. And I'm not saying that's a good thing ..."

Fedora ambassador *Larry Cafiero* says, "Year of the desk ... oh, wait. Never mind." But then he added, "For better or worse (hopefully better), I think that LibreOffice will be a newsmaker for 2011, hopefully that it will succeed as a free alternative to OpenOffice, although again what Oracle and the other Larry do with OOo will in and of itself be a newsmaker, too." He adds, "And, hopefully, Oracle won't do something stupid."

Ryan Singer, Marketing Consultant with Initmarketing, predicts that the Android tablet market share might surpass what we traditionally call "desktop Linux," and Open Source Bridge orga-

nizer *Sherri Montgomery* thinks 2011 will mark the rise of open government and civic apps.

"I predict that KOffice will make some headlines, too," says KDE Bugsquad co-founder *A.L. Spehr*. "We may have skipped 'year of the desktop' and gone direct to 'year of the mobile device'." [1]

Fedora marketing team lead *Robyn Bergeron* says that 2011 will be an awesome year to attend FUDCon in Tempe, Arizona [2].

Meanwhile, event organizer *Beth Lynn Eicher* points out that Ohio LinuxFest will be celebrating 20 years of GNU/Linux and Python [3]. She says, "Finally Linux will be recognized for the mature operating system it is."

"2011? It will be the year when people will continue to say they don't use Linux," says veteran tech journalist *Steven Vaughan-Nichols*. He adds, "Then, when I ask them about Android, they'll say 'That's not Linux, that's Android.' When I ask them if they use Google or Facebook, they'll reply, 'What does Linux have to do with those?' If I say, 'How do you like your Color Nook?', they'll reply, 'It has an operating system?' And, when I say, 'But you're using Unity on your desktop/netbook/tablet', they'll reply 'Stop it, already. That's not Linux! Linux is hard! Unity is just an easy-to-use desktop/netbook/tablet.'"

O'Reilly book author and LinuxToday.com editor *Carla Schroder* has quite a few predictions for 2011. She thinks our



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culture of “insane ‘intellectual property’ protection” will cause the US to fall behind other countries in technology advancements. Schroder says, “Microsoft continues its slow decline, though the thrashings of the dinosaur’s tail will continue to annihilate bystanders. Apple succeeds and grows as long as Steve Jobs is alive and healthy enough to work.”

“Ubuntu Linux will penetrate more retail and business markets, and continue to cause simultaneous hosannas and hisses with every tiny little change.” She also says, “Small mobile devices are going to continue to boom, becoming more powerful and more like tiny pocket desktop PCs, bringing the world into our hands.” Schroder adds, “Sadly, humans will not get any smarter.”

Schroder thinks programming will continue to see growth, with designers and artists playing a more important role. “Those who emulate the Apple philosophy of putting the user experience first and designing to the user experience will do well,” she says, adding, “The traditional model of throwing stuff out the door that may or may not work will continue to fail.”

Schroder predicts digital copyright infringement and distribution will still pose challenges in 2011. “Freeloaders who think they are entitled to whatever they want for free will still be unable to articulate why,” she says.

Schroder says that world governments will try to fence off and control the Internet. “This is a real problem, as those who own the wires own the means to control access,” she says. Schroder admits that she isn’t optimistic, but she does have hope. “Linux and Free/Open Source software, and organizations like Wikileaks and the Electronic Frontier Foundation will continue to toil valiantly to protect our dwindling freedoms,” she says.

Motorola Senior Software Engineer and former *C/C++ Users’ Journal* editor, *Marc Briand*, offers either a less optimistic or less serious prediction. “DRM brain implants,” he says.

CeBIT Open Source 2011

In November, open source projects were encouraged to apply for free space at CeBIT Open Source 2011 [4]. Our parent company, Linux New Media, part-

ners with CeBIT, which is the largest IT trade show in the world. The 2011 CeBIT event takes place March 1-5 in Hannover, Germany.

Keep an eye on our website for additional CeBIT coverage and to find out who wins the annual Linux New Media awards, which will be presented at the event.

Gnome Outreach Update

Last month I predicted that 2011 will be the Year of the Mentor, and I pointed out the Gnome Outreach Program for Women [5].

In early November, the project announced the eight women who were chosen for the three-month internships, which last until March 2011 [6]. Congratulations to Tiffany Antopolski, Nanci de Brito Bonfim, Luciana Fujii Pontello, Eugenia Gabrielova, Laura Elisa Lucas Alday, Hellyna Ng, Natalia Andrea Ruz Leiva, and Chandni Verma. Read the announcement to find out more about the projects and mentors who will work with the new interns.

Do you have community news or updates to share? Send them to me at rkite@linuxpromagazine.com. ■■■

LIKEABLE LINKS

- [1] ROSE Blog Interviews: KDE Project’s A. L. Spehr: <http://www.linux-magazine.com/alspehr-interview>
- [2] FUDCon 2011: http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/FUDCon:Tempe_2011
- [3] Ohio LinuxFest: <http://ohiolinux.org/>
- [4] CeBIT 2011 Call for Projects: <http://www.linux-magazine.com/cebit2011>
- [5] Year of the Mentor: <http://www.linux-magazine.com/Issues/2010/121/Year-of-the-Mentor>
- [6] Gnome Outreach Program for Women Announcement: <http://www.gnome.org/press/releases/2010-11-women-outreach-interns.html>

GNOME
Outreach Program for Women Internships

LADIES!

HAVE A SCHOOL SUMMER BREAK
DECEMBER 2010 – MARCH 2011?

KICK IT UP A NOTCH!

Work on a cool Linux desktop!

DEC 15–MAR 15
PROGRAM DATES

OCT 25
APPLICATION DEADLINE

\$4500
STIPEND (USD)

www.GNOME.org
LEARN MORE & APPLY!

Use your skills in programming, graphic design, documentation, or marketing, working with an experienced mentor.
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Work remotely from home while collaborating within a world-wide free software community!

Open to all interested women available for a full-time internship.