FUDCon

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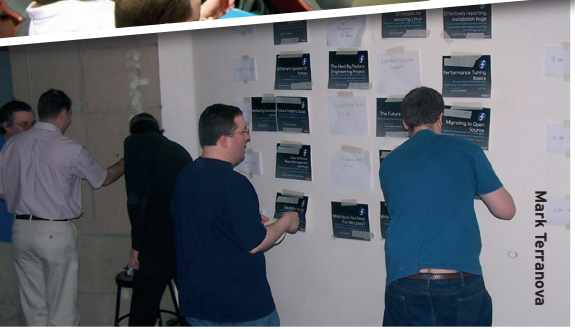**Out of FUDCon comes the faces, features, and future of the Fedora Project.**

By Amber Graner

FUDCon, the Fedora User and Developer Conference [1], brings together Red Hat developers and community contributors in the style of unconference BarCamp [2] to discuss various aspects of the Fedora Project and its governance.

The 2011 North American FUDCon, the largest to date, with more than 200 people pre-registering, included a celebration of the new Red Hat [3] community service project's first anniversary. The project, open-source.com [4], profiles how open source philosophies apply beyond the technology industries into other areas of our culture, such as business, education, government, law, and life.

During the opening part of the conference, the Fedora community met its new Program Manager, Robyn Bergeron [5], and Jared Smith [6], Fedora Project Leader, delivered the annual "State of Fedora" address [7].

FUDCon was filled with many technical talks, lightning talks, hackfests, and social events. Other discussions included talks on BoxGrinder, open source anthropology, cloud, the future of computing, Fedora security, securing Linux, Python, branding licensing issues, and more.

Tim Burke [8], VP of Linux Development at Red Hat, sat down with *Linux Magazine* and discussed how FUDCon affects RHEL and how the Fedora and Red Hat communities interact.

Burke stated, "I think some things that are helpful from FUDCon are to really get a sense of what the broader community is interested in. Back at Red Hat, we get no shortage of people expressing their own opinions …, but there is nothing better than hearing it direct from the people themselves."

Burke continued, "… we don't always know exactly how things are going to play out. I think this is one of the real powers of Fedora – it allows people to influence where we go with RHEL. For ex-

ample, there are some things more strategic to Red Hat that we put a lot of engineers to work on directly, and then there are other things that are not immediately as strategic to Red Hat and that is where other developers come and fill in the gaps for us."

Burke gave a few examples of sessions at FUDCon that maybe weren't in the initial planning of the project and how the community can influence not only the future of Fedora and RHEL but also various device manufacturers. For example, the session on ARM architecture support was a really good session, but Burke noted, "We neither have confirmed nor denied any explicit long-term ARM port, but … the more Fedora contributors help to develop that and to make it fully functional, then they can help influence the span of devices that something like an ARM port can be supported on."

A theme ran through many sessions about how cloud tools can be used. "Good ideas can really take [on] a life of their own," said Burke. So, although RHEL might not explicitly state that a feature will be included, often those good ideas from the community do make it into the next RHEL release.

Asked where RHEL and Fedora cultures overlapped, complemented, and contrasted each another. Burke said, "The majority of the time … they mutually benefit one another. The majority of things that the Fedora community care about are directly applicable to RHEL … like correct server operations, correct desktop applications, and a lot of the basic operating concepts."

Burke also pointed out some things in Fedora that are not in RHEL, such as Fedora spins targeted toward the gaming, electronic, or robotics communities. "At Red Hat, we embrace diversity, … and it's often the case of unintended consequences. Use cases we didn't think were applicable will often end up shaping our product direction." Burke also noted, "People may tend to think we are at odds (Fedora and Red Hat); … being at odds is really the rare case." ▪▪▪

INFO

[1] FUDCon Tempe 2011: *http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/FUDCon:Tempe_2011*

[2] BarCamp website: *http://barcamp.org/w/page/402984/FrontPage*

[3] Red Hat website: *http://www.redhat.com/*

[4] opensource.com: *http://opensource.com/*

[5] Robyn Bergeron: *http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/User:Rbergero*

[6] Jared Smith: *http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/User:Jsmith*

[7] Audio download of "State of Fedora" address: *http://fedoraproject.org/w/uploads/4/44/State_of_fedora_tempe_2011.ogg*

[8] Tim Burke: *http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/User:Tburke*