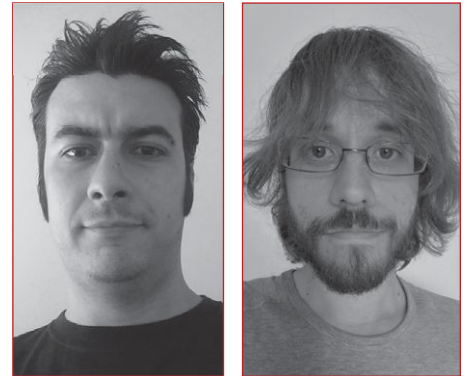


new faces

of FreeBSD

BY DRU LAVIGNE

Regular readers of this column will note that, starting with this issue, the focus has changed somewhat. FreeBSD has a long history of providing mentorship as part of its commit bit process and the Project's success is due, in part, to its ability to continually attract new contributors. This column aims to shine a spotlight on contributors who recently received their commit bit and to introduce them to the FreeBSD community.



This month, the spotlight is on **Carlos Jacobo Puga Medina** (left) and **Tobias Berner** (right) who both became ports committers in July 2016.

Tell us a bit about yourself, your background, and your interests.

Carlos: My name is Carlos Jacobo Puga Medina and I was born in Jaen in the South of Spain. Currently, I'm learning more about FreeBSD and I'm doing this since I stopped working in the Army. From a very young age I liked new technologies and everything that surrounds them.

My biggest interests are coding, writing, languages, and trekking. I enjoy learning new things.

Tobias: My name is Tobias Berner and I'm a 31-year-old math student from Switzerland. My interests, apart from the obvious, are playing video games, hiking, cycling, cooking, and basically enjoying life.

How did you first learn about FreeBSD and what about FreeBSD interested you?

Carlos: Well, my history with FreeBSD started around 2011 when I was still working in the Army. I was looking for a new operating system and decided to try FreeBSD. I was fascinated by how it works, who benefits, and how it is developed. At that time, I discovered how friendly the FreeBSD community is, largely thanks to the FreeBSD Forums, and especially to Warren Block (wblock) for his unconditional support, valuable advice, and

guidance.

From then until now, I can safely admit that FreeBSD is my daily driver.

Tobias: I first learned about FreeBSD when I was experimenting with operating systems on my first computer during middle school. I wanted to try this "Linux" thing, in parallel to Windows. After playing with SUSE and some other distros, I somehow, somewhere stumbled over the Beastie Logo, which I found kind of cute. So I gave FreeBSD a try, and that's how I came to install FreeBSD 5. I didn't really have a clue what I was doing, but somehow it seemed to work, most of the time.

And then I began to love how software was installed using the ports tree. It's the one thing that made me stick with FreeBSD over the various Linux distros even in the dark times, when I got a core2d and there was no 64bit nVidia driver.

How did you end up becoming a ports committer and which ports are you responsible for?

Carlos: After reading the ports documentation and following the mailing lists, I started to port some software and to fix some ports, mainly unmaintained ones.

A few months ago, one of my current mentors, Jason Unovitch (junovitch), asked if I

wanted a commit bit. The answer came pretty soon. Right now, I'm maintaining some ports, as I did before: devel/boehm-gc, net-im/corebird, security/libgcrypt, and multimedia/mpv, among others.

Tobias: As a KDE user myself, I wanted to try the new Plasma5 desktop. However, there were no ports for it, so I started to create them. After some time, I got the rights to mess around in the kde@ development repository, and put my Plasma5 ports in there. I also started to help updating and testing the other ports maintained by kde@. Which then, after some time, led to me becoming a committer.

The ports I try to help with and keep up-to-date are all the ones maintained by kde@. This includes KDE, Qt, PyQt, digikam, calligra, and so on.

How has your experience been since joining the FreeBSD Project? Do you have any advice for readers who may be interested in also becoming a ports committer?

Carlos: My experience has been nice because I'm self-motivated and enthusiastic and take great pride in my tasks and roles. I started to enjoy the experience more after I became more involved in the FreeBSD Project. I think that enabling new people to contribute to the Project is part of the success we are having. In fact, I'm learning new things to enhance my skills and maximize my effort on things that bring a real value to the Project. Also, I'm really looking forward to attending some

upcoming BSD conferences and to personally meet my fellow FreeBSD community members.

A good starting point is the FreeBSD "Becoming A Committer" wiki page (<https://wiki.freebsd.org/BecomingACommitter>). Here are some steps that work:

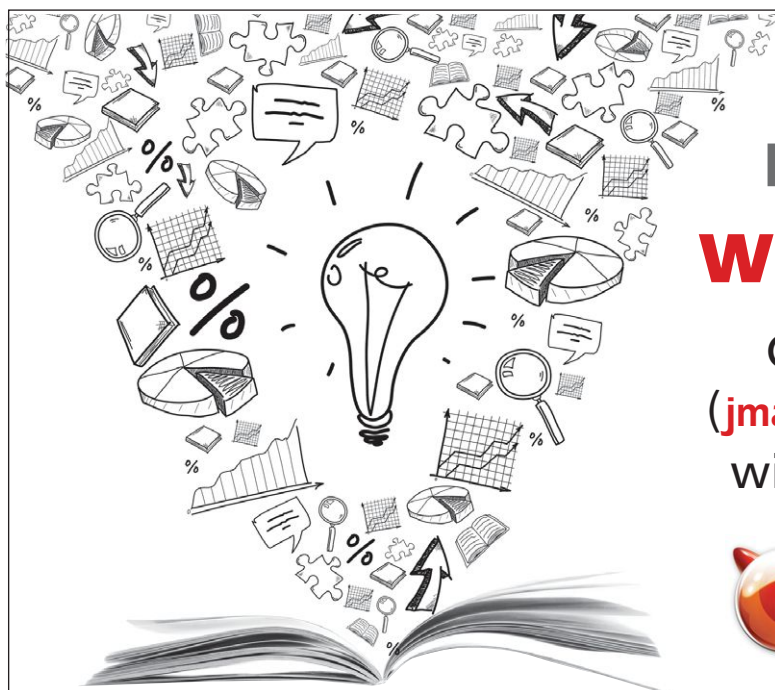
- Read the FreeBSD documentation and related blogs.
- Subscribe to the FreeBSD mailing lists and join the FreeBSD Forums.
- Submit fixes to bugs via bugzilla.
- Go to BSD conferences and trade shows.
- Contribute!

The FreeBSD Committers Guide (<https://www.freebsd.org/doc/en/articles/committers-guide/>) discusses how the Project works, what rules to follow, and how to actually make svn commits.

Anyone who is seriously interested in becoming a committer should read this to see how committers do what they do.

Tobias: It has been very interesting, and a little scary, but the people are very welcoming. And I hope the blood pressure will go down as the number of commits rises. As for advice, I can only offer to stick with it and try to contribute, even if it takes some time until you get there.

DRU LAVIGNE is a Director of the FreeBSD Foundation and Chair of the BSD Certification Group.



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