CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT—
Start here!

This issue's articles focus on the most popular configuration management systems, all of which are well supported on FreeBSD. Leading the pack, Michael Lucas, author of many well-known books on the BSDs, contributes his thoughts on the topic of configuration management in general. If you're planning your first foray into configuration management, I suggest you begin with his intro piece before moving on to the system-specific articles on CFEngine, Puppet, SaltStack, and Vagrant. Each system has pluses and minuses, but all have one thing in common—they can help you deploy and manage FreeBSD.

Over the past few years, a hot topic in the open-source world has been reproducible builds. Originally brought to light by security issues such as heartbleed, open-source projects take this topic very seriously. The FreeBSD Project has been heavily involved in the process, with Project and Foundation representatives attending and contributing at various reproducible build conferences and meetings. That work is now paying off in commits going into FreeBSD, which Steven Kreuzer covers in his latest svn Update column.

Joseph Kong reviews Brendan Gregg and Jim Mauro's *DTrace: Dynamic Tracing in Oracle Solaris, Mac OS X, and FreeBSD*. I know this book well, as I have been using it in the courses developed for http://www.teachbsd.org. I won't spoil the ending though—go read and enjoy the review.

The conference season is upon us, and the first conference report for this year is by Benedict Reuschling, who volunteered at FOSDEM, the largest open-source conference in Europe. Covering a conference with 5,000 attendees and multiple interesting tracks over a two-day period is no small feat. But Benedict makes us feel we're right there in the thick of the open-source soup. And by the way, there is still plenty of time to register for BSDCan, scheduled to take place in Ottawa, Canada, in June. We hope you'll join us there. Stop by our booth and say, "Hi." Many from the *FreeBSD Journal* team will be in attendance, and we'd love to chat with you about the *Journal* or whatever else is on your mind.

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