Welcome to FreeBSD Journal’s fall 2018 issue on Networking. The first of our networking pieces, an article by Jonathan Looney, covers a topic in which I’ve always had a strong interest, testing. As hard as it is to test software, testing network code, which effectively means testing a distributed system, is far more difficult. The folks at Netflix, which uses FreeBSD in their caching servers, have an interest in both performance and correctness of changes they’re making in the FreeBSD TCP stack, and so the rigor of a good testing system is most welcome for them and for FreeBSD in general.

Ayaka Koshibe has contributed a piece on Software Defined Networking (SDN) and Mininet, a well-known emulator for SDN protocols. She has been presenting work around this topic at conferences over the last couple years, and I’m glad we were able to convince her to contribute an article on the topic to the Journal.

The third piece, “Internetworking with FreeBSD,” is one your humble Editor in Chief contributed, so I’ll not ruin the surprise by talking about it here.

To round out the section, we have an article by Matt Macy about how to scale the performance of FreeBSD on modern server hardware. While FreeBSD is deployed on many types of hardware and in many environments, performance on high-end servers, with many CPU cores and large memories, remains key to FreeBSD’s overall success.

Please take a look at all our columns, particularly the new Letters column, where Michael Lucas answers your letters with delicacy and wit.

George Neville-Neil
President of the FreeBSD Foundation Board of Directors