

FreeBSD Vendor Summit 2020

BY ANNE DICKISON

Developer and vendor summits are at the heart of the FreeBSD community. They provide a much-needed avenue for face-to-face discussions, group decision making and all-important bug fixing. The FreeBSD Summit organizers, including members of the FreeBSD Foundation, quickly realized that a 2020 in-person event was not going to happen. With that in mind, the organizers began working on the first-ever, online, 2020 FreeBSD Vendor Summit. Taking place November 11–13, 2020, the Summit consisted of 3 half-day sessions with both vendor talks and discussion topics. FreeBSD Journal Editorial Board President, John Baldwin, emceed the event. In addition to being recorded, the sessions were live streamed on YouTube. Wednesday, November 11, began with a welcome from John, followed by an update from FreeBSD Foundation Executive Director, Deb Goodkin. The rest of the program included vendor talks from Heiko Wilke of Beckhoff, Muhammad Ahmad of Seagate and Andrew Wafaa of ARM. Next up, Ed Maste led the first discussion session of the day on the ARM64 roadmap including moving the platform to Tier 1. Day one concluded with a discussion on bhyve led by Peter Grehan and John Baldwin.

Day 2 began with John Baldwin welcoming everyone back and introducing the program. First to speak was Axel Kloth of Axiado, followed by Jonathan Eastgate of SimPRO, and Allan Jude and Sabina Anaja of Klara Systems. The day concluded with the FreeBSD Foundation's Director of Technology and Core Team Member, Ed Maste joining fellow Core Team Member, Warner Losh to head up a lively discussion about the Project's transition to Git and what that would look like for Vendors. Folks were able to participate in the discussion sessions and Q&A sessions of the vendor talks via the event channel, Summit slack channel, or within the YouTube live stream.

Day 3 began much like Day 2 with a brief welcome and introduction of the program. First up was Alexander Sideropoulos of NetApp. His talk was followed by the always productive 13.0 Planning Session led by Ed Maste, John Baldwin and FreeBSD Foundation Board and Core Team Member Geroge Neville-Neil. After a short break, another fruitful discussion session was centered around planning for the 14.0 release. Luca Pizzamiglio wrapped up the technical part of the summit with a talk on "A container-based service mesh on FreeBSD." Following the last talk of the day, attendees were invited to join a separate social hour providing a greater opportunity to network with other attendees.

Individual videos, notes, and recordings of the entire live stream are available on the November [2020 FreeBSD Vendor Summit wiki page](#). The next online FreeBSD Developer Summit is scheduled to take place on June 9–11, 2021, [registration is now open](#).

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