

## Southeast Linux Fest 2014 Charlotte NC June 20-22

This years event had changed location from the previous two years. The event is no longer held at the Blake Hotel but was at the Sheraton at the Airport. The venue was a little smaller but worked for what it needed to accomplish. The first day started on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. I arrived at 10am to scope out where we were located and got signed in. Shortly after my arrival Ben & Cathy Williams arrived and we got the booth set up and rolling.



*A little 3D printing magic to start the First Day*

The booth was easily set up and got rolling at noon . We both brought the remaining swag in our possession. Much thanks to Tom Calloway for bringing the rest of the material for us to hand out. We were located next to the Red Hat table just out side the main presentation room, of course a prime spot for the booth to be. The first day attendees seemed a little slow at first but by the afternoon it had picked up quite rapidly. The Red Hat booth drew some crowds for the 3D printing, but payed off because we actually had some curious people ask about the OLPC. Once they got to our table we quickly asked what brought them to the festival. Ben and I quickly discovered that a lot of the user software they were using they were unhappy with. Well it didn't take us long to demonstrate the power of Fedora. By the end of the day we had about 100 stop by the booth. The first day was not expected to be busy but turned out better than expected. Although we did have a couple of





*Beware attack of the Killer Penguins*

individuals ask how they could help out with the project. One in particular was interested in what he could do to improve his knowledge and what could he contribute to the project. I was quite pleased to show this person what he could do to help us out on the project. He left us with a good feeling and wanted to read on some more and let us know he would stop by again tomorrow.

We started the day shortly after breakfast expecting to be quite busy. The booth was ready to go at 8:30am with others waiting to talk to us prior to the first scheduled talk. I was quite enthusiastic to get started. We truly expected a much larger crowd and we got that. Saturdays events drew approximately 900 throughout the day. Both Ben and I were quite busy answering various questions and handing out media. The individual that was interested in joining our team came back I spent a lot of time showing him where he could contribute and where to start, and I hope that he becomes part of our team. Meanwhile Ben was helping some individuals load the latest live media on some laptops that needed a little attention and some



very happy people that were very pleased with our helpfulness and knowledge. Later on that day we met our match with a challenging issue. One particular laptop we could not re-partition one section of the hard drive associated with windows. Even though the windows system showed the drive partitioned free, Fedora would not see the free partition. After a few different things we tried we realized that the system was encrypted, and encrypted by the bios. That made the system unusable by Fedora or any other O/S. The owner of the laptop did not have the password to unencrypt the hard drive.. A steep learning curve for both Ben and I. We did accomplish several USB key creations and discussed several different media spins. I also demonstrated the security spin features that are included in the spin. Saturday we gave out 300 multimedia DVD's. Most of the people that stopped by the booth was very impressed with Fedora and already had the media or was in the process of downloading it during the festival.



*More 3D printing magic a Trilobite is in the making*

As the day went on we noticed that there were some repeat enthusiasts stopping by to ask more questions and get more insight to the upcoming release. More questions were also directed on tell me why I should use Fedora over any other linux release. As we both explained the four foundations and how they related to what we do. Most of the people we talked to had no idea how Fedora is the leading edge (First) in the latest development of open source software and how the software eventually included in the RHEL releases. Also we pointed out some of the flaws in other releases as related to ours.





*Ben getting started generating a USB Key*

The usual flavor of promotions were there Omnibond, Linode, HP Enterprise, FreeBSD, and BARCAMP CHS, and Slackware. We saw a lot of the usual faces along with the SELF Event Staff who effortlessly got the event rolling and made it a success as always. Along with us was Eric “Sparks” Christensen, Tom “Spot” Calloway, Scott & Ruth Suehle.

We are all looking forward to next year in making our appearance at the event event more appealing.`



Attack of the Killer Penguins 2







*Nobody Home*