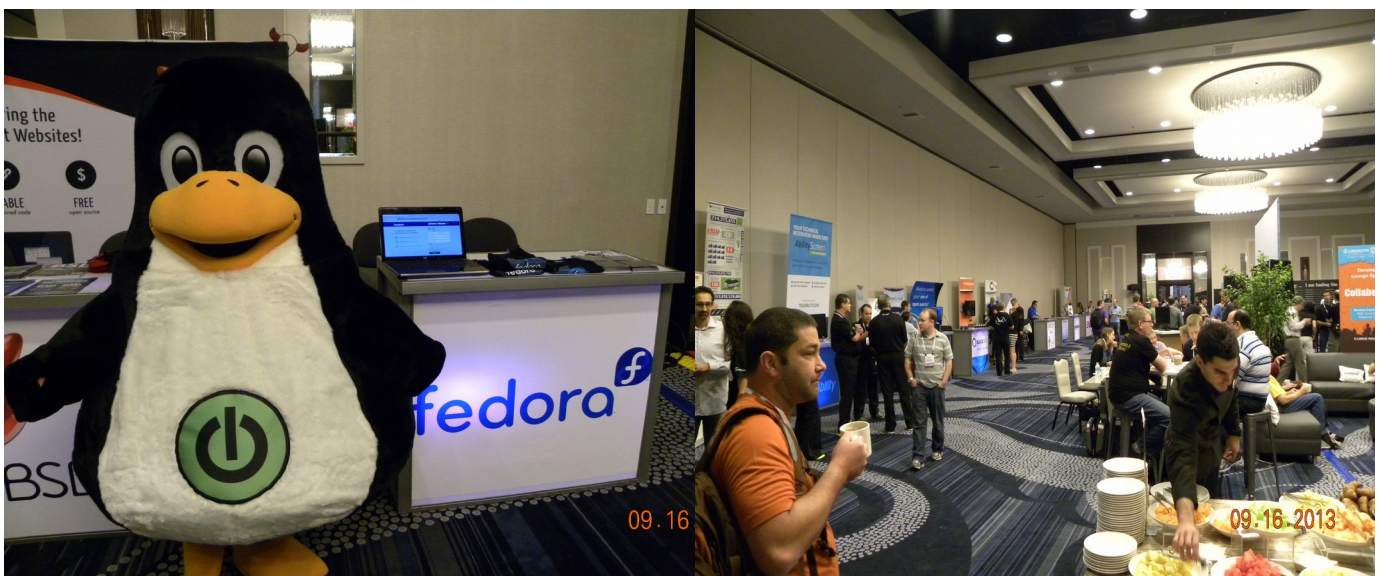New Orleans, LA
September 16 - 18, 2013

Linuxcon North America was held in New Orleans Louisiana this year. The previous year the event was in San Diego California. I am unaware if we had a presence in San Diego, but we were represented here in New Orleans. I arrived on the 15th of September after an 8 hour drive. The hotel we were staying at was the Marriott Courtyard New Orleans, The event was 7 blocks away at the Hyatt New Orleans. The walk was quite refreshing to and from the event (20 minutes each way).

   The event started with registration on Sunday evening the 15th and sponsors were allowed to set up if needed. The main event commenced at 7:00 a.m. on the 16th with booth set up and registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. I was ready to go at 7:30 a.m. Soon after I got rolling Ruth Suehle and Tom Callaway showed up to help out and see what was going on. Soon after they started their day with keynote and talks, Robyn Bergeron and Matthew Miller arrived and checked to see how I was doing. The first day yielded approximately 1500 walking through just in the morning hours. I was located in the back wall of the main booth area were everyone could see as you walked into the room.
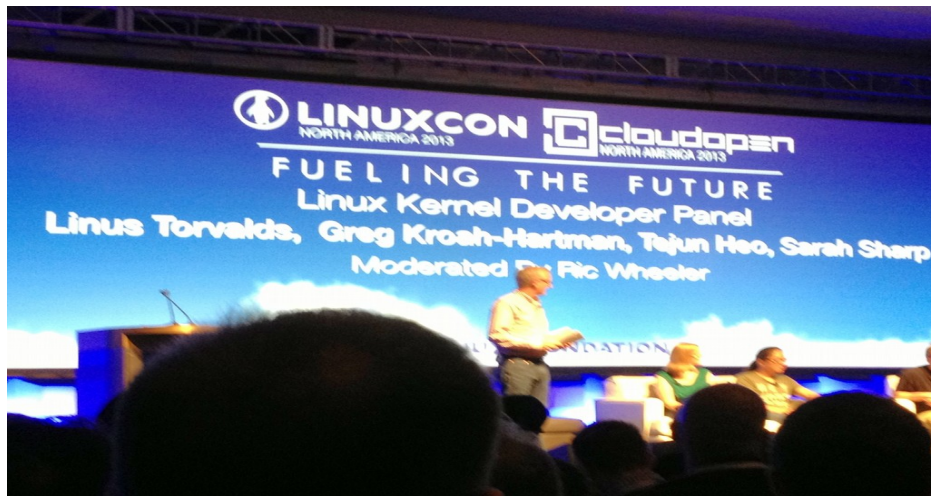

The Penquin

Morining Coffee session

I got to meet some interesting people that were quite familiar with Fedora. Once the day began with the talks, it slowed long enough for me to catch a quick bite to eat and get right back into the booth. I turned over the booth to Robyn and Matthew at 4:30 p.m. and headed out for the evening. I handed out about 1 hundred pieces of media that day alone. There was a booth crawl that evening that spot lighted the sponsors that supported the conference.

The second day on the 17th was a little slower that the first day with about 1000 people walking around through out the day. This was a much slower paced event day with a lot of talks scheduled with a lot of other events happening in the area. I only handed out about 50 pieces of media that day. This was to be the last day for the booth, that was a change form the original schedule of three days. That freed me up for the Keynote and some deserved talks on the third day.

The third day was a free day for me to learn and explore since I normally work the booth and let everyone else go and get the training. I attended the Keynote with Dirk Hohindel and the kernel panel with Linus Torvalds, Greg Kroah-Hartman, Tejun Heo, and Sara Sharp. To say the least it was quite interesting and informative. I had never realized just how much work and contributions were involved in the generation, updating, and maintaining the kernel.

A little blurry but still good

  I also attended two other talks that I believe that will further aid me in my technical skills and knowledge of the Linux systems. I left for the day about 1 p.m. to get some sightseeing in the area before I left New Orleans. I would like to thank **Ruth and Robyn** for allowing me to stay and soak up some much needed training opportunities for me on day three.

  In summary, there are a few points that I need to bring up as I discovered talking with attendees at the event. First, I noted that most of the attendees that were there and familiar with Fedora had downloaded the media and were currently using the software had no need to pick up the multimedia disk. The individuals had stressed that the items were readily available and easily downloaded. This made the point that multimedia disks were of no interest to them. This was certainly a change from other events I have attended that the media was quite popular. This made a point of availability of media is based on area and availability of internet services that can support greater download speeds.
Second, goes along with the first comment. Most of the attendees expressed not only have already downloaded the media they desired, but had no idea of the other formats we offered. For example, they were quite aware of LXDE, KDE, and Gnome, they had no idea we provided security spins, KDE Jam, Graphics, and gaming Spins. They were quite impressed once I showed them the spins and what packages were included in the spins. I would suggest that our website show an easier link to the different spins available. The people I spoke with had no idea how to get to them. I demonstrated from out home page and they expressed they never got past the download page for the most common items.
Third, I noticed a vast number of users that were familiar with but not currently using Fedora because of the hardware conflicts and upgrade problems they experience. When I inquired I could not get a straight answer on what exactly they experienced. I was puzzled on this situation, especially when one was an experienced developer. When I finally found out what release they were having trouble with, it was an older release (F13). Another expressed some dissatisfaction with wireless cards on netbooks, I asked if they submitted a bug report with as much information possible to get the issue resolved, he had not. I pointed out that in order for these types of issues to get resolved, information is the key. One particular individual expressed a discomfort with FEDUP. When I inquired, there was no definitive explanation other than it several times to complete the process. I asked if there was another circumstance that could have caused the error. I also asked did you report the problem with as much information possible, the answer was too cumbersome and I didn't have time. I would probably write this one off, I have used the FEDUP on several occasions and the system worked perfectly.

  Most of the individuals I talked to were current users and some that were interested in coming back to

Fedora. Many were quite impressed with what we do and the availability of the product. Most were quite impressed with the ease of use. I had two of my personal laptops both with F19 (64bit) with various applications to demonstrate the flexibility and versatility of our product. I was proud to represent FEDORA in all aspects.

    I got to meet a lot of Redhat folks at this particular event and was glad to represent what we do. I believe the rumor on the street is that next years Linuxcon will be in Denver Colorado.

Please enjoy some other photos I took on the event.

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