

Honors List

Celebrity players from the world of Linux at the CeBIT Open Source Forum presented Linux New Media Awards 2011 in seven categories. The Debian project took two prizes.

By Mathias Huber

When Debian Germany project member Alexander Reichle-Schmehl climbed onto the stage at CeBIT in Hanover, Germany, to accept the award for “Outstanding Contribution to Open Source/Linux/Free Software,” it was quite an emotional moment. Karsten Gerloff from the Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE) commended Debian for its unequivocal commitment to free software. By default, the latest version of the distribution, “Squeeze,” installs a Linux kernel that does completely without proprietary firmware.

Earlier, Debian had received the award as the Best Open Source Server Distribution. Peter Ganten from the Bremen, Germany-based software vendor Univen-tion, whose Corporate Server product relies on Debian, said: “Debian is a pioneer that has established many practices in the open source community.”

For the first time this year, Linux New Media AG opened up voting beyond the international jury of 200 experts from the open source community. Readers of publications such as *Linux Magazine*, *Linux Pro Magazine*, *Ubuntu User*, *LinuxUser*, and *EasyLinux* were invited to vote for their favorite distribution. In choosing Ubuntu and its derivatives, they opted for an operating system that is also based on Debian. Henning Eggers from vendor Canonical emphasized that Ubuntu “rests on the shoulders of giants such as Linux, Debian, Gnome, and many others.”

Hot Product

Linux-based tablets were a hot topic in the run-up to CeBIT 2011, so it comes as no surprise that the members of the jury awarded the prize for the “Hottest Linux Device” to something from this class.

The prize for the Samsung Galaxy Tablet was accepted by two members of the promotion team standing in for the manufacturer’s representative, who was unfortunately ill.

The award for the best application for mobile devices went to Firefox. German Mozilla developer Carsten Book accepted the prize for Firefox for Mobile (code-named Fennec).

In his remarks, the editor-in-chief of the German language version of *Linux Magazine*, Jan Kleinert, emphasized that Linux had been a part of the smartphone market from the outset in the form of Android and that users could install open source software from the App Stores.

Old Hands

Legendary mainframe Linux guru Karl-Heinz Strassemeyer, from IBM, handed out the award in the category “Best Open Source Solution for Cloud Computing and Virtualization,” which went to KVM, the Linux kernel virtual machine. Representing kernel developers such as Avi Kivity and Marcelo Tosatti, Kevin Wolf and Markus Armbruster from Red Hat’s KVM department stepped up to accept the award.

The prize for the “Most Innovative Open Source Project” went to the Btrfs filesystem. Jon “mad-dog” Hall from Linux International recollected how he had used his first hard disk 40 years ago. “We didn’t have filesystems back then, but it’s amazing what Btrfs can do,” he said. An Oracle representative (who does not wish to be named) accepted the award, standing in for the main developer, Chris Mason, who works at Oracle. ■■■

