



2009 LINUX NEW MEDIA AWARDS

At CeBIT 2009, Linux New Media AG presented its annual awards for outstanding contributions to Linux and Open Source. The OpenStreetMap project took two of the six Linux New Media Awards.

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CeBIT Open Source took place in Hanover, Germany, this year and was the perfect backdrop for the Linux New Media Awards (Figure 1). The awards ceremony took place on March 5th, with winners and presenters gathering at the Open Source Forum in Hall 6 for the official ceremony and the ensuing party.

An international jury of some 200 experts from the community, industry, and government nominated candidates for this year's six categories of the Linux New Media Awards and voted on the winners (see "The Jury 2009" box). The field nominated by the jury was huge.

The Outstanding Contributions to Open Source category alone had more than 30 people and projects on the ballot, starting with Debian and its Project Leader Steve McIntyre, through SUSE Build Service, to the Vietnamese government for its Open Source plans.

OpenStreetMap received the award in the Most Innovative Open Source Project category. Michael Buege and Dirk-Lüder Kreie accepted the prize on behalf of the project and praised the commitment of the 100,000 or so people who contributed to the free GIS. OpenStreetMap's

The Winners

Outstanding Contribution to Open Source / Linux / Free Software	OpenStreetMap
Most Linux / Open Source-Friendly Hardware Vendor	Intel
Most Innovative Open Source Project	OpenStreetMap
Best Open Source Contribution for Mobile Devices	Google Android
Best Open Source Programming Language	Python
Most Significant Contribution for Security in Open Source	OpenSSH

second award was in the Outstanding Contribution to Linux and Open Source category. This category, sponsored by Linux New Media AG, the publisher of *Linux Magazine*, is a standing feature at the Awards, whereas other categories reflect current topics.

The award for the most Open Source-friendly hardware vendor went to Intel; other nominees were Asus, IBM, and Sun. Peter Ganten (Linux Association) handed over the award and praised Intel for its contributions to kernel development and its commitment to open standards. Ganten reminded the audience that Linus Torvalds wrote the first kernel for Intel's i386 CPU.

Oliver Zendel from Germany's Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) handed over the award in the Security category. The award went to OpenSSH; Markus Friedl, a core member of the OpenSSH team, accepted the award and

thanked the user community for their support.

The Mobility category reflects a current trend in Linux. Professor Jean-Pierre Seifert (Technical University Berlin) handed over the award to Dan Kegel for Google's Linux-based mobile platform, Android.

Knoppix inventor and *Linux Magazine* columnist Klaus Knopper presented the award for best Open Source programming language, a subject that saw heated discussions among jury members. The award finally went to Python.



Figure 1: The Linux New Media Awards 2009 winners. Left to right: Dirk-Lüder Kreie and Michael Buege (OpenStreetMap), Martin von Löwis (Python), Markus Friedl (OpenSSH), Dan Kegel (Google, for Android), and Thomas Kaminsky (Intel).

Martin von Löwis of the Python Foundation accepted the award on behalf of the Python community. ■

The Jury 2009

This year's jury members came from among numerous experts in the Linux and Open Source scene. Some 200 people from the community, in industry, and from government offices took part in the voting (see below for a selection). The candidate project or company in each of the individual categories that received the greatest number of votes won the category.

Joe "Zonker" Brockmeier, formerly a journalist, is now Community Manager for the openSUSE community.



Joe Casad has published numerous IT books. He joined *Linux Magazine* as Editor in Chief in 2004.



Alan Cox is an old-school kernel hacker and has never been afraid to speak out. He recently left his long-standing employer Red Hat and moved to Intel. Cox lives in Wales and keeps a diary in Welsh.

Holger Dyroff is one of the key SUSE figures whose roots go back to SUSE's Nuremberg days; today he is head of SUSE Linux products with Novell.

Paul W. Fields is the Fedora project leader. As an employee of Red Hat, he is responsible for maintaining the Fedora Linux distribution.



Bdale Garbee, Open Source and Linux Chief Technologist with Hewlett Packard, contributes in what little free time he has to the Debian project – and has done since 1995.



John "maddog" Hall is an Open Source original and evangelist. Maddog untiringly travels the world promoting the use of free software.



Heike Jurzik started working with Linux in 1996 and is a freelance journalist who contributes to various German and English computer magazines.



Greg Kroah-Hartman, a kernel hacker responsible for the USB stack, works for Novell on the Linux driver project.



Volker Lendecke has been an active developer with the Samba project since 1994 and helped found Sernet, a company that specializes in Samba.



Yuwei Lin is a researcher at the universities of York and Amsterdam; her work focuses on the social and economic aspects of free software.

Amanda McPherson is the Vice President of Marketing and Developer Programs with the Linux Foundation.



Bruce Perens is regarded as the father of the Open Source definition and is a former Debian project leader and a free software evangelist.



Peter Pfläging works in networks and security for the City of Vienna, where he introduced Open Source software.



Dmitri Popov is a prolific author and a specialist for OpenOffice and free applications and their deployment.



Florian Schießl works for the City of Munich and is one of the team currently working on migrating the city's desktops to Linux.



Franz Schmid speaks PostScript and PDF fluently and is on the development team behind the Scribus desktop publishing program.

Tom Schwaller is one of the founders of Linux New Media AG and was the first Editor in Chief of *Linux Magazine's* German sister publication *Linux-Magazin*. He is currently working in Linux clustering for IBM.



Mark Shuttleworth is the founder of Ubuntu and the owner of Canonical. Billionaire Shuttleworth landed a spectacular PR coup with his flight into space.