

LinuxCon in San Diego

Security and the Open Cloud were featured at the most recent LinuxCon event. *By David J. Dodd*

LinuxCon North America 2012 [1] traveled to the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina in California this year and was co-located with the Linux Kernel Summit [2] and Linux Plumbers Conference [3]. The event kicked off on Wednesday August 29 with a keynote from Jim Zemlin, Executive Director of The Linux Foundation, on the “State of Linux” followed by keynote panels on “What Is the Open Cloud?” and “Infrastructure and the Cloud.”

Some of the interesting talks that covered a security perspective on Wednesday were:

- Security Enhanced (SE)Android – Stephen Smalley, National Security Agency (NSA)
- Security Hardening for Distribution Kernels – Corey Henderson
- CaitSith Rule-Based In-Kernel Access Control – Tetsuo Handa, NTT DATA Corporation
- Virtualization Security Discussion – Paul Moore, Red Hat
- Life After BerkeleyDB: OpenLDAP’s Memory-Mapped Database – Howard Chu, Symas

With the increased use of mobile devices throughout the US government, I found the talk on SEAndroid by Smalley from the NSA very interesting. I was impressed that the NSA was investing time in Android security that would benefit SEAndroid. The talk on security hardening for distribution kernels described options for kernel hardening and discussed why they are not implemented along with solutions for this issue. Handa examined CaitSith – an access restriction module for Linux systems – which allows restricting access at the kernel level. Moore from Red Hat gave a talk on threats to a virtualized system as part of the Linux Plumbers Conference.

The afternoon held a number of keynote talks that covered “The Importance of Linux at Intel,” by Imad Sousou, Director of Intel Open Source Technology

Center; “Open Cloud, Collapsing the Layers,” by Kyle MacDonal, VP of Cloud, Canonical; and finally, a keynote panel on “State of the Linux Kernel.”

The evening event was located at the Bali Hai restaurant and was sponsored by Qualcomm Innovation Center Inc. and Code Aurora Forum. This gathering allowed the attendees to relax and enjoy some San Diego craft beers, and I had the opportunity to play some old-school arcade games with presenter Howard Chu. Good times.

The second day started out with a keynote from Rob Chandhok, President of Qualcomm Innovation Center, followed by Amir Michael, Facebook, and Chris Aniszczyk, Twitter. Taehee Lee of Samsung gave an interesting talk on Tizen SDK and mobile architecture. Ryan Ware from Intel presented an overview of Tizen security and described how the Tizen operating system protects information from the kernel to the web application using access controls, integrity protections, and isolation.

The day finished with keynotes from Michael Miller, Vice President of Global Alliances, SUSE; Tim Burke, Red Hat; and Phil McKinney, a former HP executive. Thursday evening featured a beachfront reception at the historic Hotel Del Coronado [4].

Great Success

LinuxCon North America was an energy-packed event with many fantastic speakers and tutorials. The conference served two important purposes: providing a collaborative environment for the Linux platform and providing networking opportunities so companies and individuals can get the most out of Linux. ■■■



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- [1] LinuxCon North America 2012: <http://events.linuxfoundation.org/events/linuxcon>
- [2] 12th Annual Linux Kernel Summit: <http://events.linuxfoundation.org/events/linux-kernel-summit>
- [3] LPC 2012: <http://www.linuxplumberconf.org/2012/>
- [4] Hotel Del Coronado: <http://www.hoteldel.com/>