Collaboration Instead of Competition

The Linux Distributions Working Group at the Open Mainframe Project

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# AdaLovelace on LiberaChat

@sjkriesch
Agenda

• About me
• Mainframes
• The Open Mainframe Project
• The Linux Distributions Working Group
• Goals
• Reasons for Founding a Working Group
• Collaboration versus Competition
• Benefits
• Q & A
About me

• Sarah Julia Kriesch
• openSUSE Contributor since around 10 years
• Member of the Release Engineering Team (s390x)
• Teamlead for s390x
• Bachelor Thesis at IBM
• DevOps Consultant (+ Open Source Contributor) at Accenture
• Founder of the Linux Distributions Working Group
Mainframes

• Large high-performance computer systems
• Big Endians
• Architecture s390x
• Used for mission-critical data
• Thousands of VMs can run on such a system

https://www.ibm.com/it-infrastructure/z/hardware
The Open Mainframe Project

- Founded 2015
- Focal point for deployment and usage of Linux and Open Source in a mainframe computing environment
- Project under the Linux Foundation
Mainframe centric Projects
Working Groups

- COBOL Working Group
- OPEN z/OS Enablement Working Group
- Linux Distributions Working Group
Kick-off with Community Distributions

Dan Horák

Sarah Julia Kriesch

Rajendra Nayak

Elizabeth K. Joseph
Planned Expansion
Structure

• Founders:
  − Sarah Julia Kriesch (openSUSE, Accenture)
  − Elizabeth K. Joseph (IBM)

• One Representative for every Linux distribution (required for input)

• Sponsor: Mark Post (SUSE)
Our Goals

- Create a place to collaborate across Linux Distributions via an OMP mailing list, wiki, and chat
- Provide a space for distributions to request for help on their port
- Ensure any and all infrastructure required is available for supporting the ports
- Better support from IBM to fix s390x specific bugs

https://wiki.openmainframeproject.org/display/LinuxDistrosWG
Reasons

- IBM handled every Linux distribution separately
- Community distributions have run into same issues
- Linux distributions were called Competitors
  → Better collaboration and equality
zLinux Collaboration

Enterprise Distributions

Red Hat <-> SUSE

Community Distributions

fedora <-> openSUSE <-> debian

ubuntu
LinuxONE (OSS) Community Cloud

- Vms on LinuxONE sponsored by IBM
- Free access (120 days) for single open-source contributors (SLES, RHEL, Ubuntu)
- Long-term access for open-source projects available
- Contact person for long-term access: Elizabeth K. Joseph at lyz@ibm.com
Example: Compiler Bug in PostgreSQL

• Reported by openSUSE at LLVM (upstream)
• IBM: “We do not fix that. That should be fixed by application communities!”
• Hint from Product Owner (IBM):
  “That is a temporary problem. That will be self healing, if all distributions will build with z13.”
• Integrated non-accepted patch into openSUSE
• Debian has got the same issue
Competitor Thinking

“Don’t contribute upstream! Other Linux distributions may have a benefit of that. “

IBM
Collaboration Thinking

“Don’t Contribute upstream!
Other Linux distributions may have a benefit of that. “

Linux Distributions Working Group
Collaboration as a benefit

- Upstream contributions available for all
- Lowering research & development costs (at IBM and in the community)
- Same solutions for all Linux distributions
- Sharing knowledge between communities
- Increasing innovation (diverse community ideas)
- Accelerating Linux development for s390x
Benefits of Cross-Community Members

- Better communication
- Visibility
- Trust (Partnership between distributions)
- Transparency
- Knowledge sharing (visiting other conferences)
Results of Open (Cross-)Collaboration

• Better Performance:
  – Cooperative Behavior (one approach for all)
  – Sharing of work and solutions
  – Openness

• Heterogeneity of Participants:
  – Life-giving (maintenance together)
  – Cooperation as interaction
  – Diversity
Open Collaboration for Innovation

- Different views
- Open access to contribute (to s390x)
- Interaction and exchange (monthly meetings)
- Creation of economic values for all
- Better development experience
- Collective Intelligence

Inclusion

- Bringing communities and companies together
- Do not exclude any Linux distribution!
- Every Linux distribution can join (also Enterprise)
- Creation of open source diversity
- More ideas “how to improve”
Do you want to join?

- Wiki: https://wiki.openmainframeproject.org/display/LinuxDistrosWG/Linux+Distributions+Working+Group
- ML: https://lists.openmainframeproject.org/g/wg-linux-distros
- Monthly meetings on Monday (invitations are sent to the mailing list)
Questions?

Q & A