

# FreeBSD Foundation April Update



The  
**FreeBSD**  
FOUNDATION

Dedicated to supporting the  
FreeBSD Project and Community

## Upcoming Events

### [BSDCan 2015](#)

June 10-13, 2015  
Ottawa, Canada

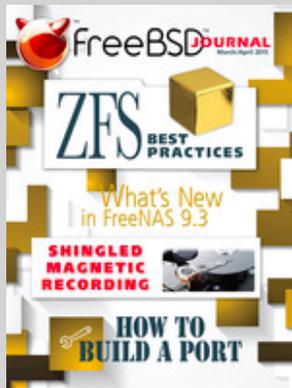
### [vBSDcon](#)

September 11-13, 2015  
Reston, Virginia

### [EuroBSDcon](#)

October 1-4, 2015  
Stockholm, Sweden

## FreeBSD Journal



The March/April issue of the *FreeBSD Journal* is now available! Don't miss articles on ZFS Best Practices, What's New in FreeNAS 9.3, and more. Not a subscriber? [Sign up](#) today!

### Open *FreeBSD Journal* Articles

Have you ever wanted to read the *FreeBSD Journal*, but don't have a subscription? Now's your chance! The FreeBSD

## Message from the Executive Director

As the trees bloom and the birds sing, I'm reminded how energizing spring can be. It's a good thing too because April has been a very busy month at the Foundation. From exciting arm64 development work, and company visits, to planning for the upcoming BSD events, and of course, hosting Groff the BSD Goat, we've continued working hard to promote and raise money for the Project. As always, we can't do anything without your support so, thank you again for all you do, and enjoy our latest update!

Deb

## Development Projects Update

### arm64 Port Committed to FreeBSD



In contrast to 32-bit ARM's strength in the embedded or mobile market, the 64-bit ARM architecture is emerging as a viable 64-bit server platform. The Foundation-sponsored FreeBSD/arm64 project is on track to bring FreeBSD's power, robustness, scalability and permissive license to this emerging ecosystem.

During March and April we completed a number of integration tasks to bring FreeBSD/arm64 into the FreeBSD development repository. This represents a very important milestone for the porting effort, which started as a volunteer effort at the end of 2012. Building on Andrew Turner's initial work, the Foundation joined ARM and Cavium in sponsoring Andrew and Semihalf to complete the foundational porting effort and target the ThunderX platform as the initial hardware reference platform.

ARMv8 hardware availability is increasing rapidly, but it is still not commonly available in the FreeBSD community. A number of ARMv8 emulators are available and we are primarily targeting these with the initial foundational support, in order to make FreeBSD/arm64 available to as many developers as possible. The open source QEMU emulator, ARM's Foundation Model, and the gem5 system architecture research simulator can all run FreeBSD/arm64.

Foundation is releasing select articles from previous issues. Check out the [first article](#).

See what others are saying about the Journal:

“Awesome! This is the best way to popularize FreeBSD!” San Jose, California

“I’ve found it really practical, and great reading...it caters to all levels of users.” Brooklyn, NY

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## Why Choose FreeBSD?

[Tera Bear Consulting](#) is a Colorado web application development and internet consulting firm that relies on FreeBSD for many of our mission-critical client projects. We offer customized, pre-configured, hardened and secured virtual servers under the FreeBSD Jail project. We have been successfully running FreeBSD for customers in production prior to FreeBSD 7. The benefits and stability of FreeBSD has been close to flawless in the decade-plus we have been administrating systems as a web application hosting provider, as well as web development firm.

I first became aware of FreeBSD while working on web-based, grassroots community media projects here in Boulder, and have used it pretty much continuously since then, as I worked with teams of developers to produce larger and more complex, commercial applications. Most of our local and remote contractors have had no problem transitioning to

Foundation staff member Glen Barber committed initial support for building FreeBSD/arm64 snapshots, and we are now producing arm64 virtual machine (VM) images every week, as with the other platforms supported by FreeBSD.

Ongoing work will ensure that the platform is reliable and stable, and implement the functionality that is required of Tier-1 platforms. Effort is also underway on fully supporting arm64 in the FreeBSD ports collection, and adding binary package building infrastructure. This effort is all part of the path to supporting arm64 on multiple hardware platforms in the FreeBSD 11.0 release.

-- contributed by Ed Maste

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## Upcoming Travel Grant Deadline: BSDCan 2015



The FreeBSD Foundation is again offering travel grants to attend BSDCan 2015. The deadline to submit your application is **Monday, May 4**. More information and the application is available [here](#). Submit your application today!

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## FreeBSD From the Trenches

This month, Glen Barber is back to kick off our latest From The Trenches series: The Tips and Tricks Edition. Check out [Hacking "/" on ZFS" and GELI Encrypted Drives, the Old-School Way](#) and don't forget, if you have a story or tip you'd like to share, please [email](#) us.



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## Groff The BSD Goat Visits Foundation Headquarters

Earlier this month, we had the pleasure of hosting Groff the BSD Goat between his visits to Tokyo, Japan for AsiaBSDCon and Ottawa, Canada for BSDCan. We thought we'd show him around Colorado, while Glen Barber was visiting. Here are some of the highlights of his adventures:



Groff joined us on a roadtrip to visit a FreeBSD commercial user.

FreeBSD syntax and procedures for updating their development jail in a "real" UNIX environment where they have full control, as do our customers. This flexibility, coupled with the project's continued commitment to stability, security and scalability made FreeBSD the right choice for most of our web development projects.

For these reasons, Tera Bear Consulting, is committed to using and supporting FreeBSD now, and in the future.

– Jon Lybrook, [Tera Bear Consulting](#)

He made some friends in the Rocky Mountains.

He had the opportunity to see Colorado by air, on his personal sightseeing tour.

He was in good hands while visiting Garden of the Gods. We promise to take good care of Groff, while he's waiting to see all his BSD friends in Ottawa in June!



## Fundraising Update

Wow, this month just flew by! I'm hoping the saying "April showers bring May flowers" is true, because that means we are going to have a lot of flowers here in Boulder, CO. It's been raining a lot this month, and raining solid for the last two days. I can't complain too much when I see most of the country west of us desperately needs rain. Fortunately, it's not too bothersome when we are so busy doing work to help others! From answering emails, promoting FreeBSD, managing development projects, to actual coding, our team is busy helping the FreeBSD Project and community.



Our spring fundraising campaign ran through mid-April and we brought in just under 200 new donors. Thank you to everyone who made a donation during this campaign, whether you were a new or previous donor. We were very pleased to add Limelight as a Silver Donor and Mandrill by Mailchimp at a Bronze Donor!

Many of you know Glen Barber, FreeBSD Release Engineer extraordinaire, and FreeBSD Foundation employee. A few weeks ago, he spent a week here at Foundation headquarters working with local team members, as well as other local FreeBSD contributors, who work for commercial FreeBSD users. It was a very full and productive week, including meeting with another commercial user down in Colorado Springs, working on builds, and engaging in discussions on prerequisite tasks needed to be completed before the 11.0 release cycle, explaining how scripts used for recent releases work, and how we make heavy use of ZFS on the release build machines. He even helped me set up my laptop with the latest version of FreeBSD.

Part of our budget is earmarked for travel expenses. This is an investment that greatly benefits FreeBSD. It helps us visit commercial users to help facilitate their collaboration with the Project; get us to conferences to work face-to-face with other FreeBSD contributors, as well as promote FreeBSD at non-BSD related conferences; and allows for our team members meet face-to-face periodically over the year.

This year, we are finding even more events to promote FreeBSD and recruit more people to the Project. It's important to bring in new people to create a diverse community that will help drive sustainable growth of FreeBSD. We need their ideas, energy, and passion, to help propel positive changes in our community. To find these people, promote FreeBSD, and support the community, we will be sponsoring and/or attending these upcoming events: BSDCan, Ottawa Developer/Vendor Summits, OSCON, vBSDCon, womENCourage, EuroBSDCon, Grace Hopper, OpenZFS, LISA, and the Bay Area Developer/Vendor Summit.

Our fundraising efforts are helping to bring in more funds to support our increased travel plans and conference and event sponsorships, amongst the many other areas that we support. Like I mentioned above, we use this funding to help commercial users to not only better understand the Project, but also how to better collaborate with the Project. Your donations also sponsor conferences to promote FreeBSD and recruit new people to the Project, and help get FreeBSD contributors to conferences and summits to share their knowledge and learn from more experienced FreeBSD contributors.

We fundraise all year round, but we will have targeted fundraising campaigns to help encourage more people to donate around BSDCan in June and EuroBSDCon in October. Our day-to-day efforts also include asking more companies for donations. We are also approaching companies who haven't donated before, or who may not directly use FreeBSD, but may benefit from the skills potential new hires have acquired by working on the Project.

We need your help to continue our efforts in supporting the Project and community. Please consider making a [donation](#) today. It's easy peasy! And, once you do this, tell your friends and workplace. Thank you for your support!

*-- contributed by Deb Goodkin*

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