Sysadministrivia

Linux, Lagers, and Late Nights

S3E3: "Ranting Lunatics"

Posted 2018-04-09 05:19
Modified 2018-04-17 00:59
Comments 0

Navigation

Previous Episode	Next Episode
S3E2: "Zen Administration"	S3E4: "More Audits Than the IRS"

Log

Recorded (UTC)	Aired (UTC)	Editor
2018-04-01 22:44:09	2018-04-09 03:04:29	"Edita"

Verification

Format	SHA256	GPG	Audio File
MP3	f9b3bb353b1b830217ebd9b70022a51659a01caffb47c0c5e3d5437ef3141f25	click	click
OGG	6125f296dd65e775caea9780fd89a043fdd9ae842f6881ea4e3c10bffd31cc0b	click	click

Quicklisten:

In which we expound upon mentoring and choosing enterprise distros. We also deliver the as-promised language-package-manager rant.

- News
- Notes
- Sysbadministration Award
- Errata
- Music

News

- Oracle won against Google in round two of their lawsuit.
- The CPU vulns just don't stop, now there's Total Meltdown.
- Facebook's management of privacy is atrocious.
    - But tell us something we didn't know.
    - They claim that they don't do any tracking.
    - And their best defense is you agreed to it.

- Microsoft now seeks to use bad words on Skype as justifications for bans, possibly related to FOSTA (see next point).
    - I mention Tox as a privacy-centric opensource alternative to Skype.

- FOSTA now holds "site operators/owners" **responsible** for illicit activity on their network, potentially.
    - Per Jthan, findasexslave dot com is not registered.
    - But a user was banned on Reddit for sharing an article **about the bill being passed**.

- Police have been petitioning Google for data about all mobile devices close to certain crimes.
- Firefox's password management is under heavy fire.

Notes

Starts at **27m7s**.

I was drinking Jefferson's Reserve. Paden was drinking Miller Lite. Jthan was drinking Stranahan's American Single Malt whiskey.

- Mentoring (pt. II)
    - I mention (again) ESR's guide to asking smart questions, which is fantastic for a process to follow.
    - Finding a mentor
        - Look for people who contribute a lot. Bug reports for projects you're in, share a lot of (**useful**) code, offer a lot of good input on mailing lists/IRC channels/etc.
        - They're usually at the more technical (and less flashy/less "fun") conventions/conferences.

    - Finding an apprentice
        - Passion/invested interest/curiosity is a hardline **requirement**.
        - Compatible personality that matches yours is ideal.

    - Why you should do both
        - There will always be someone that knows more than you about something, and the goal is to never stop learning.
        - Teaching others helps you learn.

- Having an apprentice exposes you to newer tech/implementations coming out.
- Being both master and apprentice helps keep our industry alive.

- Choosing an enterprise distro (pt. II) (Thanks, raindev!) **(42m32s)**
  - What makes something a "good" enterprise distro; what requirements are generally needed for this (and what do you have at your organization)?
    - Stability and point release are big factors, with scalability being a close third.
    - Jthan brings up a great requirement, enterprise support available from the distro publishers themselves (i.e. not community support).
  - Why rolling release isn't the best model for an enterprise organization.
    - Version-pinning – known set of bugs and vulns to account for and work around, helps you treat the fleet as "cattle, not pets".
    - Rolling release is, by nature, more prone to breakage as new package releases come out.
      - This doesn't make it **bad**, inherently, it just requires far more attention than should be applied to an entire server release.
  - What needs might be considered specific to your organization?
    - The specifics of your environment is going to be the primary deciding factor.
    - "The production environment is not a place to learn; it's a place to *do*."
    - Debian vs. RHEL vs. SUSE?
      - CentOS lacks enterprise support. It'd be fine for a small-medium business, but not for an enterprise platform.
      - SLES (SUSE Linux Enterprise Server) is MUCH more popular in e.g. Germany than in the US, where RHEL is more popular. If you're in Germany, you should probably go with SLES because it'll be easier to staff the operations team that is comfortable with SUSE-specific implementation.
      - The *culture* and region around your enterprise's heart should be congruent with your enterprise's implementation.

- Our rant about independent package managers (pip, npm, etc.) **(59m47s)**
  - The "developer mindset" is to favor the language-specific package manager over the system package manager, **even when available from the distro repos**.
    - This creates an ugly mess between distro-provided modules and out-of-band packages.
  - Jthan thinks "in this day and age" where we have virtualenv, that should be used always. I disagree; this is part of the overcomplicated and messy "developer mindset" and Jthan's use case is by no means standard experience.
  - We mention FHS.
  - This is what disagreements between Jthan and myself *off-air* usually look like.
  - R sucks because it's much harder to version pin.
  - We at least all agree that Node.js/NPM sucks.

Sysbadministration Award

In this segment, we highlight system administration mistakes. Think of them as the IT equivalent of the Darwin Awards. **(1h36m19s)**

Drupal released a critical security update. Great! Except they failed to have an infrstructure that could support everyone downloading it at the time of release.

Errata

- Jthan, venv is very different from virtualenv. They are entirely separate projects.

Music

Music Credits

Track	Title	Artist	Link	Copyright/License
Intro	Albatross	Qusic	click	CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0
Outro	Tiny Tiger	Brazzmatazz	click	CC-BY-NC-SA 3.0

(All music is royalty-free, properly licensed for use, used under fair use, or public domain.)

Author r00t^2
Categories Season Three

Comments

There are currently no comments on this article.