A Quick Tour of FreeBSD 9

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Introduction - FreeBSD Development model

First, a little bit of theory...



- concurrent development
- divergence based on feature maturity
- MFCs ("merge from current")
- time-based releases
- every 5-7 month "X.Y" minor release

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 every 18-24 month "X.0" major release

Introduction - 9.0-RELEASE

- 9.0 comes ca. 24 months after 8.0
 - 8.0-RELEASE announced on 11/27/2009
- new major version 9.0 / stable branch 9.0-STABLE



- FreeBSD 10-CURRENT
- currently RC1 available (two more to come)
- will probably get released by the end of the year
- considered production quality despite .0 name
- many new features, enhancements and bug fixes
- let's have a look...



Highlights & Overview

- New system installer bsdinstall
- Userland DTrace
- CLANG / LLVM compiler
- Large-scale SMP support
- USB 3.0 support
- Modern event timer infrastructure
- More SMP-scalable TCP/IP
- New NFS client and server
- PF 4.5 port

ZFS updated to version 28

HAST

- UFS SoftUpdates+Journal (SU+J)
- New driver for AHCI SATA drives
- ATA CAM implementation
- Capsicum
- NFSv4 ACLs for UFS
- Resource Containers



New system installer - bsdinstall

- sysinstall has some problems ...
 - cannot handle new features
 - has no maintainer
- bsdinstall tries to solve these problems
 - several developers involved
 - set of shell scripts called in sequence
 - easily extensible, readable, comprehensible
 - (re)uses modern tools already in base (gpt, ...)
 - wireless setup
 - capable of installing PowerPC
 - installation from live system
 - text-based
 - to be merged with pc-sysinstall in the future
 - still missing some key features (zfs on root, ...)





Userland DTrace

- integral part of the kernel DTrace which we had since 8.0
- ported by Rui Paulo under the FreeBSD Foundation sponsorship
- allows admins/developers to analyze system failure or performance bottlenecks
- userland DTrace is already used in some large well known software packages such as PostgreSQL and X.Org
- could be used to speed up the FreeBSD itself too



CLANG / LLVM compiler

- ► GCC is GPLv3 licenced after 4.2 release
- (Free)BSD project has issues with GPLv3 and thus leaving us with ancient compiler
- clang/LLVM is a C/C++/ObjC compiler (framework) which aims to possibly replace GCC
- clang/LLVM is being shiped with 9.0 by default
- recent version imported every now and then
- capable to build a fully bootable and usable FreeBSD system
- work in progress
- more on this will be covered in rdivacky@'s talk at 17:30



New NFS client and server

- completely rewritten NFS client and server code
- supports NFSv4.0 and NFSv4.1 is ongoing
- adds many new features like a stateful protocol, performance improvements and stronger security (ACLs, strong authentication).
- heavily tested and considered stable
- NFSv4 ACLs for UFS
 - NFSv4 ACLs are already directly implemented in ZFS



PF 4.5 port

- pf matched OpenBSD 4.1 until recently
- it is now at the level of OpenBSD 4.5
- brings in many bug fixes
- supposed to improve performance as well
- naturally, pfsync updated too
- check out the OpenBSD release announcements
- further updates are questionable due to syntax changes
- there's ongoing work on carp





ZFS updated to version 28

ZFS gets updated to version 15

- …and later to v28 the latest publicly available code base from Sun
 - Data deduplication
 - Triple parity RAIDZ
 - zfs diff
- lots of bug fixes and performance improvements
- backporting code from IllumnOS
- now considered really production ready
- Wait for Martins's presentation for more information (next one)



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HAST

- developed by Pawel Jakub Davidek (pjd@) under FreeBSD Foundation sponsorship
- a framework which allows transparent storage of the same data across several physically separated machines connected by a TCP/IP network
 - think network-based RAID1 (mirror)
 - similar to the DRBD storage system known from Linux
- possible to build highly-available storage cluster together with carp and pfsync
- it's available in FreeBSD 8, but 9.0 comes with many bugfixes and some enhancements
 - compression of the data
 - checksuming
 - security enhancements
 - additional synchronization modes



UFS SU+J

soft-updates are fine, but

- not so much with big file-systems
- memory hungry
- Jeff Roberson added a small journal to colaborate with softupdates
- the recovery process is very quick
- effectively gets you rid of background fsck after unclean shutdown
- can be enabled on existing file-systems too
- enabled by default in 9.0 installed by bsdinstall



ATA CAM and AHCI, geom_raid

- ATA CAM implementation
 - ATA disk drivers have all been moved to the CAM (common access method for storage) system
 - ataraid now obsoleted
- New driver for AHCI SATA drives
 - supports native AHCI via CAM
 - AHCI drives are manipulated by camcontrol
 - new features like NCQ
 - port multipliers and hot-plugging are greatly improved
- GEOM-based ataraid replacement geom_raid
 - supports various BIOS-based software RAIDs
 - RAID0, RAID1, RAID1E, RAID10, SINGLE, CONCAT are supported, more to come
 - project is sponsored by Cisco and iXsystems



Capsicum

- lightweight OS capability and sandbox framework
- framework for security isolation of sensitive processes
- developed at the University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory, supported by a grant from Google
- intended to supplement existing system-centric mandatory access control protections
- several applications (tcpdump, hast, Chromium browser) have been modified to use sandboxing to confine risky activities





Resource Containers

- FreeBSD Foundation sponsored project
- adds support for per-jail resource limits
- allows system administrators to partition resources like memory or CPU between jails and prevent users from DoS-ing the whole system
 - effectively enables FreeBSD jails to act as lightweight VMs
- not part of GENERIC kernel though



Other

- Large-scale SMP support
 - brings in support for large SMP systems, with more than 32 CPUs.
- Modern event timer infrastructure
 - a new unifying timer infrastructure
 - foundation for tickless kernel
- USB 3.0 support
 - added new XHCI driver which supports USB 3.0
 - compatible with USB 2.0 and 1.0 thus aims to replace older UHCI/OHCI/EHCI drivers
- FreeBSD runs on Amazon EC2
- More SMP-scalable TCP/IP
- FreeBSD IPv6-only Support
- TRIM support for UFS



If you would like to learn about all of this and further developments in more detail, please visit:

- http://www.FreeBSD.org/news/status/
- http://ivoras.net/freebsd/freebsd9.html



Wake Up, I'm finishing already - Q/A



Thank you for your attention!

