

Encouraging SMEs to contribute to Development of BSD

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BSDCAN 2024

Tom Smyth & Wireless Connect Ltd.

- CEO of Wireless Connect Ltd.
- SME ISP operating in Ireland
- We Don't donate to OpenBSD Foundation (personally and with company resources)
- We have funded the following features / changes in OpenBSD
 - Protected Bridge ports
 - Staticarp mode for interfaces (replying to arp requests but not making arp requests (for easy network access enforcement)
 - NSH (port funding part of the development of this project)



Big impact from big players 😊 (thank you)

- Big companies fund big initiatives in BSD already,
 - either through the foundations or
 - extensive employment of BSD developers. and that is a good thing.
- But there are many things to improve in the world we all occupy
 - is there a way that we can have SME companies across the globe to fund the payment of developers to allow them to make a living working on the OS that they love ?
- FreeBSD 100G+ network card moving 1s and 0s for Entertainment (Netflix) 😊
- OpenBSD OpenBGPD Ripe NCC + DECIX support + others...

It is about increasing funding to BSD developers and their communities

- **It Is not about** re-distributing funding that is already committed...
- It is to incentivise small businesses to fund mini projects to make BSD better for them.
- It is about giving developers an opportunity enhance BSD through paid work in addition to their voluntary activities.

Professional services houses – Klara Inc

- Upstream first
- 90% + of code developed up-streamed !!! 😊
- companies like this serve as a useful bridge between corporate world and BSD Communities.
- Alan Jude ++ (fantastic advocate for BSD)

if 5 Small Businesses agree that a feature is useful

- pool resources
- 100% of the benefit
- 20% of the cost 😊
- F**K Yea 😊

Small business can help improve *BSDs along side the huge improvements driven by Big Tech

- lowering the barrier of entry to contribute to a specific feature that will improve business operation
- lower cost for the same outcome.

Ideas & funding clearing house

- what if a company like mine cannot afford to fund a project to completion?...

Never gets a start.

- Well if we can't afford to complete a project (well the funding does not get committed) and the project is not going to get a start.

On your Marks...

- But we can create a problem description
- We can explore it with a reputable developer from the relevant project and get an indicative cost for the effort.
- We can put the idea up on line with a funding goal and a commitment to fund the project.

Ideas to manage issues welcome

- Impact of donated / financed code on the projects / and their volunteer communities
 - portion of the of fees gets paid to the foundation in question.
- Collecting the money from SMEs and operating escrow ?
- Developer management, payment and milestones... ?
- Disputes ?

Funding is not democratic

- People have the opportunity to put their money where their mouth is to solve problems and improve functionality
- Alignment of stars...
 - someone documents an idea / problem description
 - availability of a developer who wants to take on the project
 - sufficient interest from smes / interested parties to commit to funding
 - support for the idea in principle of the up stream project.

- kind of like crowd sourcing...
- or more curated... less crazy ideas more focused..
- cream rising to the top...