The NetBSD Project

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What is NetBSD?

- A free and complete BSD operating system
- Derived from 4.4BSD-Lite and Berkeley's Net/2 release
- Runs on many hardware platforms
- Distributed with complete source
- Supported by volunteers

Some of the NetBSD Project's Major Goals:

- Provide a free, complete, stable BSD system
- "Support" for popular platforms
- Avoid encumbering licenses

Summary:

> Provide a free system that professionals and hobbyists can use for whatever they want.

“User-land Improvements”

- Continuing 4.4BSD-Lite merge
- Weak references, for library symbols
- Updated some of the third-party software
- Getting closer to POSIX.2 and other standards
- Many, many bug fixes and “little” improvements

Kernel Improvements

- More architectures supported
- 4.4BSD-Lite file system code
- Union file system
- Most of the system is now 64-bit clean
- Ever closer to POSIX.1 conformance

More Kernel Improvements

- SCSI subsystem seriously cleaned up and improved
- Most ports now use new autoconfig mechanism
- More work done on the diskless boot code
- Performance improvements for several ports
- And many, many more “little” fixes and improvements

Working ports:

i386/i486/Pentium	Amiga
HP9000/300	DECstation
Macintosh (some models)	Sun3
SPARC (sun4, sun4c)	pc532 (ns32k board)

Ports in progress:

Alpha

ARM

IBM RT PC

PowerPC

VAX

Ports we want to see done:

SPARC (sun4m)

HP9000/700

Want a port? Support one!

What you need:

- One machine to start, usually a second later
- Technical reference material
- A lot of dedication, patience, and time

We'll help, to the extent that we can.

Best way to get a port done:

"JUST DO IT!"

Compatibility with Other Systems

- BSDI binary compatibility (i386)
- SunOS binary compatibility (SPARC, m68k)
- SVR4 binary compatibility (i386)
- Nearly 4.4BSD source-code compatible
- POSIX

It's easy to port software to NetBSD.

4.4BSD-Lite Integration

Goals:

- Integrate 4.4BSD-Lite changes.
- Roll forward NetBSD improvements.

Status:

- Kernel done long ago.
- User-land mostly done.

Many, many fixes and improvements sent back to Berkeley, for integration into the final release of 4.4BSD-Lite.

Future work on NetBSD

- Finish 4.4-Lite integration
- Support more platforms
- Continue POSIX compliance work
- Performance enhancements
- Improve RFC support
- Improve usability where possible
- Fulfill user demands as best we can
- Anything else we can think of...

NetBSD Releases

- NetBSD 0.8 – April, 1993
- NetBSD 0.9 – August, 1993
- NetBSD 1.0 – October, 1994

We will ship no software before its time.

Also available:

- NetBSD-current – Daily snapshot of work in progress

NetBSD-current

A snapshot of our work in progress.

- New source snapshot nightly.
- Source `tar` files created weekly
- Binary snapshots occasionally
- Can be obtained via anonymous ftp and SUP

NetBSD-current helps people get our sources quicker, and allows others to find and fix our bugs more easily!

Who does the work?

A "cast of thousands" of contributors including:

- CSRG, for Net/2, 4.4-Lite, and for "BSD" in general
- The NetBSD core team, port maintainers, and other developers
- Users who have sent in bug reports, fixes, and enhancements
- The "NetBSD-current" alpha-testers

How to get NetBSD via anonymous FTP:

`ftp.NetBSD.ORG:pub/NetBSD`

`ftp.iastate.edu:pub/netbsd`

NetBSD mailing lists:

`majordomo@NetBSD.ORG`

And if you have questions or comments:

- Send mail to `netbsd-comments@NetBSD.ORG`
- Come talk to us privately
- Ask questions now!