Open Source/Open Science 1999 Conference Report for CHEP 2000

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Open Source/Open Science 1999
Introduction

Place
- Brookhaven National Laboratory

When
- October 2nd, 1999

Scope
- Discuss open source issues which affect scientists;
- Explore open source in large scale computing;
- Explore open source use in graphics and scientific data analysis and visualization;
- Explore how DOE/NFS can contribute to the open source effort directly

Open Source/Open Science 1999
Attendees

Stephen Adler - BNL: Conference Intro and main conference organizer

Bruce Parens - technocrat.org : What is Open Source

Dan Gezelter - U of Notre Dame: openscience.org

Tom Throwe - BNL: RHIC/RCF and Linux

Malcolm Capel - BNL: Linux and structural biology

Kent Koeninger - SGI: XFS

Yuefan Deng - SUNY SB: Beowulf applications

Bill Horn - IBM: Open DX

Joh Leech - SGI: Open GL and GLX

Mark Galassi - LANL: GNU Scientific Library

Bill Rooney - BNL: Open Source in Medical Imaging

Jon Hall - Linux International: It Ain't Open 'til It's Open

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Panel Discussion

Overcoming the obstacles faced by the DOE, the NSF and national facilities like BNL in using and contributing to open source technologies.

Panelists
- Michael K. Johnson - Red Hat
- Larry Augustin - VA Linux
- Fred Johnson - DOE
- Ognjan Shentov - Pennie Edmonds
- Bruce Parens - technocrat.org

Sponsors
- Red Hat, VA Linux, SGI, Portland Group, KAI, Andover.net, Linux Today, LXNY, NYSIA

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Goals of the Conference

Make a clear statement at BNL that Linux/Open Source is a software methodology which is viable for the work done in the physical sciences.
- Make sure upper management understood what open source software is, and what it can achieve and has achieved.
- Bring in the local community as well to teach them about open source.
- Show the open source community how their software is helping advance science by the applications it has been put to use. Help encourage those at the "coding front" to continue their work.
- Show other scientists what can be achieved with the use of open source software.

Open Source/Open Science 1999
Goals of the Conference

Act as an outreach vehicle to the local community regarding the science being done at BNL.

- The talks highlighted the science being done at the laboratory given at a level for the general audience (as best as could be).
- Tours of the laboratory facilities, which occurred parallel to the talks, were given to the attendees, so they could get a first hand view of science in action.

Open Source/Open Science 1999
Conference Fallout

- BNL Upper management got the hint!
- Those of the local community who attended got the message of open source, science and what really goes on at BNL.
- Because of the ads in local media, on the order of 100,000 people associated BNL with software and open source.
- Articles were written up in Dr. Dobbs and Linux Journal regarding the association of science with the open source movement.

Open Source/Open Science 1999
Where do we go from here?

Looking for feed back from the greater Nuclear and High Energy Physics community on whether to have Open Source/Open Science 2000.

If so, executive committee will be forming soon to discuss scope of the meeting and its location.

If you are interested in getting involved, send e-mail to Stephen Adler, adler@bnl.gov