

NetBSD developer Andrew Doran hired to work on SMP

The [NetBSD] project has announced that Andrew Doran, a NetBSD contributor since 1999, has been hired full time to work on the scheduling code that these new [multicore] CPUs require which should help keep NetBSD competitive.

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NetBSD, considered the oldest surviving open source BSD operating system, has carved out a niche market in the embedded operating system space due to its ability to run on just about every architecture that exists. However, due mostly to a lack of man power, it has been slowly falling behind some of its BSD cousins (and Linux too) when it comes to the implementation of new models for scheduling and multi-core CPU support and other powerful features that are required for it to be useful on more complex systems. To this end, the project has announced that Andrew Doran, a NetBSD contributor since 1999, has been hired by the NetBSD Foundation full time to work on the scheduling code that these new CPUs require which should help keep NetBSD competitive.

According to the announcement, Doran has been hired to "work full-time on improving symmetrical multi-processing (SMP) in NetBSD." Force10 Networks appears to be bankrolling two full months of developer time for this project, but the NetBSD Foundation (non-profit) is also soliciting donations from the NetBSD community to extend this period if possible.

Although the NetBSD project has been a staple of the BSD world for ages, one has to wonder if their users wouldn't be better served by having a port of some other BSD scheduler rather than inventing their own all over again.

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