Why is NetBSD so special?

Since NetBSD was founded in 1993 it can always be found at the top of Open Source operating system development. In many cases NetBSD was the complete foundation or reference for other projects. Many advantages of NetBSD are not found in any other open source operating system:

- Support for 60 different hardware platforms today, more will follow: acorn26 acorn32 algor alpha amiga amigappc arc arm atari bebox cats cesfic cobalt dreamcast evbarm evbmips evbsh3 evbsh5 hp300 hp700 hpc hpcarm hpcmips hpcsh hppa i386 luna68k m68k mac68k macppc mips mipsco mmeye mvme68k mvmeppc netwinder news68k newsmips next68k ofppc pc532 playstation2 pmax pmppc powerpc prep sandpoint sbmips sgimips sh3 sh5 shark sparc sparc64 sun2 sun3 sun68k vax walnut x68k x86_64

- Support for 13 CPU architectures: alpha arm32 arm26 hppa i386 m68k mips ns32k powerpc sh[345] sparc sparc64 vax x86_64

- Cross compiling of the kernel and userland supported by the standard toolchain

- Three ways to debug the operating system's core: local, remote and post-mortem

- The complete source, including the history of the development, is available via anonymous CVS, rsync, SUP and CVSweb

- Binary compatibility for most Linux-, Solaris-, SCO-, FreeBSD-, BSD/OS-, OSF/1- and Ultrix-programs (on same CPU)

- Support for various network technologies like ATM, HIPPI, FDDI, HSSI, IEEE 802.11, Token-Ring, ARCnet and Ethernet

- NetBSD was the first Open Source operating system to support USB, USB2 and PCMCIA audio

- Many subsystems are described in detail in published articles

Of course NetBSD contains all the features you would expect in an open source operating system today like X11, tools for firewalls, software RAID and tools for installation and maintenance of 3rd party software. With NetBSD's package tools you can install more than 3.000 freely available software packages (e.g. KDE, GNOME, web servers, StarOffice, Netscape, Samba, etc.) easily.

Ideal for Embedded Environments

One of the main goals of the NetBSD Project is to run on many different hardware platforms. NetBSD is designed to minimize the effort of making it run on new hardware, and as a result you are able to concentrate on the development of the hardware.

For embedded environments, NetBSD is excellently suited for several reasons. First, many lower-power CPUs like ARM, MIPS, PowerPC, Xscale and Hitachi SH 3/4/5 are supported. Then of course, tools are available to do cross development. Both the toolchain and compilers support crosscompiling, and crosscompiling of the kernel and the whole operating system is easily possible, just like cross-building whole distribution sets.

Some of our developers are professional consultants, and in case you need help, you can sign them up at short notice or for bigger projects. A list of these consultants can be found at http://www.netbsd.org/gallery/consultants.html.

Make the decision - like many Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies - to use NetBSD, the world's most portable operating system, for your product.

All the software you ever wanted

NetBSD consists of a slim base operating system that can be configured for many uses by adding software available in the NetBSD Packages Collection, pkgsrc. More than 3.000 applications from many areas are available:

- Web serving and website development, including: Apache with many modules, PHP, Jakarta Tomcat and many others

- Network, database, file and print serving, including BIND 4/8/9, Samba, Adrian Asun's the UoMichigan implementation of AppleTalk, INN, MRTG, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Sendmail, SquirrelMail, etc.

- Text processing and office productivity tools, e.g. KOffice, OpenOffice, Ghostscript, teTeX, GNU Emacs and Xemacs, VIM, CUPS, DocBook and DocBook XML, GIMP, SANE and others.

- Multiple desktop environments and GUI tools, including GNOME, KDE, Mozilla, Netscape Navigator including Flash plugin, Opera, xmms and gqmpeg mp3 players, Afterstep, Windowmaker, fvwm, mplayer for MPEG and DivX;-) processing.

- Games, e.g. Civilisation Call To Power (demo version), Quake 1, Quake3-Arena (demo version), Heretic 2 (demo version), FreeCiv, NetHack, xdoom and many others.

- Software development tools for various languages, including Sun's JDK & JRE, Perl with more than 230 modules, Python, Ruby, Zope, cscope, gcc, DDD, QT, GTK+, GNU Smalltalk, etc.

Software can be installed either from CDs or our FTP server, or built using a simple "make install" thanks to the NetBSD Packages System.

Help is only an e-mail away!

In case of trouble you can find fast and unbureaucratic help through our mailing lists and the bug tracking system. For more professional help there are a number of consultants listed at our website.

There is no phone support but your questions will be certainly answered without wasting time by being put on hold.

Truly Open Source

There are no 'NDA' or 'binary only' in the NetBSD project. All the sources can be downloaded from the Internet. Part of it is under a Berkeley style license, part of it under the GPL license. Every NetBSD copy you get from us contains the entire source. 'Open Source' is not only an empty buzz phrase for us!

Available in all sizes!

NetBSD runs on a huge number of hardware platforms, from the VAX 11/750 to the latest PCs and Windows CE palmtops. No matter if you want to clean your old dusty PC from the attic or bought the latest technology, NetBSD will be there for you! And by removing some optional components, NetBSD is suitable for embedded systems.

Security for Paranoids

With integrated firewall tools, IPsec, Kerberos 5, SSH, SSL and encryption tools like PGP, which can be easily installed from our software archives, you have access to modern security system. Of course our whole system has been audited for security leaks.

In the public forums related to 'Security' like the Bugtraq mailing list NetBSD always had fewer known security problems than the alternative solutions. One more reason why security consultants choose NetBSD!

Don't miss the connection

NetBSD has been growing for nearly ten years, longer than any other alternative solutions in the field of open source, and is stronger than ever. We won't disappear and leave you alone or stop supporting your platform. You can put your mind at rest that the future development of your OS is in the hands of capable experts.

How can I help?

There are many ways in which you or your company can support NetBSD.

- Mention NetBSD on your website, while talking to your colleagues or hardware producers when you buy new systems
- Develop a new driver or support for a special hardware platform, protocol, or API that isn't supported yet
- Get hardware or technical hardware-related documents which we do not already own and send it to us for development and testing
- Politely ask, if necessary repeatedly, hardware producers which refuse to support us with documentation
- Port your software to NetBSD
- Acquire NetBSD or NetBSD devotionalia from us
- Donate money for buying hardware and promotion for the project

Please refer to board@netbsd.org if you want to donate (if possible write in English please).

Coming soon

Predicting the future is difficult but the following points will quite certainly soon come:

- Support for even more devices and hardware platforms like FireWire and ACPI
- SMP on more PowerPC, UltraSPARC, Intel & AMD systems
- Userland thread implementation supported by kernel via scheduler activations
- Further use of latest network technologies like RED, WFQ, CBQ and ECN
- PXE support for booting more PCs via network
- Support for booting from more 'foreign' filesystems to make switching to NetBSD more easy.
- A kqueue userland interface to monitor kernel events, e.g. drivers appearing/disappearing
- Wider distribution of official CDs and devotionalia, even outside the USA and Europe

Where do I get NetBSD?

- WWW: http://www.netbsd.org/
- FTP: ftp://ftp.netbsd.org/pub/NetBSD/
- CVS: anoncvs@anoncvs.netbsd.org:/cvsroot
- SUP: sup.netbsd.org
- RSync: rsync.netbsd.org:/
- CD-ROM: http://www.netbsd.org/Sites/cdroms.html

The NetBSD Project
"OF COURSE IT RUNS NETBSD!"

What is the NetBSD Project?

The NetBSD Project gives you a complete Unix/Linux-like operating system, which is 100% up to today's Open Source standard, supporting industry standard APIs, communication protocols and a huge number of hardware platforms. NetBSD is suited to a wide range of applications, from servers and workstations to PDAs and embedded systems.

NetBSD is often chosen to control newly developed hardware and to drive products such as network computers, single board computers, internet appliances, firewalls, printers, copiers and even webcams. Additionally, NetBSD is used in network development all over the world. ISPs use NetBSD because of the wide spectrum of network possibilities, and enthusiasts choose NetBSD for its excellent hardware support.

NetBSD is mostly developed by a community of volunteers. Almost 200 active developers have write access to the source and hundreds more contribute to further developments daily. The NetBSD Project is controlled by the NetBSD core group and the NetBSD Foundation.