What is the NetBSD Project?

The NetBSD Project gives you a complete Unix-like operating system that is up to today’s Open Source and security standards, supporting industry-standard APIs, communication protocols, and a huge variety 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 such products as network computers, single-board computers, internet appliances, firewalls, printers, copiers, and even web-cams. 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.

Why is NetBSD so special?

Since NetBSD was founded in 1993 as a successor of the BSD-line, it has always been at the forefront of Open Source operating system development. NetBSD has been the complete foundation or reference for other projects. Many advantages of NetBSD are not found in any other open source operating system:

- 55 different hardware platforms
- 17 different CPU architectures
- Cross compiling of the kernel and userland supported by the standard toolchain
- Kernel can be debugged local, remote and post-mortem
- Complete source available
- Support of ATM, HIPPI, FDDI, HSSI, IEEE 802.11, Token-Ring, ARCnet and Ethernet
- The first open source OS to support USB, USB2, and PCMCIA audio

Ideal for Embedded Environments

NetBSD is designed to minimize the effort needed to make it run on new hardware. As a result, you are able to concentrate on the development of the hardware. NetBSD is particularly well suited to embedded environments. It supports many lower-power CPUs, such as ARM, MIPS, PowerPC, Xscale, and Hitachi SH 3/4/5. By removing optional components, NetBSD can be trimmed down to fit comfortably on very small systems. And of course tools are available to do cross-development.

Use Your Favorite Tools and Applications

NetBSD contains all the features you would expect in an open source operating system today, including X11, tools for firewalls, and software RAID. With pkgsrc you can install more than 5500 freely available software packages like KDE, GNOME, Xfce, OpenOffice, Apache, PostgreSQL, Mozilla, Samba, LaTeX etc. easily.

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, you’ll find many consultants listed at our website.

Don’t miss the connection

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

Security for Paranoids

With integrated firewall tools and tools that can be easily installed from pkgsrc—including IPsec, Kerberos 5, SSH, SSL, and encryption tools such as PGP—you have access to a modern security system. NetBSD enforces non-executable mappings on many platforms. Stack and heap mappings are non-executable by default, making exploitation of potential buffer overflows harder. NetBSD also supports PROT_EXEC permission via mmap(2) for all platforms where the hardware differentiates execute access from data access.

In the public forums related to Security issues, such as the Bugtraq mailing list, NetBSD has always had fewer known security problems than the alternative solutions. One more reason security consultants choose NetBSD. NetBSD comes with a lot of well-engineered security features:

- File Flags and Kernel Security Level
- Detect file manipulation with mtree
- Prevent Trojans with verified executables
- Transparently encrypt partitions on block level
- Monitor and intercept system calls with systrace
- Inclusive a daily security check
- Two mature TCP/IP packet filter
- Many security packages available in pkgsrc