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# Hacking a Country

Free & Open Source Software in India

Atul Chitnis

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About me

Atul Chitnis

Atul Chitnis

Bangalore, India

Atul Chitnis

Geodesic Information Systems  
<http://geodesic.com>

I don't write code

I don't write code  
I write people



Then •  
Now •  
Successes •  
Failures •  
Innovation •

// Then //

The BBS Years  
1989-1995

CIX

1989

First Indian BBS

PCQuest

1993-96  
PCQuest  
COMversations

<http://comversations.com>

PCQuest  
1996-2002  
Linux  
Initiative

<http://pcquest.com/linux>

PCQuest  
Linux  
Initiative

> 1 Million Linux CDs



Not just CDs

Not just CDs

Comprehensive  
HOW-TO Articles

Target Audience

Target Audience

Small to Medium Enterprises

Focus on USE

Focus on USE  
NOT Ideology

Rise of the LUGs

Focus on  
Install, Admin & Use



# Mailing Lists

1999

1999  
Participation in  
Industry Expo  
Bangalore IT.COM

<http://linux-bangalore.org/blog/events/itcom99/>

Media calls us  
“The Crown Jewel of  
Bangalore IT.COM”

Repeated in 2000

Bangalore IT.COM 1999

Bangalore IT.COM 2000

Bang!inux 2001

Enough!

Linux Bangalore/2001

<http://linux-bangalore.org/2001>



Linux Bangalore/2001  
Linux Bangalore/2002

Linux Bangalore/2001

Linux Bangalore/2002

Linux Bangalore/2003

Linux Bangalore/2001  
Linux Bangalore/2002  
Linux Bangalore/2003  
Linux Bangalore/2004

Time for Change

Problems:

Problems:  
Linux Specific

Problems:  
Linux Specific  
Region Specific

FOSS. IN/2005

<http://foss.in/2005>



FOSS. IN/2005  
3000 attendees

FOSS. IN/2005  
3000 attendees  
200 talks

FOSS. IN/2005  
3000 attendees  
200 talks  
30+ BoFs

Chaos

FOSS. IN/2006

<http://foss.in/2006>

FOSS. IN/2006

More Technology Focus

FOSS. IN/2006

More Technology Focus  
Fewer “Newbie Talks”

FOSS. IN/2006

Target = 1500 attendees



## FOSS. IN/2006

Target = 1500 attendees

Actual = 2000 attendees

# Prominent International Speakers

- \* Alan Cox (Linux kernel)
- \* Jonathan Corbet (LWN.NET, Linux Device Drivers)
- \* Harald Welte (Netfilter/IPTables, GPLvibrations.org)
- \* James Morris (SElinux)
- \* Volker Grassmuck (Wizards of OS)
- \* Danese Cooper (Open Source Initiative)
- \* Rasmus Lerdorf (PHP, Yahoo)
- \* Jeremy Zawodny (Mysql, Yahoo)
- \* Andrew Cowie (java-gnome)
- \* Sirtaj Singh Kang (KDE)
- \* Till Adams (KDE),
- \* Jayakumar (Linux Kernel)
- \* Miguel de Icaza (Gnome, Mono)
- \* Nat Friedman (Gnome)
- \* Andi Kleen (IA64)
- \* Brian Behlendorf (Apache)
- \* Wietse Venema (Postfix)
- \* Werner Almesberger (LILLO)
- \* Bdale Garbee (Debian)
- \* Scott Wheeler (KDE)
- \* Tarique Sani (Coppermine)
- \* G. Karunakar (IndLinux)
- \* Gopal Vijayaraghavan (DotGnu)
- \* Philip Tellis (libYahoo)

More importantly

Hundreds of Indian Speakers

Hundreds of Indian Speakers

From  
Academia  
Government  
Industry

// Now //

State of FOSS in Academia



State of FOSS in Industry

# State of FOSS in Government

// Successes //

Increased Awareness

Increased Awareness  
Across the Country

Increased Use

Increased Use  
In Academia  
In Industry  
In Government

# Educational Curriculum



# Educational Curriculum Cleaned Up

# Technical University Projects

# Technical University Projects

Open Source Projects  
now recognised

// Failures //

Too much talk  
Too little action

LUGs losing relevance

For the Job, not the Fun

“Closed Source” Linux



Lower student interest

Bad Politics

// Innovations //

Localization

# Localization

The IndLinux Project

<http://indlinux.org>

Inter-domain projects

Inter-domain projects

NRC→FOSS

# Inter-domain projects

NRC-FOSS

Government

Academia

Industry



Devices

# Devices

The Simputer

<http://simputer.org>

<http://amidasimputer.com>

Questions?

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<http://atulchitnis.com>