

The Last Two Weeks Of My Life

At linux.conf.au 2005
and UbuntuDownUnder

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It started with an e-mail...

From: Michael Still <n...till@...u>
To: Michael Still <n...ll@l...u>
Cc: Colin Charles <byte@aeon.com.my>
Subject: Re: You're a RDP winner
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2005 17:59:58 +1100

Michael Still wrote:

>
> Colin,
>
> congratulations on winning the national section of the LCA RDP. The next
> step is we need to work out flights and such for your trip. Would you
> like us to book the flights for you? The conference runs between 18
> April and 23 April, and we propose that you fly in the day before, and
> fly out the day after. Will this work for you?

Oh, by the way. Please keep this information confidential until we've had the time to get the press release together.

Thanks,
Mikal

And for a bit more fun...

- ◆ Come March 30, the announcement went out for all 9 delegates
- ◆ My name wasn't there...

Also another lucky person who submitted to the Regional Delegates Program will be announced as the National winner at the conference opening and be presented with a fantastic prize by Sun. This is above and beyond their seat at linux.conf.au 2005.

Tickets were booked...

- ◆ Arrived on Sunday
 - ◆ Saw many friendly faces
 - ◆ Rusty grabbed me from the airport
- ◆ Had food at the in(famous) Woodstock
- ◆ Checked out Burgmann College
 - ◆ No Internet!
 - ◆ Breakfast was provided on Monday (and every other day)

OpenOffice.org MiniConf

- ◆ Was something I co-organized on Monday & Tuesday
- ◆ Controlled the video camera too...
- ◆ And spoke about “ OpenOffice.org on the PowerPC Platform” (Linux/OS X)
- ◆ Sun footed the bill for beer on Monday!
- ◆ Missed out on embedded, security, audio, GNOME, education, Debian miniconfs

Conference opening

- ◆ <http://linux.conf.au/program.php>
- ◆ Audio party thing was somewhat fun
- ◆ Wednesday morning was conference opening
- ◆ And lo and behold, Simon Phipps, Sun's Open Source honcho, handed me a nice, pretty gift

Tutorials and more of Wednesday

- ◆ Kernel hacking tutorial was interesting
 - ◆ Having both Rusty and Robert Love
- ◆ Sat in on most of PHP5 features
 - ◆ Since I' m “ learning” this as a new skill
- ◆ Golden Penguin Quiz Show
 - ◆ First time?
 - ◆ Was great fun! Canonical vs. “ others” (or nerds vs. geeks)
- ◆ Dinner with Sun again (yum!)

Tridge' s keynote

- ◆ Everyone and his cat knows how to manipulate Bitkeeper now
 - ◆ telnet think.org 5000
 - ◆ help
 - ◆ echo clone | nc think.org 5000 > e2fsprogs.dat
- ◆ SourcePuller is on sourceforge now

More Thursday

- ◆ Pia' s Open Love concept
- ◆ Asterisk talk was a bit too business-y
- ◆ Virtualizing Linux on PPC64 was sweet
- ◆ Marc Merlin' s sa-exim and fighting spammers was useful
- ◆ Networking session! Beer, canapes, good chat; all at CSIRO

Friday...

- ◆ Insight into Linu(s|x) by Andrew Morton
- ◆ Elizabeth Garbee, youngest LCA presenter
- ◆ Mark Shuttleworth shows us amazing space pictures
- ◆ Dinner! No beer, but almost an unlimited amount of food
- ◆ T-shirt didn't get as much \$\$\$ as before

Saturday

- ◆ I heard Eben Moglen was great
 - ◆ I wanted to see the birth of a processor too!
- ◆ Pity I got on a plane at 0615 :(
- ◆ Got debauched for the weekend...
- ◆ Got on another plane, Monday, 0615 for UbuntuDownUnder

Monday

- ◆ High class, Vibe Rushcutters hotel
 - ◆ My room was wonderful
- ◆ Had breakfast (and we did pretty much all meals at the hotel)
- ◆ Met some of the crew, got my Ubuntu badge, and waited for the opening keynote by Mark Shuttleworth

The rest of the week

- ◆ Learnt new Ubuntu-styled things
- ◆ Met lots of people
- ◆ Set the pace for where Breezy Badger is heading
- ◆ I was Spec Editor
 - ◆ I saw all the specifications; progress for the next six-months
- ◆ Opposite me, sat, a technical writer...

And more...

- ◆ Some highlights:
 - ◆ Xen
 - ◆ 2.6.12 kernel
 - ◆ OpenOffice.org 2
 - ◆ Installer from the LiveCD
 - ◆ Shtoom VoIP
 - ◆ Bazaar
 - ◆ Mini-buntu
- ◆ Laptop' s that “ just work”
- ◆ Community enhancement
 - ◆ World tour, The Fridge, News letter
- ◆ Launchpad, Malone, Hct, and other secret stuff

Fun

- ◆ Saturday we all let our hair down
- ◆ Boarded 2 buses
- ◆ Caught The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy
- ◆ Had great dinner at Fox Studios
- ◆ Some went to party on all night
- ◆ Took a cab ride to the airport with Mark
- ◆ Really, really, burnt out

