



*Feature profiles for Fedora are created by the community-run Marketing Team.
Full versions of the excerpts below can be found at <http://2tu.us/26wq>*

boot.fedoraproject.org and you : Mike McGrath

Interviewed by Paul Frields

I had the privilege of talking to Mike McGrath, who works for Red Hat and leads the community Infrastructure team, about the new services on boot.fedoraproject.org.

So boot.fedoraproject.org got its start from the boot.kernel.org website. What does boot.kernel.org do exactly and who created it?

BKO (boot.kernel.org) provides a network based install system to users who have downloaded a pre-configured image which comes in ISO, disk, USB, etc formats. It was started as a Google Summer of Code project done by Pravin Shinde and sponsored by John 'Warthog9' Hawley. Users can go to <http://boot.fedoraproject.org> and download images from the download section.

What attracted you to the idea of making a version of this site for use in the Fedora Project? What are your goals for it?

During the last FUDCon, I attended a talk John

put together on BKO. The technology was something that had been in the back of my mind for some time. Well, there it was sitting in front of me, done and functional -- I immediately liked it.

John and I both share a general hatred of CD/DVD media. Network speeds are generally getting faster in many locations making network based booting more feasible. Also, when you download a DVD or ISO image, you're likely downloading lots of bits and packages you don't need or want. Doing a network boot allows users to just download the packages they need. It was decided the best course of action was to put a site together for Fedora to help showcase the technology, as well as letting Fedora easily control settings and config defaults.

Who do you see using the site primarily?

I suspect people with fast, reliable network connections will use BFO the most. People will like being able to carry only a small image around with them and be able to boot any current Fedora release. You'll never have to burn DVD media again.

More of David's interview, including coverage of how SystemTap allows novice programmers to profile their running code, is available at https://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Python_in_Fedora_13