The Linux Effect: 20th Anniversary
Linux and cloud computing

BLAINE:
The future is now and the buzz word is Cloud. The Amazon and Google Cloud services represent a new dawn in the computer age, taking the strain away from your desk and laptops, invisible machines process your information nebulously. The servers that make this possible all run Linux based software.

Andrew Smith:
 "Cloud computing is the distribution of storage and the distribution of resource somewhere on the internet."

BLAINE:
Andrew Smith from the Open University.

Andrew Smith:
"It's distributed across continents, it's distributed over data centres within that then you can have cloud applications and cloud storage. Some of you possible use Google docs there is some process in going somewhere to help that. What Linux has enabled is the high availability of cloud computing. Linux is renowned for not going down which in a data centre perspective and a cloud computing perspective is exactly what we need because we don't want the clouds going up and down and we definably don't want it raining upon us."

BLAINE:
The gathering clouds may run on Linux but how well does Linux run on the clouds.

Jon "maddog" Hall:
"Well Kudu Linux fits into the clouds very well."

BLAINE:
Jon "maddog" Hall is the Executive Director of Linux International.

Jon "maddog" Hall:
"Of cause it a free operating system for putting up into rack systems you don't have to pay royalties on the various operating systems you don't have to track licences and things like that. That very important in a virtual environment. So there's lots of different things that would allow Linux to work very well in the cloud and the fact that people like Google and Amazon and other cloud companies are looking at Linux as an operating system the fat that its used on ninety eight percent of the top five hundred super computers in the world. These are all the things that show that Linux is very malleable to go into a clouds situation

BLAINE:
In a future where your Linux distro of choice runs on Linux based clouds we will still need physical devices. Things to hold. Mobile gadgets for accessing our data and the net. These devices will need some sort of software, something like a really lightweight low footprint operating system. Now… I wonder… what would fit that bill? I know I'll Google it on my Android running smart pho….Ooooh…

Andrew Smith:
"The Linux Curdle was chosen to do android and to do chromo S. It is the most used operating system in new embedded system starts."

Andrew Smith:

"An android phone is basically a computer in your pocket. It's got the processer, it's got the memory, it's got the motherboard, it's got the storage, it's got the display, it's got the input devises so as far as the android operating systems concerned it's got all the same features in your pocket as you would expect on your desktop computer."

BLAINE:
Google and Apple are already dominating the mobile device market. But with its unique adaptability and open source ethos Android Linux is winning the battle against its fruity competitor. It's worth noting too, that both Apple OS and Linux are derived from UNIX , so the future is undoubtedly Linux flavoured.

BLAINE:
Studying Linux is an excellent steppingstone to tomorrow's world.

John Meany:
"Well I think it's important to have exams on anything actually and Linux is now quite a major force in the IT world and I think from an employer's point of view It is important for people to be tested that they know how to use Linux."

BLAINE:
John Meany is from the Linux Professional Institute which offers internationally recognized work-based qualifications in Linux. Open university course T155 includes this research.

John Meany:
"The advantage in doing a course and getting a certificate in a business sense if loads of people take courses and doing take a test means nothing to me they've got to take a test. The great advantage of having that certificate is weather I go to Toronto or Trondheim or whatever everybody recognises that international certificate and that's internationally powerful. You can say of cause the same thing for Microsoft, now you might have as part of this education you might end up with a Microsoft, a Linux and a Sysco certificate absolutely great but they will say you're a more rounded person if you have that for Linux than just Microsoft for instance. If were gonna give a through education in IT Linux has to be included."

Chris Kent:
"Certainly in the city it's all Linux…"

BLAINE:
Chris Kent develops Linux based software.

Chris Kent:
"It's just assumed that you will just have a passing familiarity with Linux and be able to navigate your way around and accomplish basic tasks, so it's what everybody uses.

BLAINE:
It's twenty years since student Linus Torvalds posted his intention to make his own operating system. "it's just a hobby" he wrote "won't be anything big" – [laugh]

John Meany:
"If you're having fun if you like what you are doing then you're gonna take pride in what you are doing. You're gonna show everybody what you are doing and your name and your reputations rides on that and that's the thing that makes a great operating system. And that is why I think it makes Open Source and new Linux system so good."

BLAINE:
Happy Birthday Linux. Here's to you.