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Open Networking Foundation Formed

Mar 22, 2011

Amber Graner

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“Stronger definition of network behavior in software is a growing trend, and open interfaces are going to lead to faster innovation,” said Nick McKeown, ONF Board member and professor at Stanford University.

OpenNetworkingFoundation

Seeking to accelerate network innovation, Deutsche Telekom, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Verizon, and Yahoo, [announce the formation of the Open Networking Foundation](#) (ONF), a nonprofit organization promoting Software-Defined Networking (SDN).

Other members of ONF include Broadcom, Brocade, Ciena, Cisco, Citrix, Dell, Ericsson, Force10, HP, IBM, Juniper Networks, Marvell, NEC, Netgear, NTT, Riverbed Technology and VMware. These companies join the six founding board members to promote the SND approach to networking.

According to ONF faster networking innovation is needed and it believes SDN will enable innovation in all kinds of networks which includes, but not is not necessarily limited to data centers, wide area telecommunication networks, wireless networks, enterprises and more. By using SDN the ONF believes this can be accomplished with what it considers to be simply software changes which should give network owners and operators more and better control over their networks.

A six-year research collaboration between Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley resulted in this SND approach to networking. The main components of SND include a software interface ([called OpenFlow](#)) and a set of global management interfaces.

According to ONF one of its goal will be will be to adopt and lead the ongoing development of the OpenFlow standard followed by encouraging greater adoption by its member companies from there, defining global

management interfaces will begin after these initial goals have been met.

Related content

SDN Up Close

Globalization, rapidly increasing numbers of devices, virtualization, the cloud, and "bring your own device" make classically organized IP networks difficult to plan and manage. Instead of quarreling, some admins address these problems with a radically new approach: Software-defined networking.

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OpenFlow

The OpenFlow protocol and its surrounding technologies are bringing the promise of SDN to real networks – and it might not be long before you see them on your real network.

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Mozilla Joins The Open Invention Network

The foundation becomes a licensee.

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OpenDaylight

Several well-known companies are collaborating on the foundations of future SDN products under the umbrella of the OpenDaylight open source project.

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Mininet

Mininet lets you test new controller features for your software-defined network in a sandbox before releasing them onto your production network.

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News

Cairo Dock 3.6 Now Available for More Compositors

[Desktop](#) , [graphics](#) , [Linux](#)

If you're a fan of third-party desktop docks, then the latest release of Cairo Dock with Wayland support is for you.

System76 Unleashes Pop!_OS 24.04 Beta

[COSMIC](#) , [Operating Systems](#) , [Pop!_OS](#)

System76's first beta of Pop!_OS 24.04 is an impressive feat.

Linux Kernel 6.17 is Available

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Linus Torvalds has announced that the latest kernel has been released with plenty of core improvements and even more hardware support.

Kali Linux 2025.3 Released with New Hacking Tools

[Kali Linux](#) , [Linux](#) , [Operating Systems](#)

If you're a Kali Linux fan, you'll be glad to know that the third release of this famous pen-testing distribution is now available with updates for key components.

Zorin OS 18 Beta Available for Testing

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The latest release from the team behind Zorin OS is ready for public testing, and it includes plenty of improvements to make it more powerful, user-friendly, and productive.

Fedora Linux 43 Beta Now Available for Testing

[Fedora](#) , [Gnome](#) , [Plasma](#)

Fedora Linux 43 Beta ships with Gnome 49 and KDE Plasma 6.4 (and other goodies).

USB4 Maintainer Leaves Intel

[Community](#) , [Kernel](#) , [Linux](#)

Michael Jamet, one of the primary maintainers of USB4 and Thunderbolt drivers, has left Intel, leaving a gaping hole for the Linux community to deal with.

Budgie 10.9.3 Now Available

[Budgie](#) , [Desktop](#) , [Linux](#)

The latest version of this elegant and configurable Linux desktop aligns with changes in Gnome 49.

KDE Linux Alpha Available for Daring Users

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It's official, KDE Linux has arrived, but it's not quite ready for prime time.

AMD Initiates Graphics Driver Updates for Linux Kernel 6.18

[graphics](#) , [Linux](#)

This new AMD update focuses on power management, display handling, and hardware support for Radeon GPUs.

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