Former Linux Architect Moves to Microsoft

By Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols
June 14, 2005

EXCERPTS ONLY

A leading Linux figure, Daniel Robbins, the founder of Gentoo Linux and its former chief architect, has announced that he has accepted a position at Microsoft Corp.

In a brief note to the Gentoo Foundation Inc. community, Robbins said he was leaving Gentoo and that he will be "helping Microsoft to understand Open Source and community-based projects."

Microsoft confirmed that Robbins began work at Microsoft's campus in Redmond, Wash., on May 23. Sources at Microsoft said Robbins is working with Bill Hilf.

Hilf is Microsoft's lead program manager for its Platform Strategy organization. There, he leads Microsoft's Linux and Open Source Software technology group. Before coming to Microsoft, Hilf drove IBM's Linux technical strategy for its emerging and competitive markets organization. Robbins' title is program manager for the Platform Strategy team.

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Robbins had been moving away from his distribution for some time. In April 2004, he surprised the Gentoo community by resigning from development responsibilities and his role as chief architect for Gentoo.

At that time, he also began setting up the non-profit Gentoo Foundation, which now runs Gentoo development.

Before joining Microsoft, Robbins finalized the transfer of Gentoo's intellectual property, essentially Ebuilds copyrights and other software, as well as soon-to-be trademarked Gentoo logos to the Foundation.