

IBM Commits \$1 Billion to Fuel Linux and Open Source Innovation on Power Systems

IBM



NEW ORLEANS -- At [LinuxCon 2013](#) [1], IBM announced plans to invest \$1 billion (USD) in new Linux and open source technologies for IBM's [Power Systems](#) [2] servers. The investment aims to help clients capitalize on [big data](#) [3] and [cloud computing](#) [4] with modern systems built to handle the new wave of applications coming to the data center in the post-PC era.

Two immediate initiatives announced, a new client center in Europe and a Linux on Power development cloud, focus on rapidly expanding IBM's growing ecosystem supporting Linux on Power Systems which today represents thousands of independent software vendor and open source applications worldwide. Specific details of both initiatives include:

- **Power Systems Linux Center in Montpellier, France:** The new center is among a growing network of centers around the world where software developers can build and deploy new applications for big data, cloud, [mobile](#) [5] and [social business](#) [6] computing on open technology building blocks using Linux and the latest IBM POWER7+ processor technology. The [first center](#) [7] opened in Beijing in May. [Additional centers](#) [8] are located in New York, NY, and Austin, TX.
- **Linux on Power development cloud:** To serve the growing number of developers, Business Partners and clients interested in running Linux on Power Systems, IBM is expanding its Power Systems cloud for development. The no-charge cloud service is ramping up its infrastructure to provide more businesses the ability to prototype, build, port, and test Linux applications

on the Power platform as well as applications built for AIX and IBM i.

IBM Fellow and Vice President of Power Development Brad McCredie revealed the new investment in front of more than 1,400 Linux industry leaders, developers and end-users at the Linux Foundation's LinuxCon conference in New Orleans, noting the monies will be applied to various product research, design, development, ecosystem skills, and go-to-market programs for clients, developers, Business Partners, entrepreneurs, academics, and students.

"Many companies are struggling to manage big data and cloud computing using commodity servers based on decades-old, PC era technology. These servers are quickly overrun by data which triggers the purchase of more servers, creating unsustainable server sprawl," McCredie explained. "The era of big data calls for a new approach to IT systems; one that is open, customizable, and designed from the ground up to handle big data and cloud workloads."

Jim Zemlin, Executive Director of the Linux Foundation commented on the investment stating, "The last time IBM committed \$1B to Linux, it helped start a flurry of innovation that has never slowed. IBM's continued investments in Linux for Power Systems is welcomed by the Linux community. We look forward to seeing how the Power platform can bring about further innovation on Linux, and how companies and developers can work together to get the most out of this open architecture."

McCredie also addressed how [Watson](#) [9], IBM's [cognitive computing](#) [10] solution that gained fame as the first non-human to win the Jeopardy! game show and now available in a variety of [industry solutions](#) [11], runs on commercially available Power Systems servers running Linux — demonstrating how the Linux and Power combination is fueling a new era of computing.

The news comes on the heels of IBM's recent [OpenPOWER announcement](#) [12] that makes the IBM POWER microprocessor available under license to other companies for open collaboration and development. The consortium marks the first time that IBM is making its key server hardware available to drive open innovation.

IBM Open Heritage

IBM has participated in and led a wide range of [open source](#) [13] projects since 1999, and today this includes [OpenPOWER](#) [12], [OpenStack](#) [14], Hadoop, [OpenDaylight](#) [15], KVM, Apache and Eclipse in addition to [Linux](#) [13]. Hundreds of IBM programmers and engineers around the world are contributing to open source and driving open innovation as part of the collection of global open source communities.

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Links:

- [1] <http://events.linuxfoundation.org/events/linuxcon-north-america>
- [2] <http://www-03.ibm.com/systems/power/>
- [3] <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/data/bigdata/>
- [4] <http://www.ibm.com/cloud-computing/us/en/>
- [5] <http://www.ibm.com/mobilefirst/us/en/>
- [6] <http://www.ibm.com/social-business/>
- [7] <http://www-03.ibm.com/press/us/en/pressrelease/41040.wss>
- [8] <http://www-03.ibm.com/press/us/en/pressrelease/41255.wss>
- [9] <http://www.ibm.com/watson>
- [10] <http://www.research.ibm.com/cognitive-computing/index.shtml>
- [11] http://www.ibm.com/systems/power/solutions/watson/_%C3%BD
- [12] <http://www-03.ibm.com/press/us/en/pressrelease/41684.wss>
- [13] <http://www-03.ibm.com/linux/ossstds/>
- [14] <http://www-03.ibm.com/press/us/en/pressrelease/40519.wss>
- [15] <http://www.opendaylight.org/announcements/2013/04/industry-leaders-collaborate-opendaylight-project-donate-key-technologies>