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architectingIT



Microsoft and Open Source

This week Microsoft [announced](#) that the company would be open-sourcing Service Fabric, a core component of the Azure public cloud platform. Although still under Microsoft's control, Service Fabric will move to Github, making the platform much more transparent than ever before.

Microsoft 3.0

There is a standing joke that every Microsoft software product only reached a decent degree of maturity at the version 3 release. Perhaps as only the third CEO in Microsoft's history, Satya Nadella is moving the company into a truly successful long-term enterprise business model. Gates was without a doubt the founder and visionary, while Ballmer seemed to create many false starts like mobile.

Nadella has focused on scaling back the hardware (with perhaps the exception of Xbox) and moving to a service-based model, with SaaS as the main business driver. As part of this process, the company seems far less precious about the Windows operating system having to be at the heart of everything.

As a desktop, Windows dominates, mainly through the ubiquitous nature of Office. However, as a data centre operating system, Windows is fatally flawed. There's too much desktop legacy to drag along - at DockerCon a couple of years ago, Microsoft showed a containerised version of Windows that still had a parallel printer driver installed.

Open Source Windows

So how about open sourcing Windows? Would that be the ultimate expression of Microsoft's love for the open source movement? Could the company accept that making money selling the O/S doesn't have to be part of the core business? Of course, there's still money to be made from Windows; look at how Red Hat generates income from RHEL.

The issue would be in exposing 30+ years of coding compromises and privileged access that might not always be seen in a positive light. With more eyes checking for bugs, perhaps Windows would suffer even more exposure for a short time, as fixes are developed. Simply for this reason, it may be that Windows source code will never be opened up, until the O/S doesn't form a core part of the data centre ecosystem.

What do you think?

Chris Evans

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New Architecting IT Blog Posts...

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New Storage Unpacked Podcasts...

- [#42 - Understanding Storage PR with Fred Monson](#) (16 March 2018)



Upcoming Events

The Architecting IT team will be attending the following events. Get in touch if you want to meet up!

- [Cloud Expo Europe 2018](#) (21st March 2018)
- [Cloud Field Day 3](#) (4-6 April 2018)
- [Pure Accelerate 2018](#) (22-24 May 2018)
- [Flash Memory Summit](#) (7-9 August 2018)

We're interested in your feedback! Is there anything you would like to see covered in these newsletters or on the blog? Do you have an opinion on any of the content? Just hit reply to this email or continue the conversation online: [@architectingit](#) on Twitter, or via [Linkedin](#).



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