NetBSD : Portable Hottness

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WTF is it?

- Not Linux, But Unix-Like
  - Completely different heritage
  - Derived from 4.4BSD and 386BSD
  - POSIX compliant (mostly)
- Goals
  - Clean design
  - Wide platform support
  - Security
  - Mature and stable
What does it run on?

Of course it runs NetBSD.

- Main ones: i386, AMD64, SPARC, POWERPC
- Random ones: HPCARM, Dreamcast, Atari, VAX, Playstation 2, XEN, etc.
- 54 platforms total
- Kernel + Userland
What is it like?

- Only what you need and nothing more
  - No bash, no tcsh
  - No hardware detection*
  - No GUI out of the box
  - No hand holding (mostly)
- Fast and stable
- Good documentation
- A lot of compiling*
Any worthwhile features?

- N:M thread model
- Kernel IP filter
- SMP support
- TCP/IP SACK
- IPv6
- VeriExec + Non-exec
- PkgSrc
- RC Init System
What about those *? 

- **Hardware**
  - Drivers that actually work
  - Man pages for drivers

- **Software**
  - Separation between base and third party
  - PkgSrc, similar to portage, is a cross-platform software management system
  - Main method of updating things is by CVSing the latest and compiling
  - Cross-building resources available
Break Down

- Solid minimalist operating system
  - Lot of configuring
  - Lot of compiling
- Not so user-friendly
  - Good luck with bleeding edge hardware
  - Good luck with bleeding edge software

“Unix is user friendly. It's just picky about who it's friends are.”