Footnote: "One For The Con"
What Science Fiction Meant For Me

By
Jon "maddog" Hall
Linux International

What Is A Footnote?

- Sometimes a summary of the conference
- A look towards the future

Baltimore - 1950

- Blue Collar Port Town
  - "The block"
- South, and not South
  - Segregation

Baltimore - 1962

- Fundamentalist Christian household
  - No ghosts
  - No witches
  - No aliens
- Sneak downstairs to watch TV
- Comic books, o.k.!

Not *Just* Science Fiction:
A Reformation of Society

- Jules Verne
- H.G. Wells

Popular *

- Science, Mechanics, etc. magazines
- Science Fiction books, O.K.!
- Boys' Life
  - KaiBZ10Troy

College

- Stranger in a Strange Land
- Star Trek
  - Not "hard core"
  - Ruined
  - Next Generation
- What is a "workstation"?

Electrical Engineering to Computer Science

- Practical side of computer science
- Want to find cure for Cancer

So Far:

- Reduction in computing costs
  - What if a car was like a computer?
- Increase in computing abilities
  - From "black magic" to "science"
- Increase in computing resources
  - From hundreds to millions
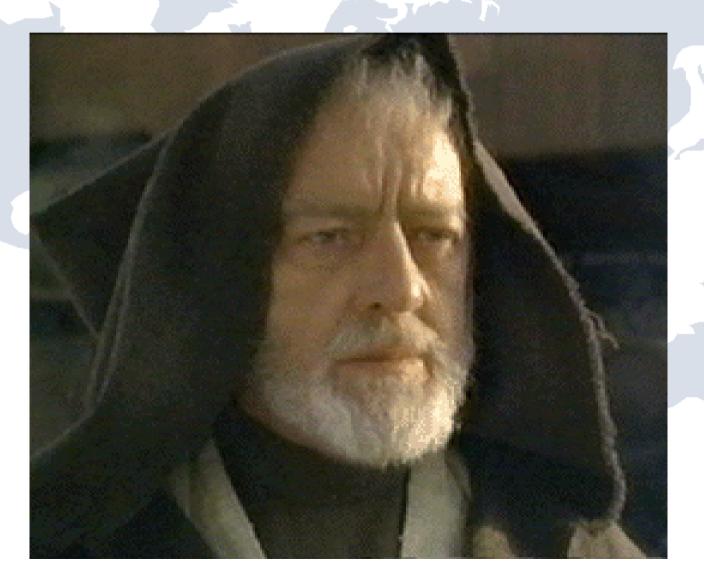
Now we need *focus*

Books

- Stranger In a Strange Land
- Atlas Shrugged
- Catch-22
- Catcher in the Rye
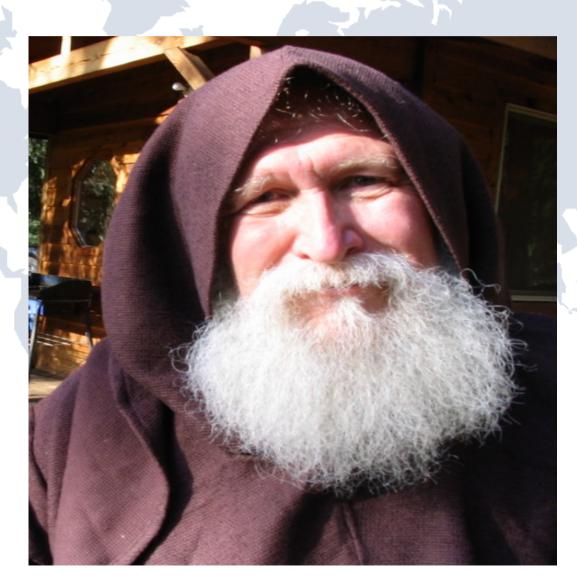- To Kill a Mockingbird
- Grapes of Wrath
- Huckleberry Finn

Movies I Was (almost) In:

- Antitrust

- The First $20 Million Is Always The Hardest

- Set of Voyger
  - as it was being torn apart
  - I got to sit in Janeway's "con"

Of Course I Was Not Only Influenced By Star Trek

Of Course I Was Not Only Influenced By Star Trek

Science Fiction, Science Fact

- Rocket Belts - Nope
- Wiping out Smallpox - Yup
- Wiping out Polio – Almost
- Automated Home – Not very
- Unlimited Energy – Nope
- Replicators – somewhat
  - RepRap
  - CandyFab

Science Fiction:
The World The Way We Want It

- World the way we want it
- Warning of the way the world could be

What Is Your Ideal For the Future?

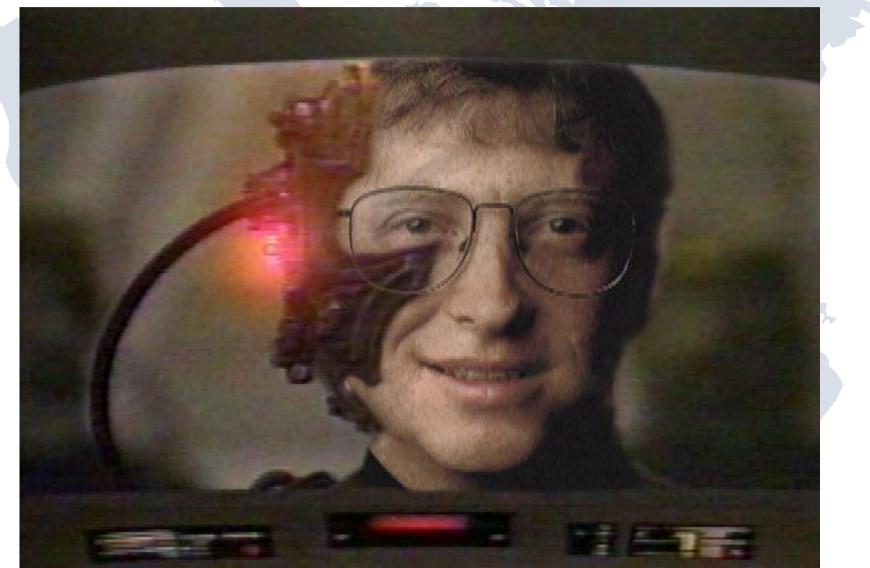What are *you* going to do about it?

Things You *Can* Do

- Invest in new technology companies
  - Investigate before you invest
- Write letters to your government
- Write letters to your newspaper
- Seriously study new technologies
  - Act as a consultant/mentor
- Work with students

There Are People That Want to Distract Us....

There Are People That Want to Distract Us....

A Challenge:
For Next Penguicon

- Design your own near future
  - What clothes do you want to wear?
  - How do you want your house to act?
  - Plan to take control of
    - your computer
    - your telephone
    - your government
- Present about it at Penguicon
- Move to implement it

Engage!

Questions?