

Penguicon 2012

Being my first time at Penguicon, I wasn't sure what to expect. My experience with conventions in general is limited; I've only been exposed to two card shows, 4 comic conventions and a herpetology (reptiles & amphibians, get your mind out of the gutter show. My expectations were met and exceeded way beyond anything I could have hoped for. Open source community, cos-play, music, pop culture, there seems to be a little bit of everything at Penguicon for everyone. The panels were varied in scope and nature.

Arriving Friday night I decided to socialize with some friends at the Arcamedes bar and grill. I hit up my first panel on Saturday on the advantages of using OpenDNS as opposed to Google's DNS service or your internet service providers. OpenDNS is a smart DNS which means it can block malicious content before it gets to your computer. There are two servers spread across 14 datacenters worldwide. OpenDNS has had 100% uptime since it went online. Although the name seems to imply it, OpenDNS is not open source just open to the public to use. There are granular settings for content filtering of websites to protect children from content for adults. Websites are suggested to be put into a certain category by users or moderators. The community then votes on whether or not the category is acceptable for the website. Users votes have a weight of one and moderators have a weight of five. I plan on trying out Open DNS this week to see how it works.

I then decided to check out the Smithees, an award ceremony for bad cinema at its worst. I got there very early and caught the last three quarters of the DC new 52. DC had decided to reboot their entire universe with 52 new titles. To date several of the titles have been cancelled due to

weak sales. After the crowd cleared out of the Rolls Royce room for the new 52, the MCs for the Smithees got set up the laughter flowed freely. The MC would introduce a category then 5 clips from movies would be shown the attendees would vote on which was the worst/best one for the particular category. Howls of laughter erupted from the audience as premises for movies containing ludicrous plot points such as time traveling assassin dinosaurs. After two hours ridiculous movies, I met up with some friends for a few cocktails and to move on to the next panel.

I decided to check out a panel on open source music. I initially thought a presenter would be going over open source options for making music in the home. It turned out to be a birds of a feather panel, my first one, so I wasn't sure how it was going to go. The presenter from the previous panel stuck around to join our conversation. One other gentleman from New York joined and we had a pretty good discussion on open source software we had used in the past to create music on our own. We talked about how artist like Beck had released their individual tracks for others to use and mix on their own. After about a nice 45 minute discussion we parted ways our new friend from New York heading to a poly panel. Then we were off the last panel for the evening.

This brings me the most interesting panel of the evening, Jer's bored. Stopped in to see what Jer had in store for us and I think I heard the funniest dog poop story I have ever heard. The group that showed up seemed ready to engage and interact with others in the room making for lively conversations. After a few good exchanges between Jer and James Gamble I headed back to the rest of my friends down at the bar and exchanged stories about the day's events. I can't wait for the next Penguicon and I've already got more people interested in going next year!

THE END