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### **NO STARCH PRESS SPONSORS HARDWARE “UNCONFERENCE”**

*Inaugural event is Linux community's answer to Microsoft's WinHEC*

**May 9, 2006, San Francisco**—No Starch Press is calling all hardware engineers and driver developers! There's a new event in town (the town of Seattle, that is) where you'll learn to take control of your own destiny and make your hardware valuable to the growing Linux market. FreedomHEC (Hardware Engineering Conference) is being launched this year as a direct response to the similarly named Windows-hosted event WinHEC taking place just days before. The objective is to show hardware vendors how easy it is to get new devices supported under Linux and other free, open source operating systems. No Starch Press is sponsoring FreedomHEC, along with Linux news website LWN ([www.lwn.net](http://www.lwn.net)) and The USENIX Association (<http://www.usenix.org/>).

FreedomHEC, a “high-intensity learning, networking and taking-back-the-PC-industry unconference,” is being held May 26-27 at the office of Pogo Linux, 701 Fifth Avenue, Seattle. The idea was hatched by former Linux Journal editor-in-chief Don Marti, a well-known figure in the Linux community, and organizers have set up a wiki, <http://freedomhec.pbwiki.com/>, where individuals can register to attend. FreedomHEC is free of charge to attend for anyone who pre-registers on the wiki.

FreedomHEC will feature tutorials, Q&A sessions, and other opportunities for hardware engineers to discover for themselves that it's neither difficult nor expensive to build device drivers for Linux. Among the sessions planned for discussion at FreedomHEC:

- Understand the Linux kernel development process and learn how it differs from the “traditional” operating system driver development process
- Learn how to become part of the Linux kernel development community
- Learn how to port any existing code to the Linux kernel
- Learn various technical bits about different parts of the Linux kernel (SCSI layer, driver core, sysfs, USB, PCI, network driver layer)
- Learn how to properly submit code and get it accepted into the main kernel tree
- Learn how an individual company can directly influence the development of the areas surrounding its product by, for example, adding new features to the SCSI core
- Realize that Linux kernel developers are easy to approach and work with, no management layers exist to slow things down.

“No Starch Press is a company that's been using and supporting Linux for a long time, and we're happy to have their support in training new Linux driver developers,” said FreedomHEC organizer Don Marti.

**ABOUT NO STARCH PRESS:** Founded in 1994, No Starch Press is one of the few remaining independent computer book publishers. We publish the finest in geek entertainment—unique books on technology, with a focus on Open Source, security, hacking, programming, and alternative operating systems. Our titles have personality, our authors are passionate, and our books tackle topics that people care about. See [www.nostarch.com](http://www.nostarch.com) for more information and our complete online catalog. (And by the way, most No Starch Press books use RepKover, a lay-flat binding that won't snap shut.)

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