The *finstall* project

- Motivation:

- sysinstall

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Pro & contra

- Sysinstall is unintuitive, not consistent and ugly
- Sysinstall has some features not easily replicated in a GUI installer
  - Works over a serial console
  - Works on many platforms
  - Not resource intensive
  - Has (limited) support for scripted installs
- These features will NOT be replicated in the (first version of) `finstall`

Goals

- To run on modern off-the-shelf i386 and AMD64 hardware with VESA or similar graphics

- Concentrate on supporting installation and configuration of FreeBSD base, not (at first) of packages (except for 1st time installs)

- To be reusable as a configuration tool

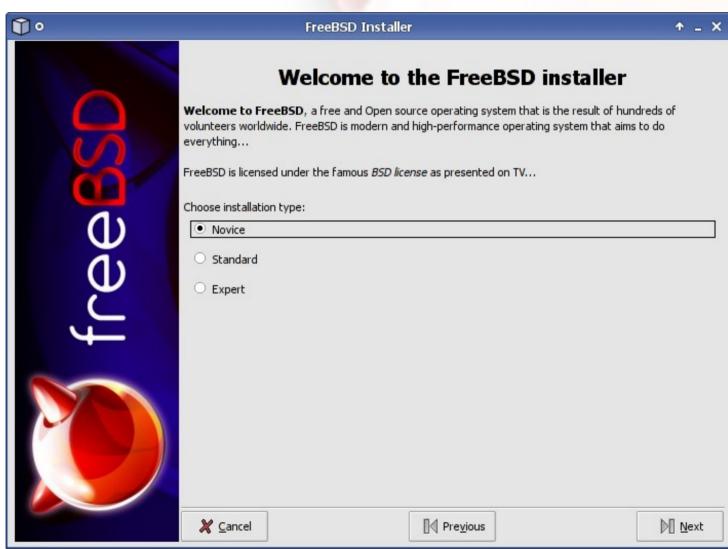- Extensible (within reason) to support more features later

The Plan

- Separate backend and frontend parts, allow backend to be used over network (plan for remote installs)

- First front-end will be GTK-based, written in Python (pyGTK)

- Run of a Live CD (bail to console if X11 crashes / no driver / etc)

- Use the Live CD binaries directly to perform install (mtree planned)

"Artist's depiction"

The End

- Thanks:
    - To FreeBSD Foundation for funding the trip to BSDCan
    - To Google for sponsoring the project & part of the expenses here

- Questions?

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Project homepage: http://wiki.freebsd.org/finstall