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[Home](#) > [content](#) > linux.conf.au: The Beeb and the penguin

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The BBC and Linux - when you see the two words juxtaposed together, one tends to be surprised. Simply because all the recent coverage of the Beeb has been about the iPlayer fiascos - how the biggest public broadcaster came out with a player that could cater to just one platform.

But on digging a bit one finds out that there's two BBC people who will be presenting papers at Australia's national linux conference - and, what's more, the BBC turns out to have some kind of open source pedigree .

Stuart Cunningham, a soft-spoken senior software engineer, will be speaking about tapeless television production, while his wife, Anuradha Suraparaju, will present a paper on the Dirac video compression system.

Their appearance marks the first time that BBC staff have attended any of the three major Linux conferences, though, according to Cunningham, "(we) have attended several (open source) ones in Europe, the UK and a couple in the US.

[More Here](#) [2]

[Linux](#)

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