

An interview with Patryk Rządziński, head of IT at OSTC Poland

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Hi Patryk, thanks for taking the time out of your busy schedule to talk with us. Please tell us about yourself and your experiences with Gentoo.

My name is Patryk Rządziński, I'm a Gentoo user since about 2003. I'm currently employed as a head of IT in OSTC Poland, the first and largest proprietary derivatives trading company in Poland. Despite still being a rather young company, they show vast interest in open source solutions and new technology and that attracted me to it like a bee to honey . As I had the opportunity to introduce Gentoo Linux into this company, replacing some Debians and Ubuntu.

Gentoo was the first Linux distribution I tried, at the beginning for personal use on a desktop system. Switching from windows 2003 to Linux wasn't easy, but all it needed was time. Gentoo is often described as a "hard distro", which lead me to thinking that if I learn it properly, I should have no problems with other popular distributions. Surprisingly, following the handbook got me to a working operating system without any problems, chapeau bas before the authors of all Gentoo documentation!

A couple of years later I got the opportunity to try out other distributions at my current employer's office. There were quite some servers with Debian on board, however using them seemed to me like a huge step back, having some glitches I will describe later on. There were also servers based on Ubuntu, however the "Linux with Windows-like problems" term seems to describe them in the best way. Generally I'm still having a couple of Ubuntu servers simply because they run on very old hardware and compiling sources would be plainly a loss of time, while their role is not so significant.

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