ANNUAL AWARDS

USENIX LIFETIME ACHIEVE-MENT (FLAME) AWARD WINNER 2005: MICHAEL STONEBRAKER



Board President Michael B. Jones presenting the Flame Award

Dr. Michael Stonebraker has been a leading database, operating systems, and expert systems designer, both as an academic and as an entrepreneur, for over thirty years.

He is well known for his work in developing both the INGRES and POSTGRES database systems under a freely distributable BSD license, then going on to form companies (Ingres Corporation and Illustra Information Technologies, Inc.) to market them as commercial products. He also initiated the Mariposa project, which became the basis of another company called Cohera, later sold to PeopleSoft. All three of these projects were developed at the University of California, Berkeley, where Dr. Stonebraker served as a professor of computer science for 25 years.

Currently Dr. Stonebraker is an adjunct professor of computer science at M.I.T., where he has helped build a stream processing engine, Aurora. In 2003 he founded StreamBase Systems to market this technology, with himself as CTO.

He has authored and co-authored scores of research papers on database technology, operating systems design, and expert systems. He has been active in the ACM Special Interest Group on Management of Data (SIGMOD) both as a member and a leader.

He has a B.S. from Princeton (1965) and an M.S. (1967) and a Ph.D. (1971) from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Stonebraker has also received several other awards, including the IEEE John von Neumann Medal in 2005, the ACM Software System Award in 1988, and the ACM SIG-MOD Innovations Award in 1994. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1998.

USENIX STUG (SOFTWARE TOOLS USER GROUP) AWARD WINNERS 2005: MATTHIAS ETTRICH AND MIGUEL DE ICAZA FOR KDE AND GNOME

The STUG award recognizes significant contributions to the community that reflect the spirit and character demonstrated by those who came together in the Software Tools User Group (STUG). Recipients of the annual STUG award



A KDE mascot goes to GNOME

conspicuously exhibit a contribution to the reusable code-base available to all and/or the provision of a significant enabling technology to users in a widely available form. The UNIX Command Line User Interface (CLI), while widely recognized as being efficient, has often been attacked by non-UNIX users as not user-friendly. In response, many GUIs have been added to UNIX over the years, but most were generally considered inferior to non-UNIX GUIS.

In October of 1996 and August of 1997, two projects were started to produce desktops that were easy to use, adhered to traditional UNIX philosophies, and gave access to all of the underlying features of the CLI.

While these desktops competed with each other, they also lent strength to each other and have now produced a range of applications that we collectively call KDE and GNOME. These applications have eased implementations of the UNIX operating system in the nontechnical marketplace. Most important, by embracing the concepts of free and open source software, these two desktop projects offered freely distributed code, which allowed any distribution or software developer to utilize these graphical features.

The USENIX Association would like to recognize both of these groups for creating a very portable set of libraries, tools, and applications.