

Canonical,

I have been searching for a new career path into Open Source for the past few months, and was excited to learn that you had openings on your website. I truly believe that Canonical has been extremely influential in the distribution of Ubuntu. I use Ubuntu Server edition for my Digital Ocean Droplet, and use Ubuntu for my desktop computer for doing upstream Linux Kernel development. I would like to apply for the Kernel Engineer position starting as soon as February 2019.

I find Operating System development difficult and exciting. A year ago, I had the opportunity to meet with Bjorn Helgaas of the PCI Subsystem for coffee, and he has been influential in getting me started in submitting upstream patches to help the Linux Kernel PCI subsystem (<https://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/linux/kernel/git/torvalds/linux.git/log/?qt=author&q=fred%40fredlawl.com>). Additionally, over the past year I had the opportunity to attend Linux Plumbers Conference in Vancouver 2018, and interact with the Kernel developer community. Doing Kernel Development on the side from my day job as a Web Developer helped me realize that this is where I want to move my career to.

During my time with 40Digits, I had the opportunity to work on various projects due to the company being owned by an advertising agency. There, I learned to quickly adapt to new situations in a time-effective manner. I also learned how to communicate and work with teams in a fast-paced environment. Additionally, it was here where I learned how to be a consultant to our clients and provide solutions to their problems.

At Trip Mate, I applied the skills I took from 40Digits to influence the business towards a change in how systems were developed from developer-focused systems to customer focused systems. Additionally, I applied some of the skills I learned from doing Kernel Development to manage our Git repositories. Currently I am working on a multi-threaded application to interface with an inherently racy 3rd party protocol. Having followed PCIe hotplug issues on the mailing list, I was able to identify race problems within my own application and then fix them. Because of this, my Windows Service application is incredibly fault-tolerant.

Currently, I'm working with Bjorn on updating PCIe ASPM to have endpoint-level reporting of link state, and then to configure the upstream/downstream link from an endpoint level—opposed to configuring the link from a root or switch port. It has been a slow process due to doing this in my spare time, and I believe that working for Canonical will expedite the learning process and to help me contribute faster.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Frederick Lawler