

[OpenStack Day Montreal - November 22, 2016](#)

Imagine that feeling of the first ever OpenStack Day in Canada. You can experience it first hand right in the heart of beautiful Montreal, Quebec on November 22nd. I know that I will be there, so now is your chance to come join in the community goodness and learn about all things OpenStack and more!

The event day website has been kindly created and hosted by [Jonathan Le Lous](#) right here: <http://openstackca.org/>

Registration link is here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/openstack-day-canada-tickets-27494036403?aff=affiliate1>

Seriously, you need to be there. Montreal = awesome, and OpenStack in Montreal = 2x awesome ☐

What to Expect at OpenStack Day Canada

We have a great lineup of speakers which are being finalized in the coming days. The day will be filled with knowledge sharing and user stories that tell the true value of embracing OpenStack and other technology partners to help enable the growth of your business by using the open private cloud platform which is growing in popularity every day.

I'll be there as one of the event organizers, and we have a packed schedule for every type of audience.

The day begins at 8 AM for registration with the official start at 8:30. Breakout sessions will be featured at 9:30-10:45, 11-12:30, and 2:45-4:45, so you won't miss any opportunities to get lots of good content under your belt.

Expect a great lunch, and also the Barcamp from 5PM-9PM that evening.

[Register for the event here](#) and I look forward to meeting lots of you there!



[Cisco UCS Grand Slam and Tech Field Day](#)

There is so much happening with the events this year in the technology world and I'm very proud to announce I'll be representing [Tech Field Day at a special Cisco UCS Grand Slam event](#) in New York City on September 4, 2014. This is going to be a great Tech Field Day round table and I am very pleased to be a part of it.



As you know, Cisco has become a juggernaut in the server industry for x86 blades and much more, and we have seen lots of happenings around their ACI platform launch recently also. Cisco's John Chambers has made it clear that this is a sign of things to come also, and not just something that happened which will be sat back on.

You will be able to follow the Tech Field Day activity through www.TechFieldDay.com and using the Twitter [hashtag search for #CUCS14](#) plus on my Twitter [@DiscoPosse](#) on event day.

Cisco has a [blog post here to give some leads as to the content of the event](#), and there is also a registration page for you to watch yourself online by clicking on the image below:



[Why you need to be watching Tech Field Day](#)

There are literally hundreds upon thousands of resources for information and learning in the technology ecosystem. That is an understatement really, but my point is that we have an incredible amount of great technical information being shared for all to see.

What we do have a challenge with sometimes is separating the wheat from the chaff with technical information. By that I mean the purely partisan information that had distinct origins from marketing. While this is good information, it often lacks the depth that we need to get to and it doesn't let us ask "why?" When we read it.

Tech Field Day

I tweeted recently about an amazing event that takes place called Tech Field Day (www.techfieldday.com):



Stephen Foskett, the creator of Tech Field Day, has created an amazing venue for vendors and technologists to literally get into a room and dive into the details.

This is a place where our technical peers and leaders have an opportunity to review products and technologies with the engineers and founders in the ultimate no holds barred arena of Q&A.

What is even more incredible about this is that we are able to watch the experience live and interact with the participants through Twitter while it's happening. How cool is that?!

The most recent session which was Storage Field Day 4 this week created a massive amount of conversation in the sessions and on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/search?q=%23SFD4&src=hash>) to give you an idea of what kind of info comes out of the group.

Great things start here

In the ultimate show of how important this event is, we are seeing great new technology startups using Tech Field Day as their launch pad to coming out of stealth like Infinio Systems recently did with their presentation at Tech Field Day 9 ([full post here](#)):

Being a presenter at Tech Field Day isn't like a pre-sales demo that these folks will do for a customer prospect. This is a tough room with deeply knowledgeable technical attendees who you can see here: <http://techfieldday.com/delegate/> which gives you an idea of the kind of really powerful conversations that will take place at these events.

We're going to need a bigger boat

With it's origins in all aspects of technology products from early on, the event has since grown to include dedicated events now for storage, networking, virtualization and wireless.



And much like Jaws, if a vendor isn't prepared for the panel, there will be blood in the water. Now I don't mean that the intention is to be intentionally torn apart, but if you come to Tech Field Day with a marketing slide deck and a smile, it won't go over well ☐

Getting your tech on with Tech Field Day

Your assignment now is to seek out the awesomeness that is Tech Field Day. Start by following these accounts on Twitter:

Stephen Foskett - [@sfoskett](#)

Gestalt IT - [@GestaltIT](#)

Tech Field Day - [@TechFieldDay](#)

Next up, you should drop by the Vimeo page and view some of the really great sessions that are there: <http://vimeo.com/groups/techfieldday/>

And lastly, make sure that you keep your eyes on <http://techfieldday.com/> for news, updates and great content. This is the start of your in depth journey into every edge of tech that you could imagine.

I've been lucky enough to meet with Stephen when he was in Toronto recently, and he is a dynamic and knowledgeable guy. The excitement level is immediately increased when you chat with him and that energy translates into the Tech Field Day experience as a presenter, delegate or as a viewer.

You can read more about Stephen Foskett here at his blog <http://blog.fosketts.net/> which will give you a sense of what has gone into this really great series of technology events.

Enjoy and share!

[Toronto VMUG - August 14th Recap](#)

☒ Another great set of presentations took place today at the Toronto VMUG. As a regular to the events myself, I am really getting to enjoy seeing some familiar faces, and there are always some new ones each event which is a great sign.

This was a half-day event featuring two vendor presentations, and a VMUG community member presentation. We have been able to have 3 community members present at our local meetings over the last 3 sessions (including yours truly) and I think that this is a testament to the great people who come out and what the community has to offer for all to share.

☒ First up today was Nimble Storage speaking about their flash optimized storage appliance which, if you haven't seen it already, should impress you. The storage game has changed drastically over the last few short years and Nimble has come in as a feature player despite being a relatively young company.

I really like their scale-out capability, and the entire product line is able to be managed with a single interface (no, I did not say single pane of glass...I would never say that) and the ability to cluster and extend the units to ramp up your storage on-demand is very cool.❌

The presentation was a nice deep dive into the technology and use cases which was really great. Glenn Stewart (Senior Systems Engineer from Nimble Storage) was able to field a variety of deep technical questions with ease which is one of the things we love as VMUG community members. Being able to get into the real detail of products and services really adds value to everyone there.

For information about Nimble, please visit their website at <http://www.nimblestorage.com> and follow them on Twitter [@NimbleStorage](https://twitter.com/NimbleStorage) to stay up to date with the latest news and information. Their team are knowledgeable and personable and you certainly won't be disappointed.

❌ Next up was Dell Wyse (aka Wyse) which was a presentation about the endpoint product line including the P20 and T10 specifically. Kudos on a great presentation by Joshua Hutchins which also went straight to the depth that the audience wanted. We were given an overview of the Wyse organization with respect to the Dell acquisition, and a really great top level view of the product line.

The Dell Wyse P20 is their PCoIP device which is a wired ethernet zero-client device that has many excellent features, not least of which is the mere 15 Watts of power consumption during operation. As this is a VMUG presentation, we obviously concentrated on the VMware View capabilities, and there was talk of some upcoming announcements at the VMworld 2012 in San Francisco this month so keep your eyes on the Twitter feeds for that info!



Dell Wyse P20

Next we looked at the [Dell Wyse T10](#) unit which is a wired/wireless ThinOS device that is currently non-PCoIP, but with a lower price point, you may find that it does just what you need. Like its P20 cousin, it runs with no moving parts, no cooling required and an almost insignificant 7.5 Watts average consumption.



Dell Wyse T10

We also quickly touched on two of the other products which were the larger Windows Embedded line and the portable Dell Wyse X50 series laptop line. For the larger scale implementation such as more than 2 monitors, you will need to go to the more hearty devices and for the Local-Mode VDI configurations you can use the X50 for offline desktops which lets you have the freedom to roam and then simply check-in the image when connected to your corporate environment.

Again, the depth of detail was great and Joshua handled all of our questions very well. For more information on the Dell Wyse products, please visit the [Dell Wyse website](#) and follow [@Wyse](https://twitter.com/Wyse) on Twitter. Reach out to them for a demo and you can work with their sales engineers to get some hands on time and see how the products can fit your organization.

To close out, we had Sam Webb, one of our VMUG community members give a great presentation about automation and how to get efficiencies with virtualization using really cool products like Chef.



No, not that Chef

If you haven't had any exposure to Chef (<http://www.opscode.com/chef/>) I highly recommend that you dive in and take a look. Sam gave some real-life scenarios where Chef was put into use and really did a great job of guiding us through the pros of moving towards better automation and how this product plays up against other players like Puppet and vCenter Orchestrator.

As a long-time fan of any type of automation I will most definitely be taking a deeper look into the Chef toolkit and how it may come into play for future projects.

Lastly we had a couple of great giveaways including the Automating vSphere with **VMware vCenter Orchestrator** by Cody Bunch, **Administering Site Recovery Manager 5.0** by Mike Laverick and the **VMware Cookbook** by Matthew Helmke and Ryan Troy (which I recently reviewed [here](#)).

We were able to close out the event with a lunch together for a few participants and all in all I have to say it was a good day. Thanks again to Glenn and Frank from Nimble Storage, Joshua from Dell Wyse, Sam and of course to Angelo Luciani for putting it all together. And huge thanks to the Toronto VMUG community!

See you all at the next one!