



**Les Pounder looks back on the glory days of a Linux podcast that took no prisoners. So farewell then, Linux Outlaws...**

**I**n 2007 there was a new Linux podcast on the scene, hosted by two regular Linux users who loved talking. Dan Lynch and Fabian Scherschel rose to become two of the most loved podcast presenters in the Linux community. Their podcast, Linux Outlaws, became a much loved and cherished show that both informed and entertained its listeners with a mix of news, reviews, interviews and several rants. Just recently the team behind Linux Outlaws announced that the show would be ending in December 2014 and we were privileged to have the chance to interview the outlaws for their last stand.

**“Linux Outlaws informed and entertained its listeners with a mix of news, reviews and rants.”**

From the community, may we say thank-you to Linux Outlaws for seven years of great shows and wish them good luck in their future projects.

*[Editor's note – although we intended these pages to provide a look at the best Free Software podcasts around to fill the void left by the departure of Linux Outlaws, we somehow neglected to mention the Linux Voice podcast. Rising phoenix-like from the ashes of the once-popular TuxRadar podcast, Linux Voice fills the airwaves once a fortnight with a mélange of new-ish news, opinions and contributions from our insightful, intelligent and beautiful listeners. Right, carry on...]*

# Interview: Dan Lynch & Fab Scherschel

We speak to the men behind Linux Outlaws to find out how their long-distance project started, what they plan to do next and why they have to drive so fast.

**LV** Dan, Fab great to chat with you both. So first question: how did you guys meet?

**Dan Lynch:** We met on a social network called Jaiku back in early 2007. It was a Finnish project that became popular when Leo Laporte (of TWIT fame) joined. I heard about it on one of Leo's shows and decided to give it a try. I'd never really bothered with social networks at all before. Jaiku was like Twitter in that initial posts were limited to 140 characters but it also had comments on each post, which were not limited. What came out of that were these really in-depth long discussion threads.

I met Fab and a whole bunch of great people on there. Many of them are still among my closest friends. I began podcasting with my Jaiku friends in early 2007 and we had a great time. Fab was a guest host or panel member on those shows sometimes. We both used Linux and were enthusiastic about it. It was his idea to start a podcast about Linux and he asked me if I wanted to join him. The rest as they say is history. Jaiku was bought by Google and ultimately shut down by the way. Some of the technology became Google+ and the staff were mostly absorbed into Google's team.

**Fabian Scherschel:** Pretty much what Dan said, although I don't think Jaiku was my first social network. I still have fond memories of the community there. I got on that early podcast by imitating an angry John C Dvorak, by the way. Fun times!

**LV** Linux Outlaws rose to popularity at a time when LUG Radio was winding down. As we understand it the LUGRadio hosts gave Linux Outlaws quite a recommendation?

**DL:** They did encourage people to give us a try and that was really helpful. I began listening to LUGRadio around the end of 2006, so it had been going years before I heard it. When we started Linux Outlaws in Sept 2007 they were a big influence. Initially I'm sure they had no idea who we were – I mean, why would they? But at some point one of the hosts heard our show and mentioned it. That was great. We also came 2nd to LUGRadio in a podcast roundup in *Linux Format* magazine pretty early on, it must have been 2008 I think. I believe it may even have been Linux Voice's own Mike Saunders who wrote it, I forget now though [It was Mayank Sharma]. That boosted our popularity massively and we reached a big audience quite quickly. When LUGRadio decided to call it a day about a year after we began they were really kind in directing people our way, which we really appreciated.

**FS:** I must confess that I didn't listen to LUGRadio when we started. Dan would go on and on about it



Dan Lynch is based in Liverpool and records from his home studio.

and eventually I gave it a listen and became a fan. I think I pretty much must have listened to the whole back catalogue, too. As for podcasts who helped us out along the way, we must also mention Linux Reality. I wrote an email to Chess [Griffin] when that show ended and he mentioned LO subsequently. We got a pretty big influx of new listeners from that.

**LV** From all of the shows what has been your favourite moment?

**DL:** Just one? That's very hard to answer. Possibly recording our 100th episode in a car speeding down the Autobahn as we headed to Linux Tag in 2009. Fab was driving! I don't recommend podcasting and driving, unless you have a decent hands free of course. In this case I held the recorder as he drove so it was ok. We had a really fun discussion and people seemed to like that episode a lot.

**FS:** The recording on the Autobahn at 200km/h in my dad's Renault was definitely a high point. That was really fun! Other than that, I also immensely enjoyed the live show we did in Liverpool for episode 300 as well as taking the stage at the first OggCamp. Back then, I would still feel pretty nervous when facing down a crowd of hundreds.

**LV** What legacy will Linux Outlaws leave behind?

**DL:** God I don't know. I'd like to think we showed



Fabian Scherschel (L) and Dan Lynch (R) have been the hosts of Linux Outlaws for seven years.

people that anyone can do this and you really don't need to be clever or talented. I know LO listeners have started a lot of podcasts and gone off to do their own things down the years. I like to think we inspired that in some way. We never claimed to be experts in Linux or anything else really. As the show grew popular people began to expect some level of expertise from us but they missed the point. It was always meant to be just two average guys who use Linux talking about things they think are cool and sharing experiences. If others went out and did that too because of our example then great. Also OggCamp is a legacy I'm very proud of personally. It's not an LO invention and

of course we began the event with the good folks at Ubuntu UK. It's grown way beyond the show, but LO played a crucial part in starting the event. I want to see that continue long after we hang up the microphones.

**FS:** I hope that there will be more podcasts to come for Dan and myself. Maybe not Linux or software-specific ones, but hopefully they will be fun and entertaining. I'm not ready to give up podcasting just yet. As for the Linux podcasting scene, I hope there will be always a show or two that includes presenters that say what they believe, no matter how unpopular it might be. That's the one thing that was always most important for me and it's the one unique aspect that independent podcasts add to the media landscape.

**LV If you could have done one thing differently with Linux Outlaws, what would it be?**

**DL:** That's hard to say. I definitely don't regret much to do with the show. This may be a rubbish answer but I don't think there is anything obvious I'd want to go back and change really.

**FS:** Actually, one of the things I've always been proud of with LO is that we've adapted throughout the show's run. We've tried not to cling to predefined templates and segments. We tried to change with the times. In that way, I think, we actually did things differently whenever we saw the need. This did get us in conflict with some of the listeners several times, but I do think we generally did a good job.

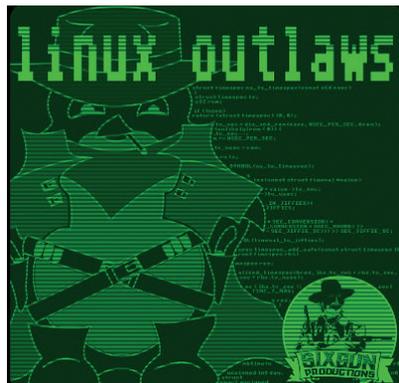


**Top** Fabian Scherschel is based in Germany and also records from a home studio that has grown along with the podcast.

**Bottom left** The Linux Outlaws album art has changed many times in the course of the podcast.

**Bottom right** Linux Outlaws were part of the team that created the popular Oggcamp unconferece.

PHOTO CREDIT: Tris Linnell





# EVEN MORE PODCASTS



## FLOSS Weekly

Hosted by Randal Schwartz and his rotating panel of presenters which includes Linux Outlaws' very own Dan Lynch. FLOSS Weekly is part of the larger TwiT (The Week in Tech) network that covers everything from Open Source technologies to other proprietary platforms. This podcast is of exceptional quality and by that we mean the content and knowledge of the hosts and the production quality of the finished product. The show often has special guests from the tech scene and they provide great insights into their projects.  
<http://twit.tv/show/floss-weekly>

## Ubuntu UK Podcast

Well known as the Radio 4 of Linux Podcasts, the Ubuntu UK podcast has a long tradition of quality and insightful content. Hosted by Alan Pope, Tony Whitmore, Laura Cowen and Mark Johnson, the Ubuntu UK podcast, as you may have already guessed, provides news and content from the Ubuntu community, but their scope is not just limited to Ubuntu and they feature content from the wider Open Source community. This podcast is well produced with a snappy (the team try to keep episodes to under 40 minutes) and well tested format.  
<http://podcast.ubuntu-uk.org>

## Raspi.today

A relative new kid on the block hosted by Russell Barnes, who used to be the editor of *Linux User and Developer* magazine. Russell's site is dedicated to the Raspberry Pi and his enthusiasm and passion is plain to see with lots of great content in his podcast. He has interviewed many different people from the Raspberry Pi community including 4tronix, PiBorg and Ben Everard, author of the best-selling *Learning Python with Raspberry Pi*. If you are into your Raspberry Pi, then this podcast is the one for you.  
[www.raspi.today](http://www.raspi.today)

## Linux Luddites

Linux Luddites is a podcast presented by Joe, Paddy and Jesse, who twice a month dip a toe into the Free Software waters, try new Linux software, then decide that they liked the old stuff better. The format of the show is similar to Linux Outlaws with a dash of LUG Radio. The news, reviews and feedback sections denote the pace and content of the show. If you like your Linux news with a dash of humour then the Luddites are happy to oblige, just don't be too bashful when the odd profanity pops out.  
<http://linuxluddites.com>

# LINUX LUDDITES

## The Linux Link Tech Show

TLLTS is a weekly podcast with a myriad of presenters that each delve into the latest news and issues in the Linux and Open Source communities. Presented in a laid back and relaxed manner TLLTS is a refined yet casual show that seeks to entertain and inform the listener. A great podcast to listen to on your commute to work. The Linux Link Tech Show is released under a Creative Commons Attribution, Share-Alike Non-Commercial licence, so you're free to mix it up, copy it and use it as you see fit as long as you fulfil the terms of the licence.  
[www.tlts.org](http://www.tlts.org)

## MintCast

In a similar manner to the Ubuntu UK podcast, the MintCast is a podcast created by and for the many Linux Mint users, of whom there are a growing number. Weighing in at around two hours long this is an informative show presented by Rob, Scott and James who are all keen Mint users, along with guest hosts from the Mint community.  
<http://mintcast.org>



## Going Linux

Going Linux is currently hosted by Larry Bushey, the creator of the podcast, and technology advocate Bill Smith, and has in the past been presented by Tom Chadoir and Serge Rey. This is a quality podcast that provides great content to suit all levels of Linux users, along with reviews on all the latest free software and general news from Linux communities. The show provides a fresh and innovative approach to delivering the latest news thanks to their extended team of presenters and diverse content.  
<http://goinglinux.com>

## Everyday Linux

The community that surrounds Linux is what sustains and nurtures Linux and this podcast is there to help illustrate this facet of the Linux eco-system.  
<http://elementopie.com/everyday-linux-episodes>

