Shuttleworth: Still Key to Ubuntu Linux, Canonical, Open Source?

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How important is Mark Shuttleworth's to Canonical, Ubuntu, Linux and open source? Officially, Shuttleworth's role at the company behind Ubuntu, which he founded in 2004, has been limited to product strategy and design since he stepped down as CEO in December 2009. Still, his presence looms much larger in the Ubuntu community.

Indeed, Shuttleworth continues to shape the Ubuntu vision. Moreover, there are symbolic touches like the personal signature he's supplying on the official "cerficates of Ubuntu membership" that Canonical announced a few days ago.

There's no question Shuttleworth has played a foundational role for Canonical and Ubuntu. And even though he formally abandoned the long-standing goal of undoing Microsoft's majority market share in PC software a few weeks, he continues to be one of the most ambitious voices in the open source community.

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