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Lutris serves up new solution

Lutris Technologies has created a new Solution Partner Programme which aims to make it easier for vendors like ISVs, systems integrators and business and Internet consulting firms to work with them on the development of solutions and related services that draw on the Lutris Enhydra Java/XML open source Internet application server.

Partners can build more robust, scalable solutions and at the same time avoid passing heavy product licensing expenses on to their customers, says Lutris

So far Lutris has partnered with eight early adopters of its Solution Partner Program, including Indiqu, i-engineering, GravityRock, Mobilitee, Rarefire Technologies, Reliance Systems Inc., room33, and Together Teamsolutions.

Lutris Technologies chief executive Yancy Lind commented, "Many ISVs and system integrators want to use open source technologies to increase control, lower total cost of ownership, and provide higher quality solutions.

Lutris Technologies' current strategic alliances include those with Compaq, NEC, SuSE, VA Linux and Navisite. ■

Cluster back-up

Large-scale clustered computer solution provider Linux NetworX has integrated a backup software solution into its Evolocity cluster solutions.

Linux NetworX Evolocity cluster systems are aimed in particular at large scale applications with heavy data computation, data handling and storage needs, such as Application Service Providers, web hosting centers and e-commerce backbone providers.

The company has integrated the BRU Backup and Restore Utility from Linux backup solution provider Enhanced Software Technologies to increase levels of data storage backup for the network. BRU uses its AUTOSCAN(TM) feature to verify the backup online. If a backup window does not allow online verification, its Anytime Verify(TM) tool can enable administrators to verify the backup at a later time, on a different system if necessary.

Although tape device technology offers high levels of reliability, errors can still occur. BRU detects errors on the tape following backup of the archive and enables recovery from errors to restore the original data.

Info

http://www.estinc.com
www.linuxnetworx.com

■

SuSE plots its S390 course...

SuSE Linux has announced full details of its new mainframe solution that enables enterprises to scale Linux from their PC clients to their host systems.

SuSE Linux S/390 supports IBM's G5 and G6 servers as well as IBM Multiprise 3000. It can be installed either in a logical partition (LPAR), as a guest under the operating system VM (Virtual Machine) or within the Virtual Image Facility (VIF), which enables the implementation of several thousand independent Linux images on a single machine.

SuSE has used the same code base for SuSE Linux S/390 as for its other platforms, enabling software developers to create applications on their PCs and migrate them to very large systems as the Linux APIs are the same.

Chief executive of SuSE Linux AG, Roland Dyroff

The new product features more than 700 applications tailored for the enterprise environment and offers support and service options for enterprise needs, including installation planning, training, performance measurement and tuning.

SuSE sees its typical SuSE Linux S/390 customer as someone likely to want to exploit the software's web serving capabilities first by running Apache and installing a firewall. The customer can then integrate S/390 into the existing infrastructure, using IBM's connector facilities, which feature access to relational and non-relational data (DB2, VSAM, DL1), access to transactions (Cics) and to messaging systems (MQ). According to SuSE's research, most OS/390 customers have started Linux activities. However, the company expects SuSE Linux S/390 also to appeal to VSE customers who have been looking forward to the new S/390 functionality.

The new solutions makes SuSE Linux the only company worldwide that currently offers a Linux distribution for IBM S/390 servers, according to Roland Dyroff, chief executive of SuSE Linux AG. He commented, "SuSE Linux S/390 is the result of the unique partnership between SuSE and IBM. SuSE's technological leadership and expertise in combination with IBM's strength and reliability make SuSE Linux S/390 the operating system of choice in the enterprise server environment."

Info

http://www.suse.co.uk

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Server power ramped up

Linuxlab has expanded the capacity of its E-Power ThinRack 4-in-1 Pentium III web servers. First released in March of this year with 256 MB of RAM, the new ThinRack servers now offer a limit of 512 MB. In addition to increased RAM, the new servers feature expanded hard disk capacity and come with 6, 18, or 20 gigabytes of storage space. They also come with four power supplies per case, up from two, for improved server reliability.
Linuxlab's FarMan load-balancing software enables users to configure their server farms from a single management screen. It monitors the network for potential server problems and notifies technical support so they can be addressed before they become critical. If a server develops a problem, FarMan will remove it from service and notify the network administrator.

Info

www.linuxlab.com

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Green light for Overland

Tape backup solution provider Overland Data's AIT LibraryProTM automated backup tape library has been certified to run under Linux by Enhanced Software Technologies (EST), which sponsors and administers the Linux Tape Device Certification Programme.

The AIT LibraryPro, the first scalable AIT library, can be scaled up to nine modules for a maximum configuration of 8.55 terabytes native capacity (22.2 TB with compression) and throughput of 388 gigabytes per hour (1.0 TB/hr. with compression) using Sony AIT-2 drives. Using the upcoming Sony AIT-3 drives, the capacity will be increased to a maximum configuration of 17.1 TB (up to 44.5 TB with compression) and maximum throughput of 713 gigabytes per hour (up to 1.85 TB/hr with compression).

LibraryPro allows customers to scale the capacity and performance in modular increments for a customised solution to precisely match their specific storage needs, and combines the company's ultra-reliable Mainframe Class Robotics technology with the inherent advantages of Sony's AIT technology.

"EST's Linux Tape Device Certification Programme gives end users the quality assurance that the Overland product family demonstrated complete compatibility with the Linux Operating System," said Howard Rippiner, Overland's marketing manager for Europe.

Info

www.overlanddata.com
http://www.linuxtapecert.org

Overland's marketing manager for Europe, Howard Rippiner

Caldera scoops award

Caldera Systems has received Network World's Blue Ribbon award for its OpenLinux eServer 2.3 enterprise server solution.

Caldera's OpenLinux eServer came top of the list of five Linux server-side distributions based on the following criteria: LAN administration and setup, added applications and value, installation, service support policies and documentation.

OpenLinux eServer 2.3 is a thin server, component-based operating system designed for easy installation, configuration and management. It is pre-tuned for server-specific hardware and reduces configuration and management time. OpenLinux eServer includes several installation profiles providing optimized software architecture for single-purpose servers.

Caldera Systems' president and chief executive Ransom Love commented: "We're delighted to win this award. This reinforces Caldera's leadership as a provider of superior Linux business solutions for the enterprise."

Jump start for IT administrators

Caldera Systems has completed the first three courses for its OpenLinux Solution Series. The courses, Linux Essentials, NDS on OpenLinux and Samba on OpenLinux, are now available to OpenLearning Providers.

The OpenLinux Solutions Series of one and two day courses is designed to educate IT professionals working in a business environment who wish to deploy and manage specialised servers, that is servers optimised for specific functions such as Web, DNS/DHCP, SAMBA, firewall and application servers.

The Linux Essentials course is aimed at providing IT professionals with a jump-start to OpenLinux Administration. NDS on OpenLinux is for those managing networks with a global directory service, while the Samba on OpenLinux 1 is for maximizing Windows and File/Print services.

"This series addresses the needs and business interests of IT professionals working with Linux," said David Acheson, director of education for Caldera Systems, Inc. "We will provide solutions and increase productivity in the organizations they serve. Caldera can do it with high-quality curriculum and in less time."

Caldera plans to make a further three courses available by the end of the year. The courses are DNS/DHCP on OpenLinux for TCP/IP Address Management, Apache on OpenLinux – Deploying and Hosting Secure Web Environments, and Samba on OpenLinux 2 – Using OpenLinux as an NT Domain Controller.

For more details about OpenLearning Courseware or to find an OpenLearning Provider, see Caldera's website.

Info

http://www.calderasystems.com/openlearning

Debugger from LynuxWorks

Fresh from its merger with system software supplier Integrated Software & Devices Corporation (ISDCorp), real time embedded systems solution provider LynuxWorks launched its new SpyKer event trace and visualization tool at the end of November.

The SpyKer tools are aimed at software developers using both real time and Linux operating systems including the company's own LynxOS real time operating system and BlueCat Linux. They enable programmers to debug their software by tracing kernel events without the need for instrumented kernel and library events and without a special instrumented version of the library. The tool can also be used to trace user application events without modifying the program's source code. This can save the developer time and improve the application's time to market speed.

"From 12 years of embedded experience, we've learned programmers don't like instrumenting their code, and they don't like to run specially instrumented kernels or link with special instrumented libraries," said Mitch Bunnell, LynuxWorks CTO and author of SpyKer. "You can load SpyKer on to LynxOS or just about any Linux and get valuable kernel traces instantly, without reboot, special kernels or source code modification."

The company has announced that it has registered its proposed initial public offering of its common share stock.

Info

www.LynuxWorks.com
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Red Hat "on track"

Red Hat has announced that its vice president of operations, Kevin Thompson, has been promoted to chief financial officer.

Thompson joined Red Hat in October 2000 with more than thirteen years of experience of managing operations, financial transactions including debt and equity offerings, and mergers and acquisitions behind him, said"In the time I have been involved with Red Hat, I have become convinced of Red Hat's ability to revolutionise the software industry I am confident that Red Hat is on track to meet the goals we've communicated to the public markets improved gross margins, continued 100 percent revenue growth and profitability by the end of calendar year 2001."

Info

www.redhat.com

New database engine

Greystone Group is offering its M database technology, GT.M, to users of x86 GNU/Linux-based platforms as open source freeware.GT.M is a multi-paradigm database engine, and has been used as a platform for building high-throughput database applications for both host-based and client/server architectures. The binary release is now available for download and Sanchez says the source code will be made available shortly.

:"By making our database technology and programming language available on the GNU/Linux platform, we inherit a worldwide group of programming and testing resources that will cooperate with us, while working on their own behalf to enhance the software," said ` Greystone spoksman

Although the software is free for anyone to use, commercial users who want support will be expected to pay for commercial maintenance contracts

Info

sourceforge.net/projects/sanchez-gtm

Mandrake rolls out 7.2

MandrakeSoft has released version 7.2 of its graphical operating system geared towards improving productivity and making system administration a more user-friendly process, with the help of value add products and services from Macmillan.

The new distribution allows the system administrator to access the administration tools through its DrakConf application, which now offers improved tools for custom menu creation. MandrakeSoft has also made the Common Unix Printing System (CUPS) available for more efficient single or networked printer administration.

The release also includes StarOffice and Koffice integrated office suites, and features updates to the Linux Library, including a multimedia tutorial, while users can also choose from a variety of graphical interfaces with which to customise their desktops.

New products included with the release include Linux-Mandrake Complete 7.2, MandrakeSoft's solution for users new to a Linux environment, as well as its operating system tailored for supporting more advanced peripheral devices, USB cameras and scanners, Linux-Mandrake PowerPack Deluxe 7.2, and its professional and SME version, Linux-Mandrake 7.2 Professional Suite.

Henri Poole, chief executive of MandrakeSoft said he believed the new release would convert many Windows Me, NT and 2000 users to Linux. He added "With the easy to use and automated administration tools provided we have truly arrived at a point where we can offer an incredibly complete operating system with powerful office tools, high-performance server applications – all tuned to a high degree of security, stability and usability."

Info

http://www.linux-mandrake.com

Netscape launches version 6

AOL subsidiary Netscape Communications has launched version 6 of its browser. It contains new features for privacy and security and gives users the opportunity to browse the Web across a variety of platforms. Powered by the embeddable Netscape Gecko browser engine, Netscape 6 has been rewritten in an open source environment and offers enhancements to the Netscape Internet suite, which includes such applications as Netscape Navigator, Netscape Mail, Netscape Instant Messenger powered by AOL Instant Messenger and Netscape Composer. The browser engine can run on a wide variety of platforms including PCs and workstations as well as a range of new consumer devices, including the new "Instant AOL" Gateway household Internet appliance.

The enhanced privacy and security features mean the Password Manager can be set to remember all login names and passwords at the sites visited. Users have the option to set the Password Manager to automatically fill this information in on return visits, or to specify that Password Manager should remember only certain login names and passwords. Forms Manager enables users to fill in Web forms automatically by specifying the personal information they want to make available while Cookie Manager enables users to view every cookie placed on their hard drive and remove any they don't want.

Jim Martin, Senior Vice President and General Manager at Netscape, said, "Feedback has indicated that Internet users do not like to be limited to one browser. With Netscape 6, we broke the mould by creating a brand new browser that lets consumers choose how they use the Internet. They can put the content they care about most right up front; customise features to suit their individual needs and even change the look and feel of the browser to reflect their interests and lifestyles."

Martin added, "In designing Netscape 6, we looked very carefully at how consumers and professionals use the Internet in their everyday lives. And we worked very closely with the development community to build a new browser based on the standards-compliant, innovative, open source Gecko technology that enables users to fully experience the Internet in ways never possible before." Netscape 6 is available for Windows, Macintosh and Linux and can be downloaded from http://www.netscape.com/download or grabed from the issue CD.

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Linux solutions are yet to reach full potential

Enthusiasm for Linux solutions has not yet translated into large-scale deployments in the workplace, a new report from Zona Research indicates. The report, The New Religion: Linux and Open Source, is based on interviews with 109 technical decision makers who have implemented Linux applications in their organisations already, or intend to do so over the next 12 months. Most respondents represented large enterprises, with more than one third from organisations with more than 2,500 employees, while 55 per cent worked within organisations with more than 500 employees.

The report provides an overview of the Linux marketplace and examines the current state of Linux deployment in organisations and the factors driving its deployment as well as shedding light on user perceptions of the Linux and Open Source value proposition.

The survey reveals that most current Linux deployments are restricted to pilot programs or departmental deployments. Almost two thirds of respondents said there were 100 or fewer Linux users in their organisations and, of these, nearly half said they had twenty-five users or fewer. Just a quarter of respondents said their organisation had made a strategic commitment to open source solutions.

Most respondents were looking to Linux as a replacement for Microsoft Windows, however, almost two thirds said they were replacing legacy applications with Linux, which indicates it is being used to replace existing Unix operating systems. The top reasons respondents gave for their decision to implement Linux included stability and reliability, lower price, speed of applications and services and overall scalability.

Charles King, Senior Industry Analyst at Zona Research commented, "Overall, if Linux development were compared to the Pilgrim Separatist movement, this would be the year 1640, when the second wave of Puritans were being assimilated. The Great Revolution is yet to come. Much like the behaviour of the early Java market, Linux is being tested and evaluated, but it has not caused the wholesale replacement of existing applications and operating systems," continued King. "Just over half of our respondents indicated their organisation would replace existing applications with Linux, but at the same time 40 per cent of our sample had not yet deployed a single copy of Linux." ■

AvBrief scoops top award

As the UK's first Internet service providing a "one stop shop" for online flight briefing, AvBrief was awarded the best E-business Start-up Award at the Computer Weekly E-Business Excellence Awards, November 2000.

Following research conducted by the AvBrief team, a desire amongst aviators to have easy access to flight information, especially timely weather data, was discovered. A need was highlighted for a central online reference site providing flight-planning information. Access to superior data on all aspects concerned with a safe and enjoyable flight would generate a positive force for better pilot decision-making, an enhanced professional attitude and superior airmanship, actively making a contribution to increased flight safety for all users of the skies.

AvBrief was founded in 1999 by a team of five, all of whom are keen pilots. AvBrief is supplied weather data from the United Kingdom Meteorological Office (UKMO) delivered via the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) satellite system, SADIS. In addition, airfield and navigational data is supplied by the Aeronautical Services Group of Racal Avionics Limited.

AvBrief is available to all pilots with Internet access and offers free information for users that register at *www.avbrief.com* as well as further information and services to paying subscribers. Subscription is offered at £35 a year, with payment invited online or by fax, or post if preferred. There are now over 16,000 registered users within six months since the site's launch.

AvBrief receives meteorological data, including airport weather reports and forecasts, forecast charts and digital model data, from the ICAO SADIS (Satellite Distribution) VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) and Receiver. The SADIS system is supplied with current met data from the World Area Forecast Centres at the UK Met Office in Bracknell and the National Weather Service in Washington DC. More than 50,000 textual met reports are distributed every 24 hours, with a large number of weather charts in addition. To supplement this, AvBrief obtains additional Aviation Meteorological information by fax from the UK Met Office and by FTP. Aeronautical navigational data is provided on a four-week update cycle (AIRAC) from the master navigational database managed by the Aeronautical Services Group of Racal Avionics Ltd.

The information is stored on AvBrief's servers for processing and dissemination. These high performance servers use the Linux operating system, and run a relational database management system to ensure that the most appropriate and timely data is available for users through a high bandwidth (512 kbps) connection to the Internet. Users can also look-up airfield details such as runway details, radio frequencies and other helpful aeronautical information.

The software used to run the system has been written by the AvBrief team in C, Perl and PHP to run in conjunction with well established open source platforms such as the Apache web server and Postgre SQL Object-Relational BMS. For performance and resilience the servers run as a Red Hat Linux Cluster using the Linux Virtual Server (LVS) software.

Info

www.avbrief.com

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Navaho launches Linux web solutions

Communication tools developer Navaho Technologies has launched its new Linux based Web based solution for the small to medium sized enterprise. The Navaho WebOffice communications software solution enables businesses to access the Web via its own servers and proxy servers. Navaho WebOffice offers e-mail and proxy servers with content and Web address filtering to help businesses control and monitor their e-mail and Web access by content list and by listing URLs to be allowed or blocked.

Other features include intelligent caching and quota controls to minimize online time, the ability to check e-mail via a Web interface and to send and receive faxes electronically to ensure the use of paper is kept to a minimum. It also provides time efficiency features in the form of file and printer sharing and a calendar and groupware systems.

James Acketts, operations director at Navaho Technologies Ltd, said, "The Internet is changing the way everyone works, small and medium sized businesses have to keep up with the developments, new software and upgrades can be expensive and complicated. We have designed a Server solution for busy offices, it is well priced, easy to use and offers every facility you expect from office software but will be as mobile as you are." The Navaho WebOffice range starts at £999. ■

Penguin Computing and Bull to collaborate

Linux system provider Penguin Computing is to partner with global IT group Bull to offer end to end Linux solutions to the European market. The two companies' initial efforts will focus on Bull's service, support and provision of Penguin Computing solutions to the Europe market. However, Bull and Penguin Computing also plan to collaborate on manufacturing and logistics of Linux-based solutions.

Bull, which already offers a complete range of services for Linux users, including consulting, application and technology integration, support of applications and infrastructures and dedicated Linux phone support, recently contributed private equity financing for Penguin Computing to support the company's international expansion. Bull's vice president of research and development Gerard Roucairol added, "Bull launched its Linux business two years ago because our European customers were increasingly regarding Linux as a key component of their overall IT strategy. Our partnership with Penguin Computing provides Bull with a reliable and proven Linux infrastructure solution to bundle with Bull's existing support and Linux development expertise. Together, Penguin Computing and Bull deliver a compelling Linux solution for these customers."

Info

www.bull.com
http://www.penguincomputing.com

■

GNOME Foundation news

MandrakeSoft and Borland-Inprise have both announced they are to join the Advisory Board of the GNOME Foundation, which aims to promote the GNOME graphical desktop.

MandrakeSoft also plans to offer financial sponsorship to GNOME developers working on GNOME Office/Open Office solutions. The GNOME project has built a free desktop environment and application framework for software developers on Linux and other Unix-like operating systems. GNOME is part of the GNU project, which focuses on the development of Linux.

MandrakeSoft has included the GNOME environment in its Linux-Mandrake operating system since the early releases. Existing GNOME Advisory Board members include Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Red Hat, Sun Microsystems and Turbo Linux. "We are delighted that MandrakeSoft is joining the Foundation's Advisory Board and extending its commitment to GNOME," said Miguel De Icaza, co-founder of GNOME. www.linux-mandrake.com

Info

http://www.gnome.org

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Omnis Software's RADical rewriting

Omnis Software has rewritten the core of its 4GL rapid application development (RAD) program for its latest release with the aim of providing developers with a more powerful and intuitive environment.

Omnis Studio 3.0 has been redesigned to deliver faster Web based applications by taking advantage of multithreading when executing methods or when directly accessing a database such as Oracle, DB2 or Sybase. The latest release features updates to the Omnis Web server and Web Client technologies, geared towards speeding up Web based business applications. It has also been enhanced to give programmers a more intuitive, easier to use and more powerful development environment.

Omnis has added client side methods to the program, enabling a greater range of functions to be performed locally, and 18 new Web-specific components for a more responsive user interface. New components include clocks, sliders, picture faders and complex grids.

Omnis UK president Gwyneth Gibbs said, "The engineering team has done a fantastic job of incorporating and exploiting technologies specifically to make the most of the Internet. This latest version of Omnis Studio will allow an enterprise to create powerful, Web based, business solutions in even less time, confident that they will prove scalable, robust and extendible."

She added that developers would have the added benefit of knowing that if the solution has to be moved from a Windows server to Linux, or the other way round, the solution would enable them to do this in hours rather than weeks or months, as they would not have to rewrite their code. "We believe that solutions built on this technology, which allow customers complete control of where and how they deploy their solutions, are essential for commercial success in an uncertain datastore and OS world."

A demonstration version of the software is available for download from the Omnis Web site at *www.omnis.net* ■

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Forming the KDE League

Open source desktop environment developer KDE has announced it has formed the KDE League, a group of industry leaders and KDE developers committed to the promotion, development and distribution of KDE.

KDE is the developer of the K Desktop Environment (KDE) 2.0, an object-oriented, component-based desktop and office suite. The League's focus will be on promoting the use of KDE, both by enterprises and individual users, encouraging its continued role as an open source desktop alternative on PCs and workstations and ensuring it becomes a desktop standard on handheld devices. It will also promote the development of KDE software by third-party developers.

Although the League will not play a direct role in developing the core KDE libraries and applications, KDE hopes that League members will contribute to the KDE code base. "The creation of the KDE League marks a vital step forward for KDE," said Matthias Ettrich, founder of KDE. "With the support of our corporate partners, we can work together to ensure KDE gains wider recognition, a greater number of applications and increased functionality, while maintaining the open development model and technical excellence that has made KDE the most popular Open Source desktop." The founding members of the KDE League include Borland, Caldera, Compaq, Corel, Fujitsu-Siemens, Hewlett-Packard Company, IBM, KDE.com, Klar‰lvdalens Datakonsult, theKompany.com, Mandrakesoft, SuSE, Trolltech and TurboLinux. However other corporations who support the goals of the League can apply for membership.

Info

www.kde.org

SuSE Linux releases new edition

SuSE Linux has announced the release of the PowerPC Edition of SuSE Linux 7.0. SuSE Linux 7.0 for the PowerPC features include applications for image processing, desktop applications, emulators and a range of available window managers, network tools and editors.

The inclusion of MoL (Mac on Linux) means users can access a network-capable MacOS, either in a window or in full screen mode. Linux 7.0 also features SuSE's integrated installation tool, YaST2, which automatically recognises and configures the hardware during the installation process.

The PowerPC Edition supports IBM's pSeries with POWER3 processors, expanding the range of supported hardware already running on version 6.4, which includes Apple PowerMac, IBM RS/6000, and Motorola PReP systems. The new XFree86 4.01 can now detect and identify common graphics subsystems such as ATIÇs Rage 128 graphic card. The configuration tool SaX2 offers simplified installation and setup for graphics cards.

In addition to the KDE 1.1.2 graphical user interface for Linux and Unix, the PowerPC Edition also offers the beta version of the next generation desktop interface, KDE 2.0.

Info

http://www.suse.de/en/produkte/susesoft/ppc/index.html

New Linux PPC edition

LinuxPPC has announced that a public beta test version of its latest release is now available. The beta, which can be installed over any existing RPM based Linux on Power PC distribution, includes the latest versions of Helix Code's GNOME, KDE 2.0, XFree 4.0, Mozilla 5.0 and glibc.

At 1.5 gigabytes, and with a base installation of 500 megabytes, the beta includes the basic operating system, networking software, the X Windows graphical interface software, the Mozilla and Netscape Web browsers, and the KDE and GNOME desktop environments. The size of the installation means that users need a fast connection such as DSL to have a reasonable download time. Users can install the beta by downloading the updater utility onto a computer with an existing Linux/PowerPC distribution, running the updater and then downloading the beta from an FTP site.

LinuxPPC is based on the RPM system RPM, the Red Hat Package Manager system which is used for both installing software on some Linux systems. However the Debian distribution, which does not use the RPM system, cannot be upgraded and Debian users must use an installer program rather than the updater program if they wish to install the beta. Developer Jeff Carr said, "As long as your system uses RPM, you can upgrade to the public beta."

Info

http://linuxppc.com/support/updates/product/2000publicbeta.php3

3D driver for Radeon

Xi Graphics – which provides graphics support software for Linux and Unix systems has released a new driver with Linux graphics support for two members of ATI Technologies' new high performance RADEON family of graphics cards – the RADEON 32Mb DDR and the RADEON 64Mb DDR. The new RADEON Linux Graphics Driver (LGD) is now available as part of Xi Graphics' current Linux Graphics Driver v1.1 product line.

The driver is available for download in demo mode from Xi Graphics' ftp site and provides OpenGL-compliant 3-D support and fast 2-D support. Users who decide to purchase the full product can buy a license key online from the Xi Graphics site. When users buy the License Key for v1.1 of the driver, they can download and unlock an alpha version of the forthcoming v2.0 of the RADEON driver and will be entitled to free upgrades to v2.0 when it is released.

"The RADEON cards are very impressive," remarked Jon Trulson, Xi Graphics' Engineering Manager. "Coupled with v2.0 of our new X server and OpenGL rendering pipeline, the performance numbers we are getting are truly amazing. They beat NVIDIA GeForce2 GTS numbers in most of the tests, a feat that we didn't think would be accomplished for some time with Linux," Trulson continued. "With the upcoming Linux 2.4 kernel, the numbers will improve even more.

"ATI's support of Xi Graphics further demonstrates our commitment to become the leading hardware graphics vendor for Linux and help to ensure its success," said Kevin Oerton, Director Technical Marketing, ATI. Technical and pricing information on the new RADEON product line is available from ATI's Web site.

Info

www.ati.com
www.xig.com

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Communicado Fax Software

Linux based software provider Merlin Software Technologies has unveiled its new Communicado Fax product at Comdex Fall's Linux Business Expo.

Scheduled to ship in December, Communicado Fax enables users to send faxes from any application and on a variety of platforms, ranging from StarOffice and Wordperfect under Linux/Unix to Microsoft Office under Windows/Macintosh. Its multi-line server platform is based on the Linux platform.

In addition to hardware and application compatibility, the product offers the user a range of features including address books, a built-in fax viewer with thumbnails, and cover pages and power features such as broadcasting, forwarding and detailed usage reporting and accounting, as well as support for multiple inbound and outbound lines.

Communicado Fax is a fifth generation development and originates from Merlin's HotWireFAX. "With Communicado, we have combined the affordability and reliability of Linux servers with the flexibility of allowing any platform, including Microsoft Windows, to fax from any application," said Merlin president Robert Heller. "Our product is well positioned to capitalise on the growing business penetration of Linux servers and their co-existence with other platforms such as Microsoft Windows."

Info

http://www.MerlinSofTech.com

MobileOffice and Productivity.NET

Open source operating system solution provider ThinkFree has partnered with security ASP McAfee to deliver Web based business applications to customers of McAfee's Productivity.NET managed applications service centre.

The Productivity.NET service centre will feature McAfee's MobileOffice productivity solutions for word processing, spreadsheet and presentation graphics services, powered by the ThinkFree Web based business tools. MobileOffice suite components include the word processing application MobileOffice Write, for creating and editing electronic documents and featuring an HTML editor, the MobileOffice Calc spreadsheet program for calculating and charting numbers and the presentation application MobileOffice Show, which enables users to create, format, edit and design business and personal presentations. As well as MobileOffice, Productivity.NET offers the MobileDisk file management system.

"The partnership with McAfee.com highlights ThinkFree's migration from a direct consumer-oriented focus to an OEM distribution model and reflects the company's new business strategy of working with leading ASPs to provide customers with business productivity solutions, said ThinkFree president Ken Rhie." "Launching this product with McAfee.com demonstrates a great achievement for ThinkFree, providing us with a major stake in the business as well as consumer marketplaces. This partnership also represents a major endorsement of ThinkFree's emerging technology and commitment to help leading ASPs expand their offerings and bring customers value-added services that deliver on the full promise and potential of the Internet well ahead of other industry initiatives."

Patti Dock, vice president of marketing at McAfee.com commented, "Our partnership with ThinkFree reflects the goal of our .NET Initiative to empower businesses with proven, cost-effective solutions to fulfill their security, support and productivity needs."

Info

http://www.mcafee.com/net
http://www.thinkfree.com

90-day evaluation of Teamware Office

Fujitsu subsidiary Teamware Group has announced that the new release of Linux-Mandrake 7.2 is to feature a free 90-day evaluation copy of its groupware product Teamware Office 5.3 for Linux.

Teamware Office 5.3 for Linux, a ready-to-run groupware product with a customisable user interface and state-of-the-art communications features, is an intranet solution geared to the business needs of small and medium sized organisations. Teamware Office 5.3 for Linux includes the Teamware Mail e-mail solutions, time and resource scheduling in the form of Teamware Calendar and the Teamware Forum discussion groups solution. Teamware Office 5.3 also provides document storage and retrieval with Teamware Library.

The solution offers a customisable user interface and a browser-based interface with templates to enable the user to change the look and feel of the software, or to allow businesses to give the software the corporate identity of their business. The product supports nine languages.

"Becoming a partner of MandrakeSoft offers great opportunities to increase the recognition of our product in the Linux community," said Colin Sydes, Product Manager for Teamware Office for Linux. "Being bundled with one of the world's most popular Linux distributions can really add to our efforts in gaining a global market share in the Linux-based groupware solutions". "We are excited to offer products that meet our customers' needs for initial deployment and ongoing operations of successful Linux solutions. MandrakeSoft is committed to mainstream commercial adoption of Linux and adding sophisticated, easy-to-use administration helps us achieve this goal for our customers", said Frederic Bastok, Product Manager, MandrakeSoft.

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www.teamware.com/linux

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Compaq makes the grade

Cisco Systems has awarded its Global Support Partner certification to Compaq. Compaq has been a global Cisco Systems Integrator since 1992. The certification indicates that Compaq has met Cisco's standards in capabilities, worldwide services infrastructure, networking expertise and customer support systems.

Compaq, which is responsible for the implementation, support and maintenance of solutions based on both Unix and NT, already has 54 Cisco certified professionals operating from five Compaq UK offices. The company plans to increase this number to 122 by the end of the second quarter of 2001.

Compaq's existing alliance with Cisco has seen the company deploy Web-enabled business solutions to Her Majesty's Land Registry (HMLR) and Nationwide Building Society. The company has spent £2m on a Cisco state-of-the-art customer demonstration and scenario-testing lab in Reading where Compaq can replicate customer environments for the purposes of troubleshooting their problems or testing solutions before deploying them to customer sites. In Warrington Compaq and Cisco have built a £1m lab where teams from both companies can work on the development of Voice Over IP (VOIP) and Directory Enabled Networks

"Obtaining GSP status is a significant achievement because it requires the partner to be equipped with a large Cisco-certified technical staff capable of providing around-the-clock, around-the-globe support," said Tom Mitchell, vice president, worldwide channels at Cisco Systems. "Compaq's ability to achieve GSP status demonstrates its commitment to selling and supporting Cisco solutions worldwide."

"Our GSP status with Cisco marks the launch of our worldwide initiative to support and maintain Cisco Internetworking solutions, including Cisco's AVVID architecture," said Paul Mears, director of Compaq Customer Services. "Compaq Global Services can play a major role in helping Cisco customers rapidly and successfully deploy world-class Web-enabled business solutions."

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http://www.compaq.co.uk

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Knox data protection software is a winner

Cnet.com gave its coveted seal of approval to Knox Software's data protection product after thorough review. The company's flagship product, Arkeia, a professional network backup solution, earned the CNET Editors' Choice Award and scored 9 out of a possible 10 on the CNET ratings scale. The product received high marks for its comprehensive management tools, activity tracking, and for its extensive network support.

"Despite a high learning curve, Arkeia's superb, flexible feature set makes it a must-have for any Linux environment in need of a backup solution", said Michael P. Deignan from CNET. The full CNET article is available at *http://linux.cnet.com/linux/0-2136888-7-3182779.html*

The CNET Linux Center Editors' Choice Award is the latest of several industry awards received by the Arkeia product. "We strive to provide a great value proposition for our customers with the Arkeia product, as well as promote the use of the Linux operating system in main-stream businesses", said Phil Roussel, CEO of Knox Software Corp."

As a proven solution for enterprise network backup requirements, Arkeia 4.2 provides incremental and full backups, scheduled or on demand, and preserves directory structure, registry, symbolic links and special attributes. Arkeia utilises client-side compression and a unique multi-flow technology to deliver data backup and restore throughput rates that are 200 to 300 per cent faster than rival software packages.

Arkeia Version 4.2 provides several powerful enhancements such as a job queuing facility, multiple user interface options, a virtual backup server facility and e-mail notification upon completion of backups. Designed for heterogeneous network environments, Arkeia provides client support for over 30 different hardware-OS configurations. Its full version can be downloaded at: *http://www.arkeia.com/download .html* for a 30-day trial. ■

Gateway unveils new Internet appliance

In the wake of Compaq's announcement of its Home Internet Appliance with close links to Microsoft's MSN Web services, Gateway has unveiled its Transmeta processor powered Internet Appliance with links to AOL in the US and, the company says, the European launch will follow soon.

Gateway Connected Touch is one of the new line of network ready Web access appliances that Gateway has been working on with AOL and the Internet Appliance is linked to the AOL Internet service. It is based on Transmeta's Crusoe processor and the Mobile Linux operating system and features home networking technology from chip manufacturer Broadcom enabling it to connect at broadband speeds to other equipment around the home using traditional phone lines.

The device is a consumer Web pad, operated by stylus, touchscreen or wireless keyboard and designed to be used in parts of the home where PCs are not usually present and to connect to other devices around the home, providing tools such as calendars, message pads and address books, as well as Internet based services on the AOL model, including e-mail, instant messaging and themed Web channels.

Gateway recently announced an alliance with Broadcom, with plans to develop systems providing streamed digital audio and video content to a variety of consumer electronics devices, including Internet Appliances. Gateway has also launched a music player device that can access music files stored on PCs and can connect to existing stereo systems or be used as a standalone appliance. ■

Compaq recalls notebook batteries

Compaq has announced a worldwide voluntary recall and replacement programme for the battery packs distributed with its Armada E500 and V300 notebooks.

The affected battery packs were distributed worldwide in notebooks, as separate options, and as replacement spares. The recall has been announced as a result of Compaq's discovery of a defect in one battery pack that was manufactured between June 2 and July 10, 2000. This failed battery pack overheated and released some smoke, which caused damage to the notebook computer.

For more information on the recall and replacement programme call Compaq at 0207 7452 006, or visit www.compaq.co.uk/products/portables/battery_recall.STM ■