

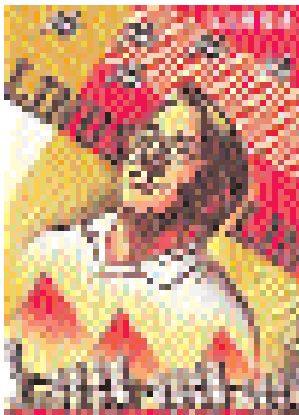
Linux lowdown

Next year will see the publication of Linus Torvalds' book giving his account of how he came to develop Linux. "Just for Fun: The Story of an Accidental Revolutionary" has been co-written by Torvalds and David Diamond and will be published by HarperBusiness. The book combines Torvalds' autobiography with his business philosophy and technology insights. In it, he describes the experiences and long-standing belief in free software that led him to develop a free, open source alternative to the operating systems on the market.

With a user base of more than 12 million people, the success of Linux is supported by an international community of programmers and users who contribute to its refinement, while Torvalds continues to control the essential kernel software, orchestrating the contributions of a core group of programmers.

"The Linux operating system has offered a real challenge to the power of Microsoft and other proprietary systems," said HarperInformation Associate Publisher Adrian Zackheim, "and the principle of freely-shared code offers a range of new business models and development options to the technology industry. The insights and experiences of such a key figure as Linus Torvalds will be invaluable in this changing environment."

**Linus Torvalds,
leader of the
revolution...**



Dreaming?

Rumours of a Linux kernel for Dreamcast have been flying around the Internet for months, but they may be set to become reality. According to Linux Magazine's sources, work is under way for at least four different ports of Linux for Dreamcast, all at different stages of development.

Reports go on to say that some developers have recently joined forces on the Dreamcastlinux and the DCLinux site.

Although unofficial ports have appeared, these ports may become the first to be made publicly available with source. According to sources, developers are now trying to track down as many of the unofficial ports as possible, in order to use them in the integration, where possible.

Linux Magazine's source did not wish to name the author of a "pre" port kernel, written before the project got off the ground, until the author's breach of GPL could be addressed, but added, "Hopefully he will release his code to this project and become a part of it. His contribution would of course be very valuable."

Info

<http://www.dreamcastlinux.org>

<http://www.dreamcastlinux.org/>

<http://dclinux.sourceforge.net>

Fox adds it all up

Fox on Linux has launched its accounting software solution for the Linux environment. Fox on Linux provides businesses with an Internet based multi-user accounting solution. It has a 12 kbs bandwidth requirement and is designed to be easily integrated with other corporate front-end applications. The software comes with online support and training.

Fox on Linux spokesperson, Mark Rees said, "We developed Fox on Linux to meet the growing trend in business for easy to use Linux applications. We took a well honed financial package used in a commercial environment and secured exclusive rights to port and support it for Linux."

Fox on Linux is currently inviting those interested to trial the system by registering online and use the software over the Internet for a limited time period.

Info

www.foxonlinux.com.

Easy does it

The latest version of Easy Software's HTML document conversion and formatting software, HTMLDOC, features a new portal CGI, enabling web servers to dynamically serve Portable Document Format (PDF) versions of their HTML pages.

In addition HTMLDOC v1.8.9 adds support for ROWSPAN in tables, BMP image files, new page number formats, and HTTP file references.

Info

<http://www.easysw.com>

Trend Micro launches new anti-virus solution

Internet gateway anti-virus solution provider Trend Micro has announced that the next release of its InterScan VirusWall gateway virus protection and content-filtering solution will be available for Red Hat, SuSE and Turbo Linux.

Scheduled for release in the first quarter of next year, InterScan VirusWall 3.6, offers an optional content filtering module InterScan eManager v3.6, which supports Red Hat Linux (v6.1 and v6.2), SuSE Linux (v6.4 and v7.0), and Turbo Linux (v6.1J and v6.1). The software sits on the gateway server to provide real time Internet protection against viruses and other types of malicious code. Because detection is from the gateway, the protection can be extended to any platform. The virus scanning engine features both rule-based and pattern recognition technologies to detect and remove viruses.

The software integrates with Trend's central management console Virus Control System enabling virus protection to be managed across the enterprise. Some versions of InterScan are fully integrated with Check Point FireWall-1 and the software is compatible with most other major firewalls. Evaluation copies of the software are available for download from the Trend Web site.

Oscar Chang, senior vice president of product development at Trend Micro, said, "The addition of the SuSE and Turbo Linux versions of InterScan VirusWall really stemmed from developers who wanted the same gateway-level protection Trend Micro was currently offering for other platforms, like Red Hat Linux. Developers and technologists have always been an important part of our customer base, so we wanted to give something back to the open-source community."

Info

<http://www.antivirus.com>

Tooled up!

Hard Hat Linux developer MontaVista Software has announced the availability of its toolkit for enabling legacy VxWorks code from Wind River Systems to run on a Linux platform.

The MontaVista suite provides applications with a VxWorks virtual machine which implements key system calls and behaviours of the VxWorks kernel to run on a standard Linux platform. This means the VxWorks APIs can often build and run unmodified, or with only modifications to the header files. The MontaVista tools emulate the most frequently used APIs associated with the VxWorks executive. Other APIs may translate directly to common UNIX/POSIX APIs native to Linux, or require VxWorks configuration and initialisation calls not needed in a Linux environment.

Kent McMullen, MontaVista vice-president of marketing commented, "This multi-tiered approach reflects how Hard Hat developers already are making the move away from proprietary embedded Oses. We are just delivering a no-nonsense, off-the-shelf package that accelerates and standardizes the porting process."

The VxWorks to Linux toolkit is available for download from the MontaVista project site and will also be bundled with the Hard Hat Linux Professional Developers Kit, along with targeted and supported pre-built packages for each of the MontaVista target embedded processors.

Info

<http://www.vxworks2linux.org>

The biz

Following its announcement in October that Red Hat Linux would support the full IBM eServer range and all IBM Linux enabled software, Red Hat has continued its work with IBM to introduce new IBM software infrastructure packages for enterprises of all sizes.

The new software will be available through Red Hat's channel and from its Web site from the first quarter of next year. It aims to extend the range of options open to enterprises that wish to deploy their mission critical e-business applications on the Linux platform. The bundles are the first of a series, which will later include IBM DB2 Universal Database and WebSphere Application Server software solutions for the enterprise.

The Red Hat Domino Bundle is an integrated messaging, collaboration and Web application software platform aimed at expanding companies.

The bundle includes Lotus Domino R5

New Itanium-based prototype at Manchester

The Computer Services for Academic Research (CSAR) organisation based at the University of Manchester has announced that it has installed an Intel Itanium processor-based prototype systems from SGI to be used for porting parallel scientific and engineering codes to the Itanium processor platform.

CSAR aims to replace its existing 816 processor Cray-T3E 1200E with a next generation system from SGI by the end of next year.

The installation is one of the first in Europe and the initial configuration is a multi-node Linux cluster with two pre-release Intel Itanium processors per node, and using a Myrinet interconnect.

The CSAR service is operated by the Cfs (Computation for Science) consortium, which is composed of CSC, SGI and the University of Manchester, and is dedicated to providing state of the art, high end computing facilities to the UK research community.

Jan Silverman, vice president of marketing at SGI commented, "We are delighted to be delivering one of the first Itanium processor based systems to be installed in the UK. This demonstrates our continued commitment in high performance computing and academic research. The combination of the Intel Itanium processor and SGI Pro64 high performance compiler technology will enable new price performance for the academic and research market places."

Application Server, 25 Lotus iNotes CALs and Red Hat Linux 7 Professional. For smaller businesses with fewer than a hundred users, the Red Hat Linux Small Business Suite offers a cost-effective solution featuring Lotus Domino R5 Application Server, IBM DB2 Workgroup Edition IBM WebSphere Application Server Standard Edition, WebSphere Homepage Builder, WebSphere Studio and Red Hat Linux 7 Professional.

Colin Tenwick, vice president and general manager, Red Hat EMEA commented, "There is a growing demand for solution-based products and our new offerings will give our customers the best possible foundation on which to build their Internet infrastructure. As the World's market leader in Open Source and Linux technology, Red Hat is now able to provide a total e-commerce solution jointly using IBM's technology and Red Hat's operating system and services."

Caldera announces new appointment

Linux management solution provider Caldera Systems has announced the appointment of Edgie E Donakey to the position of the company's new vice president and chief of staff. Donakey, who supervised the later stages of the Novell-Word Perfect merger earlier in his career, has already served as director of international marketing and director of the mergers and acquisitions team at Caldera since February 2000. Prior to that, Donakey served as an executive for 3Com Corporation and as president of The Bison Group, where he designed and implemented strategies for Fortune 500 companies.

Donakey said, "Working at Caldera while acquiring two divisions of SCO has shown me that this is the company with the people and technology to transform the Linux and UNIX industries. I feel confident in Caldera's ability to deliver superior Internet open software that will meet any business's infrastructure needs."

Caldera chief executive Ransom Love, said, "Ed's attention to detail and abilities to multi-task and synchronize many departments with energetic follow-through made him the natural choice. His background in sales, marketing, technology, and administration is a tremendous contribution to Caldera, particularly as we move into the future with The Santa Cruz Operation's Server Software and Professional Services Divisions."

Info

<http://www.calderasystems>



Compaq announces new server

The DL320 is an ultra-thin, single-processor 1U server designed to offer users a straightforward way in which to deploy, manage and remotely control one to thousands of servers, to simplify the administration of complex, growing multi-server environments.

In addition, Compaq has launched its new proactive management tools in the form of the Compaq Availability Agents, designed with the help of Availant, designed to simplify the management of complex IT infrastructures supporting Internet technologies.

Compaq Availability Agents have a web based interface to provide administrators with a way of automating responses to Microsoft Windows server events to increase system availability, without the need of scripting language knowledge.

Iain Stephen, Intel server business manager, Compaq's Industry Standard

Server Group said, "Service providers and other emerging companies with growing environments need servers that deliver power without depleting their budgets or their floor space. The power and manageability of the ProLiant DL320 specifically addresses both of these needs. The industry-defining technology of the Compaq ProLiant DL line, combined with our latest management tool offerings, is an example of Compaq's inspiration technology that is redefining and simplifying our customers' IT experience at a compelling, new price point."

Mark Melenovsky, research manager at IDC commented, "Compaq is the worldwide unit marketshare leader in the density rack-optimised server market. Customers in this space require cost-effective, fast and easy-to-deploy systems for their rapidly expanding IT infrastructures. Compaq's latest offering, the ProLiant DL320, is a logical extension of its density line to address the needs of emerging local service providers and dot-coms."

Linuxcare's portfolio expands

The new additions to the Linuxcare customer base include Adaptec, Digital Island, Ecrix Corporation, lvenue.com, Maxtor, SGI, Espial, 3ware, VERITAS Software and WSE/Honeywell. These companies join the ranks of Linuxcare customers, which have grown over the past six months to include Compaq, Eazel, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Motorola, SmartDisk, Sun Microsystems, Tricord Systems and Zelerate.

Linuxcare specialises in providing a vendor-neutral approach to the needs of its customers, combining its consulting, support, education and product testing and certification services. According to Linuxcare, its aim of maximising the benefits of the Linux environment for its customers delivers considerable business benefits, while at the same time helping to drive the adoption of Linux in the corporate environment.

Linuxcare chief executive Art Tyde said, "Linuxcare has made remarkable strides in accelerating the use of Linux, spanning networking, storage and other technologies that provide the foundation for building successful e-business infrastructures. Our unique and complementary service offerings provide the perfect match for meeting the Linux outsourcing needs of a variety of companies. For many, we are an essential component as they define and execute on their Linux go-to-market strategies."

Telia comes in from the Sun

Scandinavia's largest ISP and telecommunications company Telia has announced that it has replaced its seventy Sun servers with Shark storage technology and an IBM mainframe zSeries G6 server running Linux.

Under the deal, which is estimated at \$3 million, the IBM solution provides simultaneous hosting for more than 1500 virtual Linux servers. For management purposes by Telia's business customers, the virtual servers will appear to be independent physical systems, although a single administrators will be able manage the entire mainframe from one graphical management interface.

Henrik Wulff Riedl, Telia's chief financial officer, said that the company now intends to replace an existing customer billing system for Internet service providers based on Oracle databases. "This new S/390 running Linux allows us to rethink our total pricing structure for Internet services and to offer customers a more affordable Web application service than ever before. The combination of the IBM mainframe with Linux makes it easy to install new servers for Internet service customers on the fly. Before, it took us five hours to set up a new server. Now, it is a matter of less than five minutes. With Shark's storage capacity, "we now are able to give virtually unlimited Web capacity to our customers without going through the trouble of installing and reconfiguring the systems all the time."

Less is more with VectorLinux 1.8

Microsoft Windows users who want a taste of Linux without using up large amounts of system resources may be interested in the new distribution release of VectorLinux 1.8. This offers a fully functional X Windows based version of Linux 2.1.17 which can run in 16 MB of memory and needs just 170 MB of disk space.

The new release is designed to be straightforward to install and configure and enables a dual-boot environment in which the ICEwm windows manager provides a multi-desktop environment, as well as the Linux operating system.

VectorLinux has the features of a small, high-performance, x86-based Linux distribution and offers full functionality with a GUI desktop, a development environment, FTP server, sendmail, networking utilities, laptop support, and a range of desktop and console applications. The software is available for download from the VectorLinux Web site

<http://www.ibiblio.org/pub/linux/distributions/vectorlinux/veclinux-1.8/>

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Info

<http://www.calderasystems>



Virtual development environment released

Linux-based embedded systems solution provider Lineo has announced that it has begun shipping the Lineo Embedix software development kit for Windows. Embedix offers Windows developers a virtual development environment with real-time response capabilities, X86 and PowerPC processor support, in which they can develop embedded Linux solutions while using native Windows applications and tools within a Windows NT 4.0 or Windows 2000 hosted environment.

One of the key features of Embedix SDK is the Target Wizard library compilation tool, which automates the way in which developers select their requirements for a target image as well as how they check software interdependencies. The Target Wizard tool also helps developers create the smallest possible software image for their embedded device by stripping out unnecessary features and lines of code.

"Windows developers can now expand their development portfolio to include embedded Linux without leaving their Windows environment," said Bryan Sparks, chief executive of Lineo. "Embedix SDK for Windows provides the tools and technologies to make it easier for developers to create embedded Linux for consumer devices, Internet infrastructure and industrial controls without the need for costly or time-consuming training. With this product release, we are giving Windows developers the same capabilities that native Linux developers enjoy." Lineo also offers Embedix SDK for Linux, which provides developers with the same tools for software development, but enables them to work within a native Linux development environment.

Info

www.lineo.com



Xi Graphics releases Accelerated-X Display Servers update

Release 6 of the software includes a variety of new features developed in response to customer feedback, including XiG X Full Screen Extension (XiG-XFS) support for VMWare, Preliminary USB support for Linux and Solaris 8 and Digital Flat Panels (DFP) support, as well as dual view support for cards such as the Matrox G400 and Appian Duet and Touchscreen support and TSC calibration support via the tscal program. Release 6 also features a new, dynamically loadable, I/O subsystem and LBX and XKB extension support. Downloadable demos for the desktop and laptop servers are available at Xi Graphic's Web site.

Dan McGregor, national sales manager at Xi Graphics, said the company takes customer feedback very seriously. "The additional features offered in version 6 are, for the most part, in response to customer inquiries and requests. We are particularly sensitive to market demands and set our engineering goals in accordance with what our customers want. This is particularly important with the popularity of Linux on the rise, resulting in new markets and potential customers appearing every day."

He added, "We feel that our attention to the needs of our customers is one of the things that really sets us apart from our competitors. Customer requests have prompted the addition of version 6 features such as support for VMWare, USB in Linux and Digital Flat Panels. This customer-oriented attitude is also apparent in our free technical support that comes with all Xi Graphics' products."

Info

www.xig.com



VMware introduces new products for Intel customers

VMware has announced two new server software products to help Intel server customers scale their Internet computing infrastructures.

The new products, VMware GSX Server, and VMware ESX Server aim to offer service providers and enterprise IT organisations using Intel and Intel-compatible servers a way of scaling their infrastructures safely, reliably and on demand. VMware GSX Server offers users mainframe-class control of their Intel servers, while VMware ESX Server provides a scalable solution for high-performance server environments adding mainframe-class resource and system management capabilities. Both are based on VMware's MultipleWorlds technology, which provides a thin software layer that sits between the Intel architecture and the operating system, to virtualise the hardware and manage

hardware resources.

"We're at the centre of three IT trends," said Diane Greene chief executive of VMware. "One is the need to deliver managed services on Intel servers with mainframe-class quality and Internet speed. Another is a computing environment that is complex, with an incredible number of incompatible hardware platforms, operating systems and applications. And the third is growing pressure to meet these challenges without increasing IT budgets or adding staff." She continued, "With VMware, you can create a uniform software platform for delivering applications and services on Intel servers that factors out hardware and operating system differences and simplifies deployment and management. That's of huge value to service providers and enterprise IT." ■

Motif defect database publicly available

OSF/Motif products and support supplier ICS has made the Motif defect database, previously only accessible by The Open Group employees, publicly available online at its MotifZone Motif community Web site.

The publicly available defect database tracks problems from all releases of OSF/Motif from version 0.7 to the current Open Motif 2.1.30 release and is the result of several months work on the part of ICS as it had to reformat, hide the identities of submitters and their companies, and load the defect reports into the Bugzilla open source bug tracking system first made available by Netscape's Mozilla project.

Howard Greenwell, Director of Business Development for The Open Group commented, "Our goal continues to be to promote the use of Open Motif on Linux and other open source operating systems. ICS' investment in forming the defect database for Web access helps promote open access, a critical success factor in Open Motif being embraced by open source developers."

"This database demonstrates the stability and maturity of the toolkit," said Mark Hatch, Chief Operating Officer for ICS. "The number of reported defects is low for the complexity and breadth of a product such as Motif. This database makes a natural complement to the existing public access we provide to the Open Motif source code on the MotifZone."

Info

<http://www.motifzone.net>

IBM and Linux

IBM has underlined its enthusiasm for the Linux environment with the announcement of its new set of Linux tools, including a DB2 Universal Database for Intel based Linux clusters. This, says IBM, is the only commercial database software available for Linux on the mainframe. The release comes as part of IBM's initiative to provide support for the Linux operating system across the entire range of its e-business software, servers and services. Other Linux tools now available from IBM include the DB2 Enterprise Edition for IBM Z Series and S/390 platforms for Linux – IBM's software providing embedded environments for enterprise servers and IBM's web application server software – WebSphere, as well as extended support for the open source operating system through its Websphere middleware and development platform.

Dan Kusnetzky, Vice President of System Software Research at IDC commented, "Linux is seeing increasing usage as a part of basic IT infrastructure at many organisations. Over half of the respondents in one of IDC's demand-side studies indicated that they considered their Linux applications to be 'major' applications. IBM has positioned itself well to be considered one of the leading suppliers in this emerging market."

To accompany the databases, IBM has released DB2 Connect, a tool set enabling users to access their mainframe-based DB2 data from any Web-based applications that run DB2 on Linux. ■

Interstar Technologies announces new release

Fax solution provider Interstar Technologies has announced the release of the latest version of its LightningFAX enterprise fax software.

New features available with LightningFAX 7.0 include improved integration of Lotus Notes, support for high-density fax boards, and support for LDAP and T.37.

LightningFAX 7.0's new intuitive Lotus Notes interface can be used to compose and receive faxes, configure personal information and fax priority, and track the status of fax documents, as well as unifying inboxes and outboxes. The Notes administrator supports day-to-day LightningFAX administration directly from the Domino interface. The new release also supports the NMS AG 4000, which offers fax resources and network interfaces on a single PCI card for up to 120 channels with 4 T1 or E1 trunks. There is also support for the Dialogic DM3 Fax series, which can scale to 96 channels for a T1 configuration.

Other new features include a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) support, which lets LightningFAX use third-party software directory with, or instead of, the LightningFAX database, an Advanced Phone Book with new find capabilities to enable users to search results and create dynamic distribution lists from one or more databases, as well as to search the LightningFAX Phone Book and third party contact directories directly from the LightningFAX SendFAX window. The new Rasterizer Extended Format support enables native conversion of all PCL and Postscript files to fax format.

"The advanced features of LightningFAX 7.0 are a

direct response to what customers have been telling us they want," said Guy Blanchette, chief executive of Interstar Technologies. "Major enterprises need a complete range of fax solutions that integrate into any business environment. LightningFAX 7.0 shows our customers that we're committed to developing reliable, cost-effective solutions that deliver mission-critical documents on time, every time."

Info

www.faxserver.com

RedWire to distribute Cyclades E-Commerce

International IT Systems Integrator RedWire Ltd. has announced its appointment as official distributor of Cyclades E-Commerce for the UK and Ireland. RedWire (which has Linux open source solutions as its focus) currently offers an extensive range of IT Solutions and Integration for corporates, with emphasis on Consulting, Development, E-Commerce Solutions, Service and Support. It has now taken over responsibility for the online distribution of Cyclades products for the UK and Ireland via its e-commerce portal, www.penguinwarehouse.com. Both companies see the appointment as strengthening their Linux strategies.

Free Software Foundation Europe

A Declaration of Intent has been published by Georg C. F. Greve of the GNU organisation, on the concept of a Free Software Foundation Europe as a sister organisation of Richard M. Stallman's Free Software Foundation (FSF).

The FSF is a charity dedicated to eliminating restrictions on copying, redistribution, understanding, and modification of computer programs. Its core activity is supporting the GNU project which, with the Linux kernel, forms the Operating System which we know and love.

The recent European consultation on patent law – and the UK patent offices own consultation round – has acted as a wake-up call to Open Source and Free Software supporters in Europe. Patents include the concept of a "Computer system and method for performing multiple tasks," filed by six engineers from IBM Germany in 1993 and Amazon's patenting of "one-click" shopping using a Web cookie.

EuroLinux collected over 62 000 signatures against European software patents and galvanised opposition. A separate body reflecting European culture and working within European time zones was mooted.

The FSF-Europe is not a splinter group, rather a sister organisation to the FSF, reflecting European culture and providing local organisation with the same goals:

- Political lobby for Free Software & the GNU Project
- Providing an organisational backbone
- Raising and distribution of funds

It will work with existing national bodies such as the French group April (Association Pour la Promotion et la Recherche en Informatique Libre) and the German Förderverein für eine Freie Informationelle Infrastruktur (FFII or Association for the Promotion of a Free Informational Infrastructure).

The FSF Europe will start with an organisation in Germany, followed by other European countries. These local bodies will allow Europeans to make tax deductible donations to the FSF. The aim is to take it slowly to get the organisation right. Debate in the mailing list is considered and careful.

As we go to press, FSF Europe is in an "about to become reality" phase, as their Web site (<http://www.fsfeurope.org/>) puts it. Mailing lists have been set up to discuss the new body and keep people up to date with announcements.

Info

<http://mailman.fsfeurope.org>