Caldera eServer ready on Compaq

Caldera Systems has announced that its OpenLinux eServer 2.3.1 is to be preloaded on Compaq ProLiant ML330, DL320 and DL360 servers.

The latest version of OpenLinux eServer provides advanced directory service and security features together with the ability to support new hardware as it becomes available. Ransom Love, president and chief executive officer of Caldera Systems said, "Offering Caldera's eServer on the ProLiant server platform increases our ability to provide the best Linux-based business solutions."

Rick Becker, director of business development, Compaq Industry Standard Server Group commented, "Compaq ProLiant servers provide

Ransom Love of Caldera

customers a great combination of availability, scalability, performance and manageability, making it easier to deploy industry-leading Linux solutions. Caldera's eServer gives users a server platform with the power, stability and support to meet and exceed their business needs." ■

Info

The new servers are now available from Compaq's Web site.

http://www.compaq.com/directplus
http://www.calderasystems.com/products/eserver

■

French streaming reaches beta

A French software company has announced the beta release of its MPEG 1 streaming player for Linux.

The PopCorn player is MPEG 1 audio (MP3) and video software which can play data streamed directly from the network. It has been developed by eProcess, a French company which specialises in embedded multimedia solutions.

Based on the industry standard RTSP (real time streaming protocol), PopCorn is compatible with existing media servers such as SGI/Kasenna MediaBase and features a graphical user interface with features including play/pause/stop, direct access to any movie instant, play-list management, volume and balance control PopCorn can be downloaded form the eProcess Web site.

■

Info

http://opensource.eprocess.fr/popcorn

■

HP choose Ximian

Hewlett-Packard has chosen to include Ximian GNOME as the default desktop for HP-UX workstations after the release of HP-UX-11i.

The graphical user interface of Ximian GNOME is provided for Linux and other Unix systems. HP and Ximian are both members of the GNOME foundation, the industry's forum for directing the GNOME project and promoting the adoption of GNOME on Linux and Unix desktops.

Under the terms of the partnership, Ximian will port Ximian GNOME to HP-UX for PA-RISC and IA64 and Ximian GNOME will ship as the default desktop on HP-UX as of the next major release of HP-UX after 11i. From late 2001 it will also be used as a client environment for HP Linux workstations. Meanwhile HP will use Ximian GNOME, as an open standard to provide a common desktop for Linux and HP-UX. Ximian will provide on-going

technical support to HP and Ximian GNOME for HP workstations will feature Ximian's network services.

Stephen Geary, HP's Linux development lab manager said that HP was committed to open source and was excited about migrating HP-UX and Linux workstations towards a common desktop. "Our customers are constantly seeking the most innovative options and want access to the latest and greatest open source applications."

Ximian sees partnering with HP to drive the adoption of open source software as a major step. Ximian chief technology officer Miguel de Icaza commented, "Such a close working relationship with HP is the ultimate validation of our technology. The combination of continuous open source development with the rigorous and careful testing tradition of HP will deliver the reliable products that HP users demand." ■

BRU Pro restores Linux reliability

Linux back up solution provider Enhanced Software Technologies has announced its new BRU-pro backup software for Linux-centric network. Based on EST's BRU software, BRU-Pro is tailored to the needs of small and medium sized enterprises, offering them improved scalability, ease of use and automation as well as cross-platform compatibility. Ted Cook, EST's president said the BRU-pro solution provides businesses with a high level of automation and reliability. He added, "We've been developing Linux data protection solutions for seven years now, and this product absolutely benefits from the accumulation of that experience." An example of these benefits, he said, was the free, open source tape library device driver that EST maintains. "This allows virtually any tape library to work with BRU-Pro, and consequently Linux, without the exorbitant additional fees that some competitors charge." ■

Info

www.estinc.com

■

Crewe FC score with Linux

Consultants Its-Linux Ltd, have provided a Linux system to first division football club, Crewe Alexandra. Andy Roffe of Its-Linux and the South Cheshire Linux User Group said, "Within a tight schedule, we were able to create and establish a system which integrates seamlessly with the club's existing infrastructure. We were able to meet all the IT department's targets for improved security, reliability and stable high performance in a low maintenance environment."

Info

http://www.its-linux.co.uk

■

K2 climbs to 40Tb

Open systems storage provider BigStorage has announced its new second-generation network attached storage device, K2 NAS.

The new device offers an alternative to the proprietary systems of first generation NAS, providing a Linux based solution for enterprise level open storage with redundancy features, including those for integrated network and storage processors.

The K2 NAS can be plugged directly into the network and be up and features a Web-based graphical interface to help administrators configure and monitor the system from any client on the network. Platforms supported include Windows 98/2000, MacOS, Linux, and Unix.

Designed to scale to the needs of expanding businesses, K2 provides such options as additional storage units, back-up software, Gigabit Ethernet, and FibreChannel. The K2 is supported by BigStorage's benchmark LiveResponse 24/7 customer support system.

Sam Bogoch, chief executive of BigStorage described the K2 as "the first of its kind". He added, "It scales from one to forty terabytes, and comes with dual redundant server processors, hardware RAID controllers, snapshot software for file system archiving, and journaling file systems - all this powered by an open-source technology."

Info

http://www.bigstorage.com

■

SuSE Linux knowledge portal is launched

SuSE Linux, announced the new SuSE Linux Knowledge Portal, offering extensive first-hand information about Linux. The new Internet service, can be accessed on the Web at

http://portal.suse.co.uk
http://portal.suse.de
http://portal.suse.com.

With a wide range of topics, from application descriptions to firewall implementation or installing high availability solutions, the Portal provides useful information to Linux desktop newcomers as well as experienced system administrators.

"Info channels" highlight reports on Linux and Open Source from different news providers. Personal preferences, such as theme and news delivery, are determined and saved by the user and allow a unique viewing experience.

The full text search engine finds any keyword in a vast array of articles. The editorial desk welcomes suggestions regarding subjects users would like to read about. Articles can also be submitted for publication.

The SuSE Linux Knowledge Portal addresses company independent Linux issues and is a perfect complement to SuSE's up-to-date Support Database and the unique Component Database. ■

Alpha Servers get more development support

The Open Source Development Network, a community dedicated to promoting the development of open source solutions, has added Compaq's AlphaServer platforms to open source development ASP SourceForge.net's CompileFarm online application testing and building environment.

The AlphaServer platform offers support for the Tru64 UNIX and Linux operating systems. Compaq is keen to encourage developers to use it for building and testing open source applications. Gary Campbell, chief technical officer for Enterprise Servers at Compaq, said his company supported the open source community with the software applications it provides on Compaq's Alpha and ProLiant server technology. He added ``We are very pleased to be working with OSDN and SourceForge to provide the open source community even broader access to our AlphaServer Linux and Tru64 UNIX platforms for the development and testing of open source software applications."

The SourceForge.net's CompileFarm provides developers with a way to build and test applications on multiple versions of the Linux, BSD and UNIX operating systems. SourceForge.net offers free Web based access to the CompileFarm for Open Source developers. The SourceForge.net CompileFarm also gives developers access to Intel Itanium processor prototype systems.

Richard French, senior vice president and general manager of OSDN, said ``Now that developers have access to Compaq's Alpha platform on the SourceForge.net CompileFarm, we expect to see more Open Source applications available for Linux on Alpha and Tru64 UNIX. OSDN's goal is to make more Open Source software available on every major platform." ■

Info

http://www.osdm.com
http://www.sourceforge.net/compilefarm/

■

NT file system fix for Linux released

Mounting Windows NT/2000 partitions under Linux is at an early stage for support, with some data corruption problems remaining. However, these new utilities go some way towards fixing them.   ■

http://sourceforge.net/projects/linux-ntfs/

Oki printers support Linux

Oki has announced its new Linux printer driver is to be available free to Oki customers over the Web.

The Omni Linux driver is built on the Ghostscript framework, a postscript interpreter. The drivers, which are the result of Oki's collaboration with IBM are the compatible with more than 2 dozen Oki printers.

The following series of OKI printers that work in the Linux environment include: ML-184 Turbo, ML-320 Turbo, ML-321 Turbo, ML-4410, ML-520, ML-521, ML-590, ML-591, ML-3410, ML-390 Turbo, ML-391 Turbo, ML-395B, ML-192, ML-193, ML-320, ML-321, ML-380, ML-393C, ML-395C, ML-390, ML-391 and ML-393.

Carl Taylor, marketing manager for impact printers at Oki Data, said his company was interesting in supporting the requirements of the growing Linux community. He added, " Working with IBM on the development of the printer drivers helped us to more quickly achieve our goal of meeting the needs of Linux users."

Mark VanderWiele, senior technical staff member at IBM Linux Technology Center said, "We are pleased with Oki Data's quick support of open source printer driver development. By working with Oki Data, we are able to offer the open source community print support on the Linux platform."

Info
http://www.okidata.com/drivers

■

Level III training now available

Vendor-neutral training materials and curriculum developer for open source software, Sair Linux and GNU Certification, has unveiled its curriculum for Level II certification in a program that will produce Sair Linux and GNU Certified Engineers (LCE) Sair Linux and GNU Certification, a Thomson Learning Company, announced the curriculum for the Level II course, known as AMPS, at the LinuxWorld Expo and Conference in New York City.

AMPS' coursework and testing structure will consist of a mandatory Core Concepts and Practices (CCP) course based on Knowledge Matrix topics. Topics will include desktop file recovery techniques, advance printer configuration and comparative performance tuning for kernel, network and applications. In addition to the CCP course, candidates must complete three other courses, which they can select from a choice of seven. In this respect, AMPS differs from Sair Linux and GNU Certification's Level I course, which was first offered in 1999 and required candidates to pass exams from four specific courses in order to become Sair Linux and GNU Certified Administrators (LCA).

The seven elective courses include: AMANDA (Backup and disaster recovery training),

APACHE (Web servers),

MYSQL (Database systems),

PHP/XML (Web implementation using the Pre Hypertext Processor and XML standard.

PERL (Scripting).

SAMBA (Resource sharing).

SENDMAIL (Mail systems, including back-end mail transfer agents and front-end user interfaces.)

The AMPS course structure allows the LCE candidate to select a combination of applications that best match the requirements of their jobs, according to Tobin Maginnis, founder and president of Sair Linux and GNU Certification. "Level I, in essence, is getting the basic software on the machine and using it properly. AMPS, or Level II, is more product driven and allows the LCE candidate to select applications that would be most helpful in pursuing other open source career opportunities while increasing salary compensation."

Info
www.linuxcertification.com

■

Consultation with SuSE

SuSE Linux has announced the launch of its UK Consulting Services organisation, the latest addition to its worldwide network of professional services organisations.

The UK organisation is to provide information technology consulting throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland, with the aim of solving business problems through the application of Linux and open-source technology SuSE's consulting services are primarily focused around systems-level architecture, IT infrastructure, and clustering. The IT infrastructure focus is on core network services, such as high-performance Web serving, firewall implementations, corporate Internet/Email server infrastructure, high-performance database solutions, and heterogeneous system integration and migration, while clustering solutions cover such technologies as high-performance computer clustering and load-balanced throughput clustering.

Michael Armstrong, professional services manager for SuSE Linux commented, "Utilising the strengths of Open Source software to provide technical solutions to everyday business problems is the very basis of our Consulting Services philosophy. We provide open, stable, and scalable solutions, from single servers to large IT architectures. By leveraging the software development and consulting expertise of SuSE worldwide, our solutions are locally-focused, yet globally aware."

The Consulting Services organisation is currently targeting its offering at the financial sector including the banking and insurance players. The consultants provide Linux, open-source, and integrated solutions across a range of hardware platforms, including Intel, Alpha, PowerPC, and IBM's S/390 mainframe. ■

Web applications tested easier

Ebusiness software developer Downright Software has launched its new LAMP-based (Linux, Apache, MySql, and Python) performance testing solution, StressMy.com.

StressMy.com is an online solution. The membership-based site does not require downloading or installation. It offers Web developers the tools to test their application's scalability and integrity by simulating the levels of traffic an application will have to handle in the course of day-to-day use.

Stressmy.com can generate traffic to simulate hundreds of simultaneous virtual visitors in order for developers to test peak load performance, page download times and page response times.

Membership of StressMy.com is available by purchasing one of the tiers of service or by registering for trial membership. The tiers of service are based on the amount of site traffic a member needs to generate, ranging from 2 to 250 concurrent visitors.

David Cohen, chief technology office of Downright Software comments, "By testing your Web application you gain valuable insight on how to improve your customers' and potential customers' experience while visiting your site. Broken links and slow page loading times can impact your e-business profitability dramatically. StressMy.com can detect and report these problems to you within minutes of running a test. And, because our product is Web-based and easy to use, our members are saving money on costly software, hardware, installation, and training." ■

Apache to script with Tcl

The Apache Software Foundation has announced the launch of the Apache Tcl project, aimed at promoting the integration of the Apache Web server with the Tcl scripting language.

Tcl (Tool Command Language) is an open-source, cross-platform scripting language. It has been used with such Web products as AOLserver, and StoryServer. Tcl is currently used in such applications as Web scripting, test automation, etwork/system management, EDA and CAD, and in many other fields. Apache believes that Tcl will make an excellent companion for its server in back-end scripting tasks.

David Welton, vice president of Apache Tcl and author of mod_dtcl, commented, "Tcl is a great language for the Web - it's small, light, easy to learn, and has been used, developed and tested for a number of years. It also has a large user base, and is a very active open source project in its own right." ■

SGI starts Linux distribution business

SGI has launched its Internet Server Environment (ISE) distribution. Designed especially for service providers, ISE includes integrated installation scripts and a Web-based user interface. ISE was designed to run on the SGI 1100 1U server and has a UK list price of £72 for the shrink-wrapped product. ■

Info

http://www.sgi.com

■

Linux gets Flash new player

Macromedia has announced that its new Macromedia Flash Player 5 for the Linux and Solaris platforms is now available. Flash Player 5 offers developers advanced features which developers can use to deliver complex Web . The player is integrated with such server technologies such as Extensible Markup Language (XML), to enable structured data transfer, and Macromedia Generator, for delivering server-created, real-time visual content to Web sites. The player also supports HTML formatted text within Macromedia Flash content. By maintaining persistent connection between the lightweight client and server, users can share real-time XML information for business applications. Colin Moock, Web Evangelist, ICE said that as a Web design company that develops Macromedia Flash solutions, his company was pleased by Macromedia's commitment to cross-platform compatibility. He added, "Our customers demand the broadest possible audience for their Web content, and Macromedia Flash Player 5 for both Linux and Solaris helps us ensure that broad reach."

Sal Cobar, director of marketing and business development, Sun Ray Appliances, Sun Microsystems said, "Our customers have eagerly been anticipating the Macromedia Flash Player 5 which is a great fit with our Sun Ray appliances, especially in the education market. Macromedia Flash Player 5's high-impact Web animation technology combined with the ease-of-use of Sun Ray systems can dramatically enhance the learning experience for students and teachers. We're working closely with Macromedia to bring current and future versions of Macromedia Flash to Sun's Solaris operating environment."

Flash Player 5 is available for download from the Macromedia Web site. ■

Info

http://www.macromedia.com/shockwave/download/alternates/
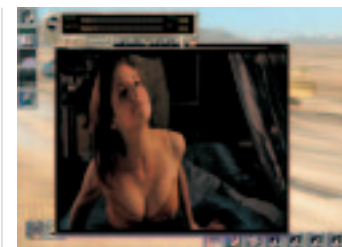
■

LiVid releases OMS DVD player for Linux

LiVid have finally released their OMS DVD playing software version 1.0 for Linux despite various legal threats from the American film industry. ■

Info

http://www.linuxvideo.org/

■

Gimp User Group launched

A new site dedicated to users of graphics application The Gimp has been launched. It currently has 241 Gimp creations in a gallery and 81 textures available for download. ■

Info

http://gug.sunsite.dk/

■

Mobile Linux from Transmeta due soon

In case you wondered what Linus has been up to at his day job, Transmeta have hinted that their Linux distribution will be publicly available soon. Aimed at low resource portable devices, Mobile Linux's 'cram' file system packs the kernel, libraries and X window system into 8MB. ■

Info

http://www.linuxdevices.com/articles/AT5214244852.html

■

Trustix trusts Its-Linux

Its-Linux Ltd, a UK Linux systems vendor, has been appointed by the Norwegian Linux specialist Trustix as a prime distributor of XSentry, the highly regarded firewall, XPloy, the remote server management tool, and TSL, the secure server operating system. XSentry is an enterprise class firewall, which utilises an integrated Linux operating system with key advantages claimed as ease of installation and rapid implementation of complex firewalling. XSentry features a highly flexible and user friendly GUI which includes remote management of multiple firewalls. XSentry also features IPSEC compliant Virtual Private Networks (VPN) enabling secure tunnelling. XSentry is available in two distinct editions. The four zone version is designed for large scale business and public institutions. The two zone version is designed specifically for the smaller enterprise. The cross-platform GUI is equally at home on Linux or Windows. XPloy facilitates the secure and remote administration of multiple Linux servers from a single workstation. The key benefit of this product is that servers situated anywhere in the world may be managed with common user friendly GUI from a single point. Said Gorm Karlson, Sales Director, Trustix AS, "With the increasing demand for network connectivity throughout the UK and Europe, Its-Linux Ltd is ideally positioned in terms of expertise and professionalism to bring the advanced Trustix products and their benefits to a broad band of enterprise IT buyers." ■

Info

http://www.its-linux.co.uk

■

New firewall by Mandrake

MandrakeSoft have released a beta version of Mandrake Security, a GPL firewall and router configurable via a Web interface. It's based on the latest version, 7.2, of their Linux distribution, and makes use of XML and php in its interface. ■

Info

http://www.linux-mandrake.com/en/ftp.php3

■

Alios bootloader released under GPL

A new boot loader has been designed to eliminate the BIOS and load the Linux kernel image from solid state memory. It was developed for systems based on the Elan SC400 x86 microcontroller from AMD, and allows the developer to build embedded devices with only the CPU and ROM or DRAM. ■

Info

http://linuxdevices.com/news/NS7710631876.html

■

KDE 2.1

The KDE Project announced the release of KDE 2.1, a powerful and easy-to-use Internet-enabled desktop for Linux.

KDE features Konqueror, a state-of-the-art Web browser, as an integrated component of its user-friendly desktop environment, as well as KDevelop, an advanced IDE, as a central component of KDE's powerful development environment. This release marks a leap forward in Linux desktop stability, usability and maturity and is suitable for enterprise deployment. The KDE Project strongly encourages all users to upgrade to KDE 2.1.

KDE and all its components are available for free under Open Source licenses from the KDE server and its mirrors and can also be obtained on CD-Rom. KDE 2.1 is available in 33 languages and ships with the core KDE libraries, the core desktop environment (including Konqueror), developer packages (including KDevelop), as well as the over 100 applications from the other standard base KDE packages (administration, games, graphics, multimedia, network, PIM and utilities). ■

Info

http://ftp.kde.org/stable/2.1/distribution/tar/generic/src/

■

SuSE and IBM agree on support

SuSE Linux, and IBM Global Services have signed a worldwide technical support agreement, covering a wide variety of platforms, including IBM eServers. According to the agreement, IBM Global Services will tap SuSE's expertise to help address customers' toughest Linux technical concerns, such as source code problems. "This is a major step forward for SuSE Linux as a worldwide trusted partner for Open Source solutions," comments SuSE's CTO Dirk Hohndel. "Together with IBM Global Services, we can offer superior services to support mission critical IT installations, even for the largest organisations." IBM already delivers a full portfolio of technical services to help customers optimise and support Linux environments. For the toughest (Level 3) code issues, IBM will enlist SuSE's aid to help deliver appropriate bugfixes and patches. IBM and SuSE will make this Level 3 support available to customers worldwide. "By teaming together, we can help address technical issues SuSE distribution users may encounter, in a wide range of computing environments, from Enterprise servers down to the PC level," said Patricia Gibbs, vice president, Linux Services, IBM Global Services. Since the announcement of SuSE Linux Enterprise Server for zSeries (formerly S/390) in October, SuSE is the only company delivering a worldwide Linux distribution for IBM xSeries, pSeries and zSeries eServers. At this time, SuSE supports more IBM server platforms than any other commercially available Linux distribution. ■

Mandrake supports PHP-Nuke

As a further illustration of its commitment to the Open Source community, MandrakeSoft announces its support to 'PHP-Nuke', an Open Source development project resulting in the creation of a new killer Internet application specifically designed to allow open source users to create sophisticated Web based communities. The 'PHP-Nuke' project was initiated by Francisco Burzi in the Summer of 2000, a talented young computer technologist currently living in Venezuela.

The latest version, 'PHP-Nuke 4.4', provides a highly flexible and customisable set of tools to help build on-line communities, enabling users to share news, submit comments and discuss articles and ideas via a Web based portal-like solution. Some of its main features include Web based administration and survey building functionality, customisable user boxes and an in-built moderation mechanism.

Supporting 23 languages, PHP-Nuke has already been downloaded by more than 140,000 users in 6 months and is used by hundreds of Web sites worldwide. By joining the MandrakeSoft team, the 'PHP-Nuke' project will not only benefit from the financial support needed for its continuing improvement going forward, but will also receive full technical support including Web hosting and download mirrors and benefit from MandrakeSoft's communications network to further raise its profile with users worldwide.

According to Gael Duval, co-founder of MandrakeSoft: "PHP-Nuke is a Slashdot-like killer application that basically allows anybody to establish community orientated news services on the Web with ease. It is also one of the fastest growing Open Source projects on the Internet, and is being adopted massively by Web masters. It is a great pleasure to have Francisco Burzi as part of our team and to give him a chance of working full-time on his projects"

"I'm very excited to join the MandrakeSoft team" said Francisco Burzi. "When I first started developing the software for my own use, I never dreamed that the project would turn out to be so successful and I always like to hear from people out there who have made a success of launching virtual communities using PHP-Nuke. I am a strong supporter of free software and of the Open-Source movement and hope that PHP-Nuke will help free software developers around the world with their projects. With MandrakeSoft's support and commitment to the Open Source philosophy, I hope that PHP-Nuke will become THE reference of choice for community portals". ■

Info
http://www.mandrakesoft.com/main/
community/actions
http://www.phpnuke.org

■

Windows finally makes a cluster

While Microsoft have been attempting to recruit Australian Linux hackers, a desperately misinformed sales piece tells us that thanks to 'industry-standard' Win2k, we can now run supercomputing clusters on commodity hardware - One assumes that they have not checked out the souper-computer site. ■

Info
http://www.it.fairfax.com.au/software/20010212/A21446-2001Feb12.html
http://www.microsoft.com/WINDOWS2000/hpc/indstand.asp

■

Caldera Volution wins

Caldera launch their Volution, its Linux-diagnostic management product, claimed Best Network Server Application Award at LinuxWorld, New York. "This award, which we are pleased to receive, recognises Caldera Volution as a solution to Linux adoption in enterprises," said Drew Spencer, chief technology officer at Caldera Systems. "Volution brings down the management barrier, allowing more businesses to remotely deploy Linux solutions." Caldera Volution includes, among other benefits, the following key features: a secure Web-based management console, an electronic software distribution to install and remove applications on remote Linux systems, hardware and software inventory, health monitoring of Linux systems, and a Linux printer configuration. It can be purchased for about £2000. International versions are available in Chinese (simplified and traditional), French, Italian, German, Spanish, Japanese, Korean and Portuguese. ■

Red Hat appoints Director of Academic Business Development

Red Hat announced the appointment of Dr Malcolm Herbert as Director, Academic Business Development.

"Malcolm brings to Red Hat a strong understanding of the education sector and his appointment strengthens our commitment to academia," said Colin Tenwick, VP and general manager, Red Hat Europe. "Linux and open source solutions are extensively used to run core Internet services in other sectors and these technologies have a significant role in developing educational IT resources. Red Hat, as the top provider of open source solutions, will have a key part to play in the takeup of Open Source and it is great to have someone with Malcolm's experience focusing on this sector."

Prior to Red Hat, Malcolm held a number of positions in the education sector. Most recently, he worked as Head of Technology Research and Development at Becta. He has over 10 years experience in Information Communications Technology (ICT), had previously worked in the higher education sector, for the University of Wales, UK. He has been using Linux and Open Source applications for development, teaching and building IT solutions since 1994.

"As schools, community learning centres and other educational institutions acquire better connectivity with arrival of affordable broadband access, they are realising that they also have to develop Internet-based services locally, such as mail, cache and Web servers," explains Malcolm. "Open source provides the most effective and sustainable solutions, as Universities have already realised. Part of my role will be to make Linux solutions more accessible to the rest of the community and I'm looking forward to being a member of the Red Hat team in Europe."

Using Open Source solutions enables institutions to run IT services with a lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) because of the flexibility it allows, in terms of management, integration with existing equipment and choice of hardware and software vendor. ■