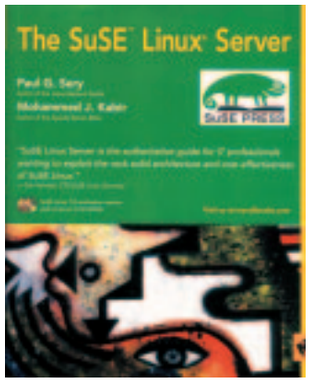
THE **SUSE** LINUX SERVER BY PAUL G SERY & MOHAMMED J KABIR

ALISON DAVIES



The SuSE Linux Server is a good technical, heavyweight book on how to install and get the best out of SuSE Linux. Its twenty chapters are divided into six sections. Part 1 guides the reader through a basic installation, setting up standard SuSE, although omitting X server for reasons of security and performance. Part 2 covers the usual YaST configuration tool. It includes setting up user accounts, starting and stopping deamons, and networks, including (unusually) a basic background to networks. Part 3 deals with the Internet and Intranet with the usual email, web and FTP servers. It has very detailed sections on the DNS and web server configurations. Part 4 is a quick introduction to Samba, NFS server and simple SQL database servers. Part 5 is one of the most interesting sections and deals with security. It covers the basics with authentication giving examples and uses and a second chapter covers network security with examples such as Squid Proxy server and how to run a port scan. The final part covers customising the kernel and includes a detailed chapter on building a web server farm. At the end of the book are appendices on where to get more information, printing, configuration scripts and, of course, the contents of the CD-ROM.

The book is well written with lots of background information. It explains why you do something as well as how to do it in a straightforward manner with plenty of examples. It works as a good tutorial on installing SuSE even if you do not want to do everything it suggests. The SuSE Linux Server would be a useful addition to the bookshelf of anyone who uses SuSE Linux at home or at work and would be an invaluable help to anyone installing for the first time. ■

Info

ISBN 0-7645-4765-8 £36.99 MandTbooks 620pp. Includes SuSE 7.0 evaluation version CD-ROMs

INTERVIEW WITH DEEPAK ADVANI, IBM WORLDWIDE **LINUX STRATEGY**

LM:How do you see the Linux market developing in both the long and short term?

DA:In the near term there will be an increase in the workload capability. We currently see workloads on Internet related systems such as webservers. This will extend to distributed systems; retail, banks and other financial distribution models, where servers are at differing geographical locations.

The market will develop with scalability through clustering as well as horizontal scaling.

In the long term 8-RAID and 16-RAID scalability will enable the move beyond webservers via applications to data servers.

LM:What are the main reasons that IBM is banking on Linux?

DA:Linux is viewed as a key standard in the ebusiness world. The world is becoming more hetrogeneous. Linux can do for applications what TCP did for the Internet. In universities Linux is popular. Linux will be on billions of pervasive devices.

LM:Where does IBM see a business advantage in being a Linux leader?

DA:IBM like it that way. Appliactions are needed. ISV's need volume so to port once and sell many. IBM needs to provide complete solutions and therefore we need a common OS across platforms. IBM has no desire to differentiate at OS level.

LM:Does IBM's interest in Linux harm the AIX market?

DA:During the last quarter AIX sales have risen by 44%. AIX is more for high end and mid range so the workloads compared to Linux are different.

LM:Where do you see IBM focusing its announced $1Billion investment?

DA:Advancing technology. Over 200 people in Linux technology centres. Open source Enterprise capable porting centres. Global consulting and training. A dedicated sales front and OEM business micro devices.

LM:Do you see Linux ready for the desktop?

DA:We are already deploying lots of clients with our own version of a thin client. Linux is currently lacking in some office applications.

LM:Where do you see Linux in five years time?

Open Source is maturing rapidly. It will play a stronger role with servers deployed being the core element. Linux is flexible and will enable new disruptive technology to enter the marketplace. The IT industry will look different with dense servers and intelligence within networks. ■