

NEWS

Compaq and Oracle mean business

As part of their E-Business Infrastructure (EBI) initiative, which aims to help businesses in implementing, extending and maintaining complex e-business infrastructures, Compaq and Oracle have announced plans to deliver infrastructure solutions for the Oracle9i platform. These will include consulting services and support.

Michael Rocha, Senior Vice-President of the Platform Technologies Division at Oracle said, "This joint initiative and resulting configurations help decrease the time, cost and resources customers spend deploying and managing their computing infrastructure, while providing for optimal e-business functionality. We've extended our relationship with Compaq to offer assurances that together we will provide the complete set of Internet application services

provided by Oracle9i, including clustering, data management, portal, wireless, and caching services optimised for Compaq servers."

Mike Winkler, Executive Vice-President, Global Business Units at Compaq added, "Many companies urgently need to Web-enable their environments to become nimble and flexible in decision making and to remove the costs of the development and maintenance of e-business infrastructure. Two industry leaders have joined forces to offer engineered, integrated and tested solutions for the most demanding e-business environments."

At the same time, Compaq and Oracle announced a reference configuration for clustered solutions. It is planned as the first in a series of joint reference configurations from both companies. ■



Locked in Linux

Open Source security company Guardian Digital has announced Internet security solution, EnGarde Secure Linux. EnGarde offers a suite of Open Source tools that provide businesses with a foundation for building a secure online presence. Features include intrusion detection capabilities and improved authentication and access control methods, as well as strong cryptography, and SSL secure Web-based administration capabilities. The solution can manage thousands of email and DNS domains and offers a suite of e-business applications based on AllCommerce.

Benjamin D. Thomas, EnGarde Secure Linux product manager said, "The ability to quickly and securely generate e-commerce storefronts and virtual websites, as well as manage email and DNS services for an entire organization, is a very powerful feature for our customers." ■

JWAVE 3.5 released

Data visualisation, numerical analysis and Enterprise software solutions provider Visual Numerics has released the latest version of its JWAVE client/server solution. JWAVE 3.5 aims to increase the productivity of JWAVE developers with support for Java Server Pages and advanced graphics features. JWAVE uses Sun Microsystems' Java components to develop applications

and deploy them throughout the enterprise across the Internet or an intranet. Margaret Journey, the JWAVE product manager at Visual Numerics commented: "The big picture benefit of JWAVE 3.5's JSP support is that it will now be even easier for JWAVE developers to build Web-based applications that help their end-users solve complex problems." ■

Vmware to run under NetBSD

Wasabi Systems has enabled its VMware emulation software package for running under NetBSD. VMware enables users of the i386 platform to run a guest operating system within a virtual machine based on another operating system, so, for example, NetBSD users could run Windows on a Linux-based system. Perry Metzger, Chief Executive of Wasabi Systems said, "Wasabi Systems created the VMware compatibility package because we feel VMware is a valuable tool for the NetBSD community. Unfortunately, we were forced to do it without assistance from VMware Inc, so we can't offer a natively compiled, packaged and supported version. Luckily, NetBSD has the ability to run Linux binaries, and so by porting the Linux kernel modules supplied by VMware it was possible to make VMware run under NetBSD." Metzger also expressed his hope that someday VMware would "recognise the size of the BSD marketplace and choose to cooperate on making a native, supported version of the software available." Frank van der Linden, a senior developer at Wasabi Systems, commented:

"Having the option to run a different operating system on NetBSD without having to restart the one that you are currently using is a powerful feature. For example, it makes running Windows applications easy – you just start up a complete Windows session using VMware. I have put this feature to good use myself already on a regular basis, and am happy to provide it to the NetBSD community." Wasabi was founded by members of the NetBSD project. ■

Streaming is free

Open source community SurePlayer.org has announced the release of its nonproprietary, MPEG-1, Java-based, audio and video player. The player is available under the GNU General Public License. Sureplayer is offering its source code and sample video demos for download at its website.

Alan Blount, driving force of the SurePlayer.org initiative, said: "The goal of SurePlayer.org is to build a streaming video player that works on 96% of all browsers. The player is the first non-proprietary, open-source video player that plays directly out of a Web page without a download or installation." Jon Orwant, Chief Technical Officer of O'Reilly & Associates, commented, "SurePlayer has the potential to be the most widely deployed video player on the Internet. Finally, users can watch video in their Web browsers as easily as they can read text. It's about time." ■

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The player and source code are available at: <http://www.sureplayer.org/resources.html>



AlphaServer all kitted up

Compaq is offering Linux developers an Advanced Developer's Kit (ADK) for use with its AlphaServer GS Series systems. The ADK follows the recent port of Linux to the AlphaServer GS series and provides documentation and software, including the tools and patches required for running the Linux 2.4 kernel with either SuSE 7.0 or Red Hat 7.0 on AlphaServer GS systems. Rick Frazier, Vice-President of Marketing for Compaq's Business Critical Server Group said, "With its strengths in handling data-intensive and other high-performance applications, Linux is gaining increased acceptance in the enterprise. With the ADK, we are responding to requests from customers who want to evaluate Linux on a high-end multi-processor configuration or run Linux applications in a mixed environment with our Tru64 UNIX operating system." ■

Dirk Hohndel, Chief Technology Officer at SuSE Linux AG said, "SuSE and Compaq are working together in many areas to move Linux more into the high end of computing. Among the highlights in this cooperation is our work on support for the NUMA architecture, as well as improvements to the scheduler and other key kernel components to make it better utilize the enormous potential of the AlphaServer GS systems. Having the ADK available enables us and our customers to implement Linux-based solutions for their high-end computing needs." The ADK is available for download at <http://www.support.compaq.com/alpha-tools>. ■

New tricks for Yellow Dog

Terra Soft Solutions, a developer of Linux solutions for PowerPC microprocessors, is to bundle LXP, Command Prompt's PostgreSQL application server with the latest release of its Yellow Dog Linux software. The LXP application server features a suite of services to help Linux Web developers to create dynamic, easy-to-manage websites. Features include direct fallback to the PHP language, persistent query execution, data parsing, and XML and content management. Kai Staats, Chief Executive of Terra Soft Solutions said, "In addition to the nearly complete YDL 2.0 book, we are pleased to expand the function of Yellow Dog Linux with Command Prompt's quality product. While it is our goal to take YDL 2.0 into the hands of those newer to Linux, LXP adds to the server and development OS foundation we have built with Champion Server." Joshua Drake, Co-Founder of Command Prompt, added, "Terra Soft Solutions YDL 2.0 is an exceptional distribution that will help increase the viability of Linux and LXP. It is our pleasure to include our LXP application server with their distribution." ■

Info

www.linuxports.com



New BlueCat out of the bag

Open source and true real-time embedded solutions provider LynuxWorks has announced the latest release of BlueCat Linux featuring MIPS support. BlueCat Linux 3.1 features tool-chains specifically for the MIPS R3000 and R4000 microprocessors. These simplify the embedding process to help reduce time to market. LynuxWorks sees the addition of MIPS support as another step towards the next generation smart devices, communications and consumer products markets for its operating system, as MIPS supplies microprocessors for those markets. ■

Other architectures supported by LynuxWorks include Intel Pentium, Xscale and x86 compatibles, ARM family (including Thumb extensions), StrongARM, PowerPC (including PowerQUICC) and Hitachi SuperH. Doug Agnew, Product Manager at LynuxWorks said, "LynuxWorks' support for the MIPS architecture is a critical component of our Linux strategy. Deployment of Linux-based networked devices and digital consumer appliances is exploding and BlueCat Linux gives developers the perfect choice of OS, tools, and now the broadest architecture support, for developing the next wave of breakthrough applications." ■

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Egenera's cutting edge



Internet infrastructure solution provider Egenera has unveiled its soon-to-be-released Internet data centre solution. The Egenera BladeFrame System supports up to 96 high-end Intel processors, which can be deployed entirely through software. The system features a 24x30x84in chassis with 24 two-way and/or four-way SMP processing resources (Egenera Processing Blade), redundant central controllers (Egenera Control Blade), redundant integrated switches (Egenera Switch Blade) and a redundant interconnect mechanism (Egenera BladePlane).

BladeFrame combines with the Egenera Processing Area Network Architecture, which consolidates and simplifies the allocation and management of computing power, to adjust processing while the machine is running, as well as

to support new applications or accommodate variable demand on existing applications. Vern Brownell, Chief Executive Officer at Egenera said that during his years as Chief Technology Officer at Goldman Sachs, the company's use of technology as a key business driver grew considerably and that this meant that the agility and performance of data centres became increasingly mission critical. He commented, "In our efforts to reduce application time to market, ensure availability and become more flexible, server deployment was a primary hurdle. Realising that nothing short of a totally new processing architecture could solve the problems my managers and system administrators routinely encountered, I founded Egenera. We believe that our comprehensive approach to improving the data centre will resonate with customers and find favour in the marketplace." ■

Farm offers savings harvest

Until 30 June 2001, SGI and Platform computing are offering savings of up to £17,000 to businesses who buy the new SGI EDA Technical Compute Farm for Linux. The solution is based on SGI's 1100 server with 32 1 GHz Pentium III processors. It has a 2GB memory per node and a Cisco Catalyst 3524-PWR XL Gigabit Ethernet switch, providing efficient job distribution and data access for all nodes. The package also includes Red Hat Linux 6.2 and SGI management tool, Advanced Cluster Environment (ACE).

Phil Weaver, President and Chief Operating Officer of Platform Computing said, "SGI has

embraced Linux to a degree unmatched by other traditional UNIX operating system vendors. It delivers comprehensive, cutting-edge solutions for Linux and is a solid contributor to the open-source community. Using Platform LSF to manage distributed resources, the SGI EDA Technical Compute Farm for Linux offers a total solution with very attractive price/performance characteristics."

The list price for the solution starts at £113,000 for 32 CPUs. However, until the end of June, EDA users can save up to £17,000 per rack when they buy EDA Technical Compute Farm for Linux. ■

Kompany coding

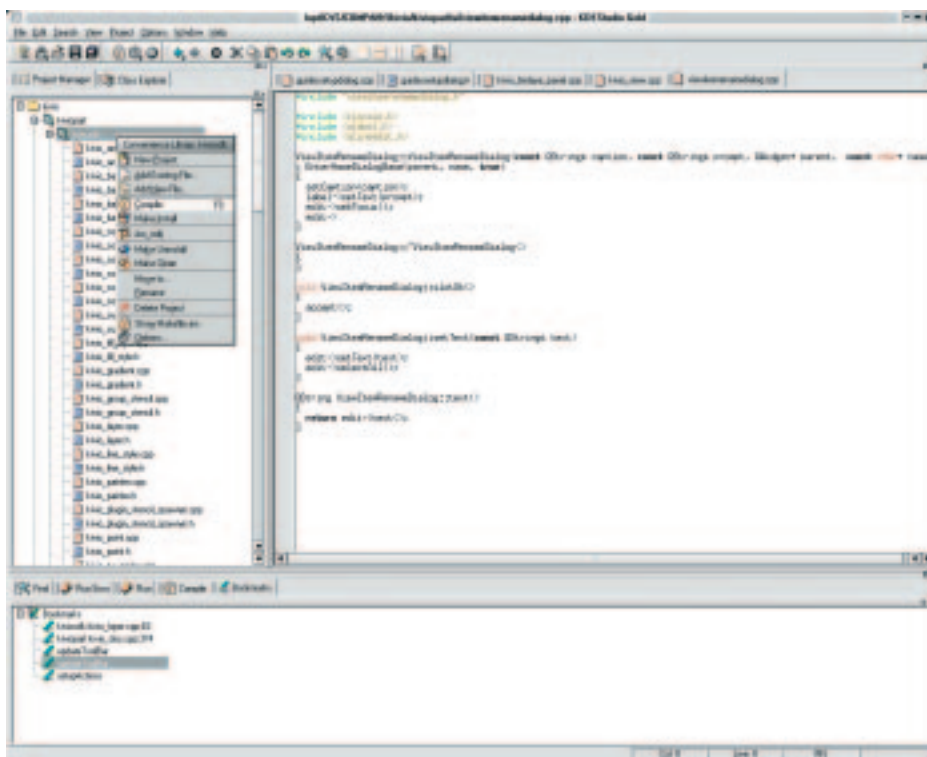
TheKompany.com has released its C++ GUI IDE, KDE Studio Gold Beta 3. The release offers code completion, dynamic syntax highlighting and pop-up function parameter look-up, as well as new features and additions requested by users, including simplified debugging and documentation.

Developers are not limited to KDE projects, as the release can also handle custom projects (in which no makefiles are generated, instead everything is based on Autoconf/Automake), as well as console, X11 and Trolltech's Qt Designer. It also enables developers to import projects from directory structure.

New features include code folding, a highlight engine enabling developers to modify and add custom highlight by editing the XML file and plugins for class diagram, as well as quick project file creation using the existing directory structure.

Info

<http://www.thekompany.com/products/ksg/>



Bynari's insight

Texas-based open standards software developer Bynari has announced its new Insight line of messaging and collaboration products, claiming that the Insight tools will allow Linux and UNIX desktops within an enterprise to work with messaging products such as Microsoft Outlook and Lotus Notes. Previous releases of Bynari's Linux-based messaging and collaboration client application had to access Windows messaging components across a Windows NT Server proxy to interoperate with Outlook. The new Insight client works directly with Outlook without requiring a proxy. Bynari Chief Executive Mike O'Dell said, "This breakthrough opens up a world of new opportunities for integrating the Linux and UNIX desktop user community into the Windows-centric enterprise. Insight provides the capability to simply and cost effectively upgrade a company's Linux and UNIX users with an easy-to-use, integrated application that interoperates with Outlook and provides Internet standards-based email, IMAP shared files and folders, LDAP global address books, scheduling and calendar management functions." At the same time Bynari announced its Insight client-server solution. The server now provides messaging and collaboration services to Insight clients, for improved collaboration between workgroups and individual users. Insight Server also supports Outlook clients. ■

Info

<http://www.bynari.net>



New LynuxWorks Environment

LynuxWorks has announced its CodeWarrior Integrated Development Environment (IDE) Edition aimed at developers working in Linux and Solaris environments to deploy on LynxOS and BlueCat Linux targets.

CodeWarrior combines an editor, code browser, compiler, linker, and debugger in one application, all accessed within a Graphical User Interface (GUI.) Greg Rose, director of product management for LynuxWorks said, "Development Tools will help our customers speed the product development phase and introduction of their new products to market. Additionally, this CodeWarrior IDE announcement is the first of a series of new announcements we will be making in 2001 under our new LynuxWorks expanded tools initiative." ■

NuSphere's advantage

Business software solution provider NuSphere has released its Web development platform for small and medium-sized enterprises. The NuSphere MySQL Advantage 2.0 features open source components, giving developers the choice of building, maintaining and deploying Internet applications under Linux, UNIX or Windows. Technology enhancements include support for financial transactions, essential for building business-critical Web applications. Advantage 2.0 also includes RPM support for RedHat Linux, encryption support for Windows and enhanced MySQL version 3.23.36, with the beta release of Gemini, aimed at highly granular, transaction-intensive database applications. Gemini enables automatic crash recovery, failover clusters, table and site replication, and backup. It also features the bug database Bugzilla. Carl Olofson, program

director, information and data management software research at IDC commented, "NuSphere and this open source RDBMS, with substantial enhancements for transaction management and other enterprise-class database functionality, enable companies to build cost-scalable, stable enterprise-class eBusiness solutions and Web services. Market pressures in favor of rapidly expanding eBusiness functionality are driving a requirement for greater Internet functionality and capacity, but these must be developed with an eye toward both upward scalability and cost containment. The growing range of open source software components, including, and in combination with NuSphere technology, will allow IT systems to meet this requirement, yet remain cost effective and scalable while exploiting the latest trends in database software." ■

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Caldera's sneak preview

The Santa Cruz Operation (SCO) and Caldera Systems, have announced a technology preview release of their commercial 64 bit UNIX operating system for Intel Itanium processors. AIX 5L version 5.1 is the result of Project Monterey, a cooperative effort between SCO and IBM, to develop the next generation UNIX operating system for Intel Itanium processors.

Caldera Chief Executive, Ransom Love, said that Caldera sees the importance of a stable 64 bit operating system as the backbone supporting mission-critical business applications on Intel platforms. He added: "Offering AIX 5L to our high-end Intel OEMs and resellers allows Linux to reach another bar on the enterprise ladder. AIX 5L provides choice and flexibility for our customers while leveraging their current investments." ■

LinuxIT makes new appointment

Vendor independent open source solutions provider LinuxIT has appointed Dr David Hodges as chief technology officer. Until earlier this year, Dr Hodges was head of systems for London-based global investment firm, Antfactory. His appointment will bring more than eighteen years of experience in operational management, with nine years in the Linux marketplace.

Peter Dawes Sales Director of LinuxIT said, "We are delighted that David has joined LinuxIT... David has unique experience in the management and delivery of IT solutions, and he will be able to leverage these strengths for LinuxIT and assist us in delivering Linux and Open Source solutions to our growing customer base." ■

Red Hat releases version 7.1

Red Hat has announced version 7.1 of its Linux product, which features a kernel update. The latest release also features Red Hat Network connectivity, including software manager with errata alerts and RPM updates that advise users of new RPM packages. The new 2.4 kernel combines improved SMP support with new configuration tools to help users set up and administer DNS, Web and print servers.

Billy Marshall, product manager for Red Hat Network said the software manager was an aid to productivity. "Every enterprise, regardless of size, is challenged to deliver better services to their customers using the Internet. Software Manager increases IT productivity in meeting this challenge with this set of customisable services that improve the reliability and security of the Red Hat Linux systems that power many enterprises' Internet infrastructure." ■

New Heroix suite

IT infrastructure management software developer Heroix has released its new management suite. The Heroix eQ suite enables Windows 2000, Windows NT, UNIX and Linux systems to be unified for monitoring and maintenance purposes. Features include the task-oriented Express Wizard interface, which prompts for the required information while providing context-sensitive help, and Application Autodiscovery, which automatically detects application and workload changes for improved scalability of the management suite. Howard Reisman, Chief Executive of Heroix said, "The Heroix eQ Management Suite responds to the sharp upswing in IT complexity that enterprises are grappling with today. While Web-enabled business, powerful distributed servers, and open-source platforms have ushered in tremendous advantages, they also pile on layers of management issues... One of the most significant ways Heroix delivers on this vision is by encompassing the three most widely used server environments: Windows, UNIX, and Linux." ■

All together now

The Board of the Embedded Linux Consortium (ELC) has announced plans to release a single unified specification for an embedded Linux platform to its members.

The proposed unified specification would reference existing specifications including the POSIX 1003.13 PSE 52 and PSE 53, the Single UNIX Specification, and the Linux Standard Base. The ELC says it must also include the basic OS services supported in any compliant embedded Linux system.

The ELC will distribute an outline of its proposal to its 124 member companies and once their comments have been received, it plans to make the full document publicly available.

It is hoped that this will help to establish Linux as a viable open, multi-vendor software platform alternative to other single-vendor embedded solutions, such as Windows CE, PalmOS or VxWorks and further accelerate the adoption of Linux in emerging post PC applications. ■