

Brussels sprouts Red Hat conference



Red Hat has announced the keynote schedule of the company's first Red Hat TechWorld conference. The conference, to be held in Brussels on 17 and 18 September 2001, will give open source companies and users a chance to meet, demonstrate their new products and learn more about other new technologies being developed in the open source space.

Keynote speakers will include Bob Young, co-founder and chairman of Red Hat, who will explain why he believes open source is inevitable, and Matthew Szulik, Red Hat chief executive and president, who will discuss how open source can help solve the technical education problem. Michael Tiemann, Red Hat chief technology officer, will discuss how Linux can move from its revolutionary standpoint to be accepted as part of the establishment. Glyn Moody, author of the book 'Rebel Code' will discuss the contribution hackers have made to technological progress by writing software and then giving it away.

Technical track speakers Stephen Tweedie, Mark Cox, Gary Thomas, Owen Taylor, Havoc Pennington, Tom Tromey and Alex Larsson will be speaking on such open source topics as embedded, e-commerce, development tools, application solutions, application development, Red Hat Network, application solutions and deployment.

Red Hat chief technology officer Michael Tiemann said: "It is a very exciting time for the open source movement, with the adoption of Linux and open source accelerating at such speed on a global scale. Red Hat TechWorld Brussels will bring together the technology, the developers and the users, and provide a learning and networking environment in which to share ideas and knowledge. We look forward to hosting the first Red Hat TechWorld event and providing a forum for everyone to get together and share their experiences with open source and with Red Hat technologies."

Info

<http://www.redhat-techworld.com>



SuSE's oracle

Open source solutions provider SuSE Linux has announced that its Linux operating system has now been validated for Oracle's Oracle9i database technology.

The validation means that SuSE can now offer its e-business infrastructure to customers using the Oracle9i database.

Dirk Hohndel, president of SuSE, expressed his delight at working with Oracle to deliver an open source e-business solution: "Oracle9i Database provides a powerful software infrastructure for the e-business needs of thousands of companies around the world. Using SuSE Linux, these companies have one of the most secure, affordable and reliable operating systems in the world as an alternative to more expensive systems such as WindowsNT and proprietary UNIX systems. We are pleased to be the first Linux company to have validated our operating system against Oracle9i Database and we look forward to our extensive collaboration on future products."

Doug Kennedy, vice president of global partnerships, Systems Platform Division at Oracle Corporation, said: "We ask our Linux partners to use an extensive set of criteria to validate and test their operating systems with Oracle9i Database. This brings enormous value to customers because it gives them the affordability and reliability of Linux together with the power of Oracle9i Database."

Knocked for six

Compaq has announced six new initiatives to meet global customer demand for commercially viable Linux enterprise solutions. These include: high-performance Beowulf clustering, a program for interoperability and portability between Linux and UNIX, investment and participation in a Linux lab, training and certifying system engineers, contributing SSI clustering technology to the open source community, and fostering development of Linux applications for handheld devices.

Compaq has drawn on more than twenty years of high performance and high availability clustering experience to build high performance technical computing clusters on AlphaServer. Now the company is partnering with leading Linux players to deliver Beowulf clustering solutions on its ProLiant server platform, enabling enterprises of all sizes to build supercomputer-like clusters of 16 to 512 or more nodes.

To further the development of its Linux solutions, Compaq is working closely with Oracle, with plans to participate in Oracle's Linux Lab to optimise kernel development and performance. "Oracle and Compaq continue to deliver leading edge solutions to the enterprise," said, Mike Rocha, senior vice president, Oracle. "Working together in the Linux lab capitalises on our respective strengths and expertise in developing more reliable and scalable next-generation Linux applications."

Ask Sleepycat

Search engine provider Ask Jeeves has chosen Sleepycat's Berkeley DB embedded database for the management of its question answering data. Ask Jeeves' Web Properties handles high transaction volumes to deliver information to users on Ask.com, AJKids.com, and DirectHit.com.

Ask Jeeves developers will now use Berkeley DB to help them build high performance Web-based solutions, said Ed Boudrot, product manager for Ask Jeeves: "We perform somewhere on the order of 8-10 billion transactions with Berkeley DB on a monthly basis without failure. We selected Berkeley DB to store information because of its flexible architecture, extremely high transaction rate, and its ability to scale. In addition, our experience with Sleepycat's customer support has been outstanding. When we have a technical matter to solve, the Sleepycat team is responsive and effective."

Michael A. Olson, vice president of marketing at Sleepycat Software, said: "By combining its innovative natural language and popularity search technology with Berkeley DB, Ask Jeeves has become the 15th most popular Web property on the Internet. We've worked hard to provide an embedded database that scales well and remains fast and reliable at any size. Ask Jeeves' decision to deploy Berkeley DB convinces us that we've made the right choices."

Info

The Sleepycat technology is available for download at the company's website, <http://www.sleepycat.com>



DataPiped, courtesy of Ensim



Hosting automation provider Ensim Corporation has announced that DataPipe is its first service provider customer for its outsourced data centres initiative in collaboration with Compaq.

Mark Linesch, vice president of Service Provider Solutions, Compaq Industry Standard Server Group said that working with partners such as Ensim enabled Compaq to deliver highly optimised ProLiant server platforms to customers: "With this initiative Compaq and Ensim continue to drive greater simplification and innovation in the growing Linux Service

Provider market and deliver customers the return on investment they require to be competitive."

DataPipe has deployed Ensim's flagship product, ServerXchangeT, with Compaq ProLiant servers to optimise hosting automation of the Compaq systems and the applications that run on them.

Robb Allen, chief executive of DataPipe, said: "As part of our growth equation, deploying ServerXchange on our Compaq ProLiant servers has streamlined our operations and certainly created new revenue opportunities."

The Ensim-Compaq initiative means that DataPipe will now be able to optimise the provisioning and management of its Compaq ProLiant server infrastructure using Compaq Intelligent Manageability Tools and Ensim ServerXchange. DataPipe can also create a reseller channel using the ServerXchange three-layer control panel for the service provider, reseller and end-user. ■



Connectivity

The NetLinOS initiative, created by Cyclades Corporation, has launched its NetLinOS Web portal. The Web portal is intended as a centre on the Internet for those involved in initiatives related to Linux-based network connectivity to keep up to date with related developments, encouraging the development of new Linux based network appliances.

Visitors to the NetLinOS Web Portal can learn more about the initiative and view a list of products designed and tested by the NetLinOS team. There are also "how-to-build" tutorials for all products listed and visitors can access a database of hardware and software components used in developing Linux-based network connectivity products.

Ivan Passos, leader of the NetLinOS project, explained how the portal came into being: "We wanted to create a place on the Internet where visitors can view, contribute to, and communicate about the latest developments involving network connectivity in Linux. The idea is not to compete with current efforts in this arena, but to consolidate these efforts by using software already developed, contributing new code and focusing on hardware and software integration to allow the development of commercial products."

Info

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



NEWS

A step in the right direction

Twenty four technology suppliers to cable, satellite and telecommunications operators have allied to form the TV Linux Alliance, a group whose aim is to define a standards-based Linux environment to improve products, shorten time to market and speed up development cycles in the digital set-top box market.

Members of the TV Linux Alliance include ACTV, ATI Technologies, Broadcom Corporation, Concurrent Computer Corporation, Conexant, Convergence Integrated Media, DIVA, Excite@Home, iSurfTV, Liberate Technologies, Lineo, MontaVista, Motorola, nCUBE, OpenTV, Pace Micro Technology, Qpass, ReplayTV, STMicroelectronics, Sun Microsystems, TiVo, Trintech, TV Gateway and WorldGate. The Alliance's new Linux specification will be available later this year.

Yankee Group analyst Adi Kishore said the new alliance would be in a position to provide network operators with a standardised offering from the Linux community for digital TV set-tops. He added:

"A common solution built around a single framework will reduce the integration issues that result in lengthy deployment time-frames for advanced interactive applications, as well as middleware solutions and set-top boxes."

Jerry Krasner, executive director, Electronics Market Forecasters, commented:

"The world of digital television is rapidly changing and the formation of this alliance will ensure that network operators have access to a solid offering set from the Linux community for digital TV set-tops. No single company has been able to own the digital TV market. The talents and technologies of these companies rallying around a single framework for a robust Linux solution should keep competition at the operating system layer thriving while insuring that advanced interactive applications and middleware providers along with set-top manufacturers can get solutions to market more quickly."

Info

www.TVLinuxAlliance.org

Beta Endeavors

Endeavors Technology has unveiled the new beta version of its secure cross-platform, cross-device peer-to-peer collaboration tool. Magi Enterprise v2.0 is aimed at VARs, OEMs and integrators.

Magi Enterprise v2.0 uses SSL and certificate authority to address business concerns about sharing sensitive company information. The solution offers such features as file sharing, community index and search, chat and instant messaging. Also included is a software developer's kit, enabling companies to create a peer-to-peer collaborative network and integrate applications for tracking such processes as knowledge management, productivity, revenue growth and profitability.

Anne Zieger, principal analyst with enterprise peer-to-peer research firm PeerToPeerCentral.com,

said: "Without strong security protections in place, corporate managers are unlikely to take peer to peer seriously. But once secure platforms become available, peer-to-peer has a bright future in the enterprise. Solutions like Magi Enterprise – designed to offer highly secure file sharing and communication options – should be among the first to be adopted by IT departments." Jim Lowrey, security architect for Endeavors Technology, adds: "Peer-to-peer computing faces a mix of security issues not faced by traditional secure-computing paradigms. Magi Enterprise addresses these issues and now provides the vital infrastructure required by IT managers to construct secure information processing systems without exposing an organisation's systems and data to theft, attack, or compromise." ■

Networking

Corporate IT infrastructures in the UK are unequal to the demands being placed on them, new research has revealed. The research, conducted by MORI at the request of Hewlett-Packard, questioned IT decision makers in UK corporates.

In the past six months, according to the research, four in ten large companies reported that peak demands on their IT infrastructure had outstripped capacity. The respondents were pessimistic about the prospects for the future, with seventy-five percent saying they believed the situation would remain unchanged or worsen. IT decision makers look to outsourcing as a possible solution, with eighty percent of companies surveyed currently considering outsourcing parts of their IT infrastructure to a service provider.

"It is clear that IT decision makers are feeling the effects of peak demands more than ever, and companies are increasingly having to take precautions and invest in order to deliver the best possible service," said Chris Franklin, UNIX Server Category Manager for HP. "What the industry needs is a cost effective, flexible, and secure solution which can deploy compute resources immediately in a simple and effective manner, regardless of the overall peak demand."

Franklin added that security continued to be an important consideration for organisations: "By embracing a utility computing model, UK companies can also benefit from a scalable Internet infrastructure with capacity on demand and instant Internet connectivity." ■

Caldera serves up 64

Caldera has announced that a preview of its OpenLinux Server 64 is now available. OpenLinux Server 64, the result of work by Caldera and other members of the IA-64 Linux project to develop a 64-bit operating system for the next generation of Standard High Volume (SHV) server platforms, provides an enterprise class Linux server platform for Intel Itanium-based systems, featuring Internet services such as Web servers, file and print servers and network infrastructure, as well as the performance platform for Linux enterprise solutions.

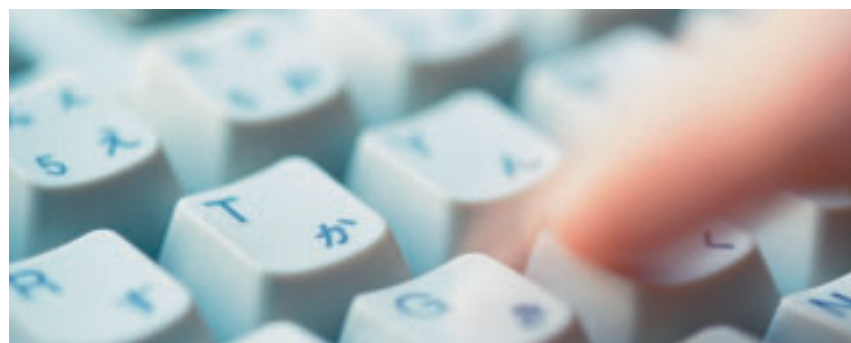
Caldera chief executive Ransom Love said: "Itanium systems represent the next generation of high-end computing platforms. OpenLinux Server 64 supplements Caldera's range of platforms that span from desktop to data centre. As a Linux leader, we have the expertise to provide an operating system such as OpenLinux Server 64 that exploits Itanium's capacity of supporting mission-critical business applications."

Victor Krutul, manager of Software Programs at Intel, said: "Itanium-based systems deliver world-class operation for the most demanding enterprise and high-performance computing applications. Caldera OpenLinux Server 64 will provide business-focused customers with a smooth migration path to deploy Itanium systems as their application needs grow." Caldera plans to make the operating system generally available towards the end of the third quarter of 2001. ■

New SuSE OS released

SuSE Linux has announced the release of its operating system for Intel's Itanium based systems. SuSE Linux 7.2 for Itanium systems is based on the latest Linux technology, including the new Linux Kernel 2.4.4. As well as the operating system itself, the package features 1,500 applications on six CD-ROMs, enabling the set-up of intranet and Internet solutions as well as set-up and protection of heterogeneous networks.

For professional users there are tools for setting up WWW, proxy, mail, and news servers in Linux. Victor Krutul, manager of Operating System Programs at Intel commented: "End-users and developers will be able to take advantage of the 64-bit capabilities of Itanium-based platforms and the technical competence of SuSE with the release of SuSE's 7.2 Linux. Linux on Itanium-based systems will provide high performance, reliability, and flexibility to IT professionals." ■



NEWS

Double feature

Hewlett-Packard has announced new features for its e-utilica 'out-of-the-box' service provider solution for corporate networks. New features include the ability to operate within multi-operating system environments and on top of an existing IT infrastructure.

e-utilica is now available with a range of bundles to suit the requirements of the individual company, including extra storage, servers and software.

e-utilica comes with out-of-the-box integrated tools for monitoring of usage to help IT departments

forecast requirements.

Chris Franklin, UNIX Server Category Manager for HP UK said he saw an increasing demand within the corporate space for on-tap applications, processing power and storage-capacity on demand. "With e-utilica, we're delighted to be offering corporates the unique opportunity to be as flexible as they like, creating real business benefits within a cost-effective and secure environment."

Franklin added that, "There is clearly a need for on-tap computing and we're delighted to be the only vendor offering customers the flexibility to successfully adapt within today's demanding and unpredictable business environment". ■



Getting the message

Internet messaging solution provider Sendmail has announced that it has enabled its solution for Linux on the IBM eServer z900 and S/390 platform. The product becomes generally available in the third quarter of this year. Until then, the Sendmail/zSeries Early Support Program is available, offering early customers a product discount, as well as free set-up services, including installation and configuration.

Rich Lechner, vice president of IBM eServer marketing, commented: "Sendmail Internet messaging solutions take advantage of the scalability, reliability and agility of the eServer z900. By exploiting the power of Linux on the IBM mainframe platform, Sendmail provides the robustness and scalability needed for today's messaging and mail infrastructure with the industry's lowest total cost of computing." ■

New Matrox release

Matrox Graphics has announced the release of its new open source graphical user interface (GUI)-based utility.

The Matrox PowerDesk for Linux enables Matrox Linux users to manage their desktop, configure Matrox Dualhead display features such as multi-display, clone and TV output, and make monitor adjustments to change resolution settings, pixel depths and refresh rates.

"As the adoption of Linux among corporate and novice users grows, we wanted to provide consumers with a desktop interface that is easy to use and free of the sometimes complex coding required under the OS," said Alain Thiffault, Matrox global software manager. "PowerDesk for Linux will dramatically increase productivity by allowing Linux users to change their desktop settings using our point and click GUI, which is far more efficient than the current text-based approach."

Info

PowerDesk for Linux runs under XFree86 versions 4.0.2 and 4.0.3 and is compatible with Matrox G200, G400 and G450-based graphics cards. It can be downloaded from the Matrox driver page at <http://www.matrox.com/imga/support/drivers/home.cfm>

Itanium Red Hat



Red Hat has announced that Red Hat Linux 7.1 for the Itanium Processor is now available. The new release features Red Hat Linux 7.1 with the new 2.4 kernel. It features new configuration tools and security enhancements and is configured to support eight or more Itanium processors running as a single system image.

The release also provides default settings for security that keep ports closed and Internet utilities inactive until needed. A new firewall screen enables users to customise their security settings by turning the various features on or off.

Updates to the operating system include improved device support and improved multi-threaded network stack and virtual file system. A revised scheduler enables the operating system to handle more processes.

Michael Tiemann, chief technical officer at Red Hat, said: "Intel recognised very early that Linux was going to be a very important operating system in the future, and we are pleased that they chose to work with Red Hat as a strategic technology developer. Red Hat Linux 7.1 for the Itanium Processor will enable the enterprise and technical computing communities to take full advantage of Intel's new technology running on the industry's standard Linux platform".

Victor Krutul, Linux Technology Manager for Intel commented: "With the release of Red Hat Linux 7.1 for the Itanium processor-based systems, developers should be confident that the technology, support and leadership is in place to successfully develop, deploy and manage 64-bit Linux applications and services." ■

Expanded mission

Linux solutions and services company Mission Critical Linux has announced the expansion of its PreConfigured Solutions Program to include systems built on Intel's Itanium architecture. The program currently combines Mission Critical Linux's convolo cluster software with hardware from OEMs including IBM and Hewlett-Packard. The expanded program will enable the company to deliver a mission critical management services solution for customers who require an enterprise standard high-availability solution.

Backed by Mission Critical Linux's round the clock support, the PreConfigured Solutions Program is aimed at financial services, data centres, securities, telecommunications, and high-tech industries, providing them with a Linux-based solution that can provide seamless high-availability for applications like Web servers, email, Samba, NFS, and databases such as Postgres, Oracle, Informix, and DB2.

Moiz Kohari, chief executive of Mission Critical Linux said, "Working with industry-leading OEMs on Itanium-based platforms, we see this expanded offering as providing enterprise customers with a comprehensive answer to their IT needs. When you combine Convolo, our deep Linux expertise, and the Intel Itanium processor, you have a powerful combination of the hardware, software, and around-the-clock support businesses demand."

Victor Krutul, manager of Operating Systems Programs at Intel, said "Linux solutions based on Mission Critical Linux will allow companies to take full advantage of the performance and scalability built into Itanium-based platforms. The processor was designed with business-critical environments in mind, and we think Linux and Intel Itanium architecture is a powerful combination." ■



Sharp choice

Sharp has selected Lineo Embedix as the operating system for the next generation of Sharp handheld devices. Lineo announced that Embedix was chosen for its low hardware requirements, broad feature support, and for its ability to bring the product quickly to market using the Linux operating system.

The new Sharp operating system platform will be able to run software written in Sun Microsystems' Java software language that supports a variety of operating systems. The first Linux-based handhelds are expected to be available in autumn 2001 in North America.

Hiroshi Uno, general manager, mobile systems division, Sharp Corporation said: "Sharp has decided to use Linux because it is an open operating system. And we selected Lineo, the leading provider of the Linux-based embedded operating system, Embedix, to run on our upcoming PDA for the worldwide market. Linux will allow tens of thousands of Linux developers to write applications for our devices."

Sharp is also working with Tao Group and Amiga Corporation to develop content, software and processing power for the Sharp handheld device. ■