SuSE provides all-round firewall protection

SuSE Linux has released its new Firewall on a CD, offering companies linked to the Internet protection for their data and IT infrastructure in a CD format which, SuSE believes, businesses will find easier to install and maintain.

Designed as an application level gateway, the SuSE Linux Firewall combines the security standards of a hardware solution with the flexibility of a software firewall. The SuSE Linux Firewall on CD can check, monitor, analyse and log ongoing data transfer. Features of the SuSE Linux Firewall include its 'live system', which enables the operating system to be booted directly from a CD-ROM instead of being installed on the hard disk, making it impossible to manipulate the firewall software. Meanwhile, the configuration files for the firewall – such as the ipchains packet filter settings are held on a write-protected configuration floppy.

Other features of the firewall on a CD solution include syslog, postfix as mail relay, and SSH support. The firewall can protect the network against both external and internal tampering by enabling administrators to define limits for various divisions with the company. An http content filter can recognise and, if required, block certain HTML pages, while the proxy server, based on the open source Squid package, speeds up the accessing of Web pages by saving previously viewed pages and reloading them on request.

The source code is provided together with the firewall solution, enabling the solution to be tailored to specific requirements. A second CD contains the Firewall Administration System, a set of tools designed to simplify configuration and administration of one or more firewalls.

The package consists of two CD-ROMs, a 500-page manual, and 30 days of installation support. It is available from the manufacturer or from authorised SuSE Business Partners priced at £429.00 plus VAT. ∎

Lineo and ADS announce handy partnership

Embedded systems, real-time and high availability solutions provider Lineo is collaborating with RISC-based systems developer Applied Data Systems (ADS) to deliver a development platform for smart handheld devices.

The Lineo Embedix Plus for SHDs platform has been developed for manufacturers who require a solution to enable rapid production of SHDs, PDAs and other information appliances. It offers an open standards platform based on Linux and Java and uses Lineo Embedix SDK to integrate SHD solutions including Insignia's Jeode Java Virtual Machine technologies, Trolltech's Qt/Embedded GUI and Opera Software's Operal 5 for Linux Web browser.

The ADS Graphics Client Plus system is the first hardware to run Embedix Plus for SHDs. Addressing the needs of graphics intensive applications with onboard I/O requirements, Graphics Client Plus is based on the StrongARM SA1110 processor, with up to three serial ports, onboard Ethernet, CAN and IrDA, SCMCIA, USB slave, 'smart' real-time I/O and integrated flat panel and touch screen support. ∎

Toshiba chooses Hard Hat

Toshiba has chosen to use MontaVista's Hard Hat Linux in the development of embedded products for the printer, set top box and digital television markets.

Toshiba and MontaVista have already begun working together and will mark the launch of their partnership by porting MontaVista's Hard Hat Linux to Toshiba's TX39 and TX49 embedded processor families. Toshiba will also name Hard Hat Linux as one of the standard operating systems for its TX39 and TX49 processors. Toshiba plans to release Hard Hat Linux-supported TX39 and TX49 processors from September 2001.

Masafumi Watanabe, Deputy General Manager, of Toshiba Corporation said, "We are working with MontaVista to provide more comprehensive support for our current and future customers, not only in Japan but throughout Asia and the world." ∎

Virus-free

Data security software developer Kaspersky Labs has released the latest version of its KasperskyT Anti-Virus for UNIX/Linux operating system.

Registered users of Kaspersky Anti-Virus Business Optimal and Corporate Suite can install the latest version for UNIX/Linux free of charge.

The new version adds multithreaded object-scanning technology that enables the antivirus scanner to simultaneously check any number of files, with sessions limited only by the server's capabilities. The number of active sessions can be defined in the start-up command line or in the Kaspersky Anti-Virus configuration file. The new version also features support for OpenBSD 2.8 and Solaris 8 operating systems, as well as for the exim email gateway for UNIX and Linux.

As a time saving benefit for administrators, the solution now enables remote control of the program for use with a Web interface using a secure HTTPS connection. Other modifications to the solution include faster email scanning speeds and improvements to the antivirus monitor, which can now intercept file operations and transfer objects in real time for scanning without the need for a buffer directory with delayed scanning. ■
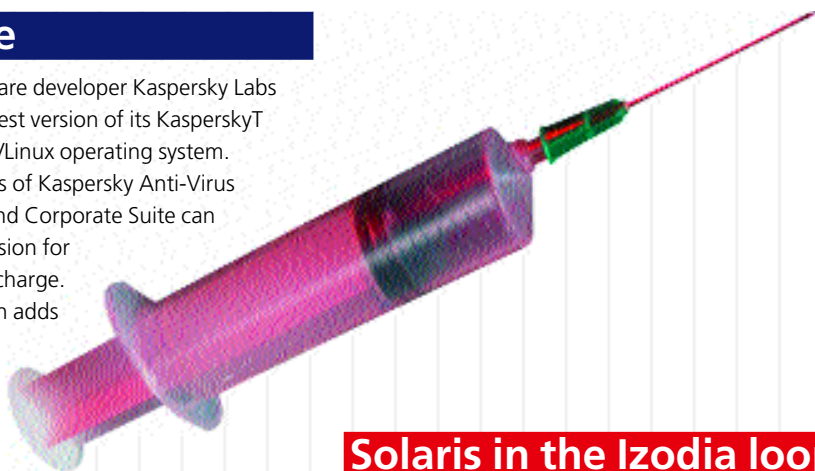
Solaris in the Izodia loop

Business to business e-commerce solution provider Izodia has added support for Sun Solaris 8TM to its InTrade 5 ecommerce software platform.

InTrade 5, a unified application for business-to-business e-commerce chain management, also supports Windows NT, Windows 2000, and UNIX. The Solaris release for InTrade 5 will also add support for Oracle 8iTM databases, and any standards-based Web Server.

With more than 1,600 documented XML API calls, the system's functions can be called by, and exchange information with external applications. The InTrade 5 solution is designed to address the needs of businesses trading internationally and provides them with support for multiple language, currency, tax systems, date formatting and international trade principles. ■

Berkeley squared

Sleepycat Software has announced that its Berkeley DB version 3.3, together with its complete source code, is now available for download from the Sleepycat website.

Version 3.3 includes offers features for high availability, along with performance enhancements, and support for Lineo's Embedix embedded Linux operating system. Once embedded in the application, Berkeley DB needs no separate database server or administration. Features include concurrency, transactions, disaster recovery, hot backup, and other critical services.

Michael Olson, vice president of marketing for Sleepycat Software, said that new features of the system were added in response to customer requests. "Our customers have been asking for high availability features for some time now. For example, in complex systems that must be up and operational twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, it's possible to have brief periods of time when there's no spare disk space available. It's important for key system services, like the database, to continue operating in those cases. Release 3.3 of Berkeley DB can survive these kinds of failures. We've also added some new performance enhancements, like support for lower isolation levels and faster data retrieval, that our customers have asked for."

Berkeley DB runs on most UNIX and Linux systems, as well as Wind River's VxWorks, QNX's RTOS, and Windows 95/98/NT/2000.

Info

http://www.sleepycat.com

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Conversion by command

Command Prompt has announced the release of the latest version of its Linux-based DocParse tool for professional technical authors who maintain a large amount of HTML based documentation.

DocParse can convert an HTML document into a valid DocBook XML/SGML document. From the XML or SGML format users can convert the document to XHTML, HTML, RTF(MS Word Format) or print-ready postscript.

DocParse con handle the conversion of multiple documents, lists, and tables and entities. Currently the tool is only available for x86 Linux. However Command Prompt plans support for YellowDog Linux (PPC) and MacOS X in the near future.

Info

http://www.commandprompt.com

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Cyco's fresh focus

Recently downsized document management software developer Cyco Software has announced that the company is to focus on strengthening its position in the departmental and divisional CAD/engineering market.

Cyco has decided to discontinue its direct business activities in the enterprise EDM market. However the company is to continue to work with its channel partners and plans to extend its global distribution network. Martijn Janmaat, chief executive of Cyco Software, said the strategy would give the company the opportunity to capitalise on its strengths and the growth potential in the generic departmental and divisional CAD/engineering market while at the same time building business opportunities in specific market segments with more specialised solutions.

Cyco plans to launch new versions of its AutoManager WorkFlow and AutoManager Meridian products later this year. ■

Red Hat's database solution

Red Hat has announced its new database solution, which, says the company, fills a gap in the market between large, complex and resource-hungry enterprise databases and smaller, more affordable databases that lack the sophistication needed for handling complex Web and e-business applications.

Red Hat Database is an open source database solution based on Postgre SQL 7.1 and optimised with Red Hat Linux 7.1. It supports a range of programming languages, including C/C++, PHP, Perl, Python, Tcl/Tk, Embedded SQL in C and supports core SQL 92 support, ODBC and JDBC APIs, as well as offering support for object oriented features, such as large objects, structured types and user-defined abstract data types (ADT).

The solution is online-backup enabled and is designed to deliver robust transaction support for intensive computing environments and has advanced locking capabilities for maintaining the integrity of the database over the course of updates and changes.

Info

www.redhat.com/databasesolution

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Caldera releases new OpenLinux workstation.

The Caldera OpenLinux Workstation 3.1 is released concurrently with Caldera's OpenLinux Server and Open UNIX 8 products. The new version of the workstation is a self-hosted operating system built on the Linux 2.4 kernel and aimed at developers who want to build commercial, Open Source, or corporate applications for an open standard environment, including the proposed Linux Standard Base (LSB), using Java, C and C++.

Drew Spencer, chief technology officer at Caldera described the new Workstation product as "an ideal environment for developing on Linux or developing for Linux-compatible platforms such as Caldera's Open UNIX 8", adding, "For the development lifecycle, it provides developers the necessary tools to build, test and deploy business applications in a secure, supported, and scalable server setting while developing in an easy-to-use, developer-friendly environment."

The workstation incorporates Sun Microsystems Java 2 Platform, Standard Edition J2SE Software Development Kit version 1.3, StarOffice 5.2 and Forte for Java 2.0, and JBuilder 4 Foundation from Borland.

Info

http://www.caldera.com/products/workstation

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A kind of magic

Linux customers looking for an Internet-based service desk solution may be interested in a new offering developed by Magic Solutions in partnership with National Computer Enterprises (NCE).

The browser based Magic Total Service Desk (TSD) solution is designed for rapid deployment and aimed at users running the Oracle database on a Linux platform.

Magic TSD features remote control capabilities and enterprise-level support management integrated with desktop, network and event management tools. The solution's functionality covers business automation, purchasing and customisation tools. The software is geared to enabling users to manage their service desk from any location while serving as a platform for the development of such Web-based applications as purchase requisition tracking, insurance policy tracking, online employment application and software defect logging.

Chuck Clements, president of NCE, commented, "Now that Magic is running on both Linux and UNIX, enterprises using these platforms will benefit from the improved business efficiency and lowered costs that Magic provides. This is a great advantage to companies that were previously unable to merge their solution desk with their platform."

Info

www.magicsolutions.com
http://www.nai.com

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Family support

Business application development solution provider Acucorp has announced that it is providing support for Linux on IBM's eServer z900 and S/390 on its Acucorp extend 5 solution.

The extend 5 family of solutions enables software developers to convert their COBOL applications for use by modern systems. extend 5 is available for a variety of platforms including Windows 9x/NT/2000, AIX, Solaris, HP/UX, DG/UX. Features include products and services for enabling Internet deployment, graphical COBOL development, data access, distributed computing and increased programmer productivity.

The new Acucorp solution will enable software developers to move their ACUCOBOL-GT to Linux for eServer z900 and S/390 without the need for costly recompilation.

Dr. Pamela Coker, chief executive of Acucorp said, "Acucorp has been supporting Linux for years, so there was no question that we would support Linux for z900 and S/390We know that our worldwide customers, including more than 1,000 ISVs, as well as z900 and S/390 customers requiring a robust COBOL solution for Linux, will find substantial value in combining the strength of Acucorp's proven technology with the Linux for S/390 operating system. This unique combination will provide customers with powerful Linux-based COBOL applications and data access solutions that are unparalleled in the industry today."

Info

http://www.acucorp.com/Services/evalform.html

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Service included

Caldera has released two new server products designed for enabling the deployment of Linux applications on both the Linux and UNIX platforms.

Caldera OpenLinux Server and Caldera Open UNIX 8 are geared towards business needs ranging from those of the low-end server to the high-end data centre.

Open UNIX 8 is a deployment platform for industry standard Intel processor systems. Evolved from Caldera's acquisition SCO UNIXware, it incorporates the Linux Kernel Personality (LKP) technology, enabling users to run Linux applications and UNIX applications simultaneously.

Aimed at users engaged in building Internet-enabled business solutions, OpenLinux server is based on the Linux 2.4 kernel has an integrated Linux operating system. The software comes with default configurations for secure Web, file and print and network infrastructure servers. Management tools include the Webmin secure browser-based management capability, Caldera's Volution agent for simplified configuration and management of Linux systems, and the Volution Online browser-based decision tool and update service for the deployment and analysis of software updates.

Caldera chief executive Ransom Love said, "Caldera's release of these products demonstrates our desire to lift the strengths of Linux and incorporate them with the many well-known strengths of UNIX. With Open UNIX 8 and OpenLinux Server, Caldera provides the best in UNIX and Linux deployment. The result is cost savings, stability and an extremely scalable application environment."

Info

http://www.caldera.com/

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OpenOne delivers new mail server

OpenOne Corporation has announced the new version of its MailOne Internet standards-based enterprise email server for the Linux and UNIX operating systems.

MailOne version 3.2 is now available and adds support for IMAP standard email clients to its existing support for POP-based email clients such as Outlook Express, Internet Explorer, Netscape Communicator and Eudora, as well as Microsoft Exchange, TeamLinks, an X-Windows Motif and LessTif user agents and command line interface.

MailOne is a re-engineered version of Digital Equipment Corporation's MailWorks for UNIX, an open messaging system, which exchanges messages using a range of industry standard messaging protocols including Sendmail and commercial SMTP/MIME message transports, as well as the option to handle X.400 protocols.

Info
www.openone.com

Scyld: the next generation

Scyld Computing has released the latest version of its next generation cluster operating system software. Scyld Beowulf Professional Edition is a scalable solution designed to simplify cluster setup, integration and administration. The new version simplifies traditional Beowulf clusters by initiating and administering operations performed on the linked cluster nodes through a single master node. The Single System Image (SSI) design makes the cluster behave as if it were a single computer.

Donald Becker, Scyld chief technology officer, said, "Our mission at Scyld is to create software that will bring cost effective, easily managed, high-performance computing to the commercial marketplace. The new features in this release add significantly to our existing standard upon which high performance cluster applications have been developed. This new release will further stimulate deployment of turn-key commercial applications". ■

RAD tool

Cape Clear Software has announced that the beta version of its CapeStudio Web Services Rapid Application Development (RAD) tool is now available for download from its website.

The CapeStudio Web services development environment works with Web Services platform based on XML, SOAP, WSDL, and Universal Description, Discovery and Integration (UDDI) industry standards. It can be used to generate code sutomatically for Java or Visual Basic from Web Services Description Language (WSDL) files, which describe the interfaces to Web services. The solution works with Cape Clear's CapeConnect Web Services platform to form Cape's end-to-end design-to-deployment solution for Web services. John Maughan, CapeStudio product manager at Cape Clear Software commented, "CapeStudio brings a new level of ease-of-use to Web Services, automating much of the code generation and opening Web Services to a whole new range of developers and business analysts. Web Services have succeeded in delivering cross-platform integration across the Internet, but unless the development and deployment of Web Services is made widely accessible its success will be hampered – CapeStudio provides that access."

Info
http://www.capeclear.com

RidgeRunning Texas support

Embedded Linux software and tools developer RidgeRun has released its Board Support Package (BSP) for the Texas Instruments TMS320DSC21 digital signal processor.

The new solution aims to speed up development cycles by enabling embedded system developers to build an embedded product quickly, start writing applications before hardware is available, access royalty-free Open Source code, and use DSPs without the need for expertise in DSP algorithm development.

RidgeRun DSC21 BSP offers a compiler, assembler, debugger, linker, Standard C library and utility programs for software development. In addition to providing the Open Source Linux Kernel optimised for the TI TMS320DSC21 processor, the BSP provides drivers for system-on-chip peripherals including on-screen display, UART, compact flash and USB. An Appliance Simulator enables developers to build, implement and test products for hardware which may not be readily available, by enabling them to run their software on a simulation of the required hardware using the same cross-compile tools as they would use on the real target.

Info
www.ridgerun.com

SuSE and Heroix solution
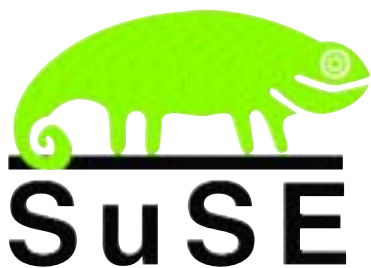
Systems management software developer Heroix has announced a new partnership relationship with SuSE Linux which will deliver a systems monitoring management solution for Linux servers.

Under the terms of the partnership, Heroix's eQ systems management software has been integrated into the new release of SuSE Linux 7.2 Professional. The software enables monitoring of system level information by carrying out tests on a number of key system issues and notifying the user in real time of potential problem areas.

Frank Puranik, Global Technical Director for Heroix said, "The off-the-shelf nature of the Heroix/SuSE integration will let users easily implement a monitoring solution that will return value in a very short period of time. We are very excited about the Heroix/SuSE integration, and with Linux being billed as the operating system of the future it's imperative that improving availability of critical systems on the Linux platform is an essential part of this."

Dirk Hohndel, chief technology officer for SuSE Linux AG, said that the integration of Heroix Monitoring Management Solutions demonstrated the relevance of Linux for enterprise customers. He added, "We are proud to make these comprehensive tools available to our customers and support Heroix in its commitment to Linux." ∎

Interconnectivity

A coalition of high-tech industry leaders have formed a nonprofit corporation to support the future development and adoption of AMD's HyperTransport I/O Link specification.

The HyperTransport Technology Consortium, consists of API NetWorks, Apple, Cisco Systems, NVIDIA, PMC-Sierra, Sun Microsystems, and Transmeta.

HyperTransport interconnect technology is a high-speed, high-performance, point-to-point link for integrated circuits, developed to deliver faster communication speeds between chips in of high-performance computer, networking and communications devices. With a bandwidth of 12.8GB per second, HyperTransport is designed to work with bus standards such as Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI), as well as emerging technologies like InfiniBand and 10Gb Ethernet.

Gabriele Sartori, president of the HyperTransport Technology Consortium explained that the consortium represented the commitment of its members to develop industry-wide adoption of HyperTransport technology, and to drive the technology into the market. He added, "HyperTransport technology is a popular new chip-to-chip communications technology that is endorsed by major industry players. It is designed to provide a smooth transition from existing technologies and to support the necessary scalability and bandwidth for future product innovations." ∎

New Perforce SCM now available

Perforce Software has announced that version 2001.1 of its Software Configuration Management (SCM) solution is now available.

Benefits of the new version include improved support for multiple platforms, scalability, speed, usability and simpler cross-platform development as well as a choice of both pessimistic and optimistic locking models, FTP-based check-in/check-out for non-Perforce users, and improved Python support.

Additionally, the Perforce now supports WebGain's Visual Cafe 4.2 and Perforce Windows GUI, p4win, can now be personalised by the user, so, for example a developer could add personal menu items to interface with other tools and scripts, and customise views of the Perforce database.

Christopher Seiwald, president and chief technology officer at Perforce Software, said, "This release has been built upon customer feedback and so we know that each and every improvement is relevant to developers. Perforce 2001.1 does exactly what it should, providing an environment that allows fast effective development across multiple platforms within teams of two to more than two thousand."

All Perforce users with a current support and maintenance contract are entitled to be upgraded to 2001.1 free of charge.

Info

http://www.perforce.com

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