

LINUX NEWS

New E-Commerce suite from Red Hat

Red Hat, Inc has announced the Red Hat E-Commerce Suite. This helps mid-sized businesses build and manage their e-commerce applications more rapidly, more cost effectively and with greater reliability and customisability.

"We've been extremely pleased with Red Hat's offerings," said Aron Benon, CEO of bricks-and-clicks retailer, Florist.com. "Red Hat helped us move quickly and cost effectively from a low-end e-commerce platform to a rich, highly customised solution that allowed us to become much more effective in our online efforts." Benon added, "Red Hat has given us many of the benefits of high end e-commerce platforms, but without the cost or complexity."

Red Hat E-Commerce Suite includes:

- Interchange 4.8, a brand new version of the e-commerce platform. With more than 10,000 developers participating, and thousands of sites using the technology, it delivers robust functionality, reliability, and performance;
- CommerceLauncher, is a Web-based configuration
- Secure Webserver powered by Apache;
- Red Hat Database, based on PostgreSQL 7.1
- Red Hat Linux Operating System 7.1
- Red Hat Network, Red Hat's online subscription service.

Additional added value services in the Suite include:

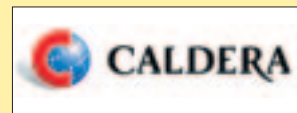
- 3 hours of developer consulting during the first 30 days.
- 30 days of telephone-based support.
- 12 months of Web-based support.

"The Red Hat E-Commerce Suite fills a significant gap between expensive, complex enterprise e-commerce applications and entry-level e-commerce offerings," said Michele Rosen, research manager for Application Development and Deployment at IDC.

"Because it's based on established open source technologies, the Suite provides functionality and customisability similar to that found in high-end e-commerce applications but at a price within mid-sized businesses' budgets."

Red Hat E-Commerce Suite has been available since September

<http://www.europe.redhat.com/shop/en/software.php3#rhwebserver>



IBM and Caldera join to boost applications

IBM and Caldera announced a joint UK initiative to get even more developers on board with Linux to promote the benefits of developing, porting and enabling applications on Linux to Independent Software Vendors (ISVs). With over 2,400 enterprise-level applications for Linux currently listed in IBM's Global Solutions Directory - this initiative, the first of many with IBM's key Linux distributors, is clearly aimed at boosting this figure.

ISVs gain by creating applications on Linux developers only have to develop once and port to other platforms. As Linux is a versatile operating system - developers will have the opportunity to share applications across IBM's four e-Server platforms this gives an increasing the market opportunity for their applications. Potential financial benefits through co-marketing opportunities with IBM Business Partners will also exist. "This joint initiative will give many ISVs an early start on developing enterprise-ready applications that businesses are demanding. Linux has proven its reliability and stability - with more and more enterprise customers coming on board ISVs just can't afford to lose out on the rewards that Linux can bring", said Carol Stafford, IBM VP eServer Sales EMEA.

New SuSE distribution

SuSE Linux 7.3 is now available. It offers high-end enterprise and standard desktop users advantages in security, stability and a greatly improved ergonomical user interface with new image, graphics and audio features. As security becomes a higher priority among users both at home and the office, SuSE Linux 7.3 offers the possibility of setting up a "Personal Firewall" straight from the installation stage.

A user-friendly graphical front end is now available for configuring the firewall. Thus, making it simple to protect your host or network against unauthorised access. SuSE's "crypto file system" makes sure that sensitive data is secure even if the entire hardware is stolen. Stored data is only available in unencrypted form if the user has entered the correct password. Other proven security tools included in SuSE Linux 7.3 are the mail scanner AMaViS (A Mail Virus Scanner) and PGP encryption for e-mail. Desktop advances include KDE 2.2.1. The graphical tool Kooka now handles scanning



jobs very quickly and the new print assistant guides the user safely through the protocol jungle of lpr and cups.

With Linux Kernel 2.4.10 and glibc 2.2.4, improved memory management increases. Hardware detection has been considerably expanded to include even more components such as CD writers, Scanners and TV cards. Software RAID support provides reliable protection against data losses.

Apart from ReiserFS, two additional journaling file systems, JFS and Ext3, can be selected.

The Personal version is intended for Linux newcomers, whilst the Professional version offers ambitious home users and IT professionals a comprehensive portfolio of more than 2000 up-to-date software packages. SuSE Linux 7.3 Personal (3 CDs, 3 manuals, 60 days of installation support) is £35.

SuSE Linux 7.3 Professional (7 CDs, 1 DVD, 5 manuals, 90 days of installation support) is £59.

Borland announces a web services strategy for Java

According to Gartner Group, in the next few years, close to half of all new projects will make use of both Java and .NET technologies. Customers therefore need an e-business platform that supports both environments and integrates legacy applications.

Borland will provide Web Services development and deployment solutions for the Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition (J2EE). It will utilise Borland JBuilder and Borland AppServer technology to support the development and deployment of robust, standards-based Web Services applications.

It also plans to provide a web services solution pack for Java to allow developers

To create applications using Java and Web Services together. The solution pack, an add-on to Borland JBuilder, is a collection of application programming interfaces (APIs), architectures and additional standards developed by the Java community. The Web Services strategy for Java provides a platform for companies to use existing and emerging Web Services standards, including XML, SOAP, WSDL and UDDI (Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration), to optimise current resources and participate in the development of industry standard concepts and processes.

Rapidly navigate time with Atempo

Atempo, Inc., formerly Quadratic Software, announced Time Navigator 3.6, its platform for high performance backup and restore services.

Specifically designed for corporate data centres (internal) and Internet data centres (outsourced), Time Navigator gives service providers new management tools for enhancing quality of service and delivering new value-added storage services.

With Web-based restore, service providers can give their users fast access to lost or damaged files from anywhere on their network or across the Internet. John Malyevac, senior systems engineer at Dataline, Inc. commented, "As a Managed Storage Services provider, I have been very impressed with the ease of installation and operation of the Time Navigator software platform. Also, its level of functionality in a heterogeneous environment is far superior to the other alternatives in the marketplace."

By intelligently linking all incremental backups to previous full backups, Time Navigator can provide a nearly continuous graphical view of data changes, and immediate pinpoint access to files or database components that need to be restored. Time Navigator 3.6 also offers enhanced support for the latest storage networking architectures, including Network Attached Storage (NAS), Storage Area Networking (SAN) and IP Storage.

New features in Time Navigator 3.6 include: Consolidated usage tracking for internal accounting or commercial billing and Web interface for remote monitoring of multiple servers in a SAN environment.

Support for network-connected Gigabit Ethernet (GbE) tape libraries for backup and restore over an IP Storage Network (OSN Certified) is included. Pricing for Atempo's Time Navigator 3.6 begins at US\$4,000. Time Navigator 3.6 ships from October and will be available from Atempo's worldwide network of distributors and VARs. The product runs on Windows NT/2000, UNIX, and Linux platforms, and is compatible with most automated libraries on the data storage market.

Customers at more than 2500 sites

Mandrake Linux 8.1



MandrakeSoft announced the availability of Mandrake Linux 8.1 for download from <http://www.linux-mandrake.com>. This new version includes MandrakeOnline which offers alerts on security or package updates according to hardware and software configuration. Email aliases such as *name@mandrakeonline.net* are included. A user-friendly and powerful solution comprises over 2,500 applications including StarOffice.

The 8.1 version KDE 2.2.1, featuring Konqueror which now includes enhanced JavaScript support and better HTML rendering. Kmail and KOffice 1.1 are supported as well as GNOME 1.4.1. Kernel 2.4.8 and XFree86 4.1 ensures a complete Video Cards Support.

Enterprise Kernel 2.4.8: This special edition of the Kernel comes with native support for HI Memory (>1024 MB) and SMP (Symetric Multi Processing)

Full support for Journalised FileSystems: XFS, Ext3, ReiserFS and JFS come in standard ensuring files integrity. Along with a special version of Samba: Combined with XFS and latest kernel, Samba 2.2.1.a allows Windows file sharing with the same fine-grained permissions as Windows NT. PHP Groupware gives accessible anywhere from a simple web browser with secure connection.

Mandrake Linux Standard Edition includes 3 CDs plus detailed Installation Guide. Mandrake Linux PowerPack Edition includes 7 CDs packed with thousands of the latest Linux applications, a comprehensive Installation & User Guide, plus a detailed Reference Manual.

Mandrake Linux ProSuite Edition includes 9 CDs (with a special Mandrake Server CD) + 1 DVD packed with thousands of the latest Linux applications and server configuration wizards. Designed for small and medium businesses, Mandrake Linux ProSuite Edition 8.1 has been specifically customised to include all the necessary tools to rapidly and easily build a Linux Server Solution. ProSuite Edition 8.1 will scale easily for large enterprise deployments.

Mandrake Linux 8.1 OEM Edition and Masters CD will also be available for desktops & servers at leading wholesalers.

<http://www.mandrakesoft.com/products/81>

AMD charge less for more

AMD said that sales for the quarter ended September 30, 2001, at approximately \$766 million, declined by 22 per cent from second-quarter sales of \$985.3 million. The company also said it expects to report a pro-forma net loss of between \$90 million and \$110 million for the quarter. Sales of flash memory devices declined by approximately \$100 million sequentially, in line with previously reported expectations, reflecting continued weakness in the communication sector and excess inventories in the hands of major customers. AMD also said unit sales of PC processors remained at the record level of the second quarter, when AMD sold more than 7.7 million PC processors. In the face of very aggressive competition, average-selling prices (ASPs) for PC processors declined sharply, which resulted in substantially lower revenues. "Our ability to maintain PC processor unit volumes under current market conditions is a strong testament to the architectural superiority of AMD Athlon(tm) and Duron(tm) processors," said W.J. Sanders III, chairman and chief executive officer.

Security components break into a NuSphere

NuSphere creates a secure environment for managing web sites based on MySQL, Apache, PHP or Perl.

As security breaches over the web increase in sophistication, NuSphere Corporation has responded with the announcement of new Internet security components to provide intrusion prevention and a secure environment for web sites and database servers. NuSphere Advantage, Version 2.3, combines several new security tools with its Apache Access Manager and administers them through the NuSphere Security Console, which helps organisations manage security activities from one central location. In addition the database has been extended to include online backup, a feature in which the entire database is constantly being saved so that system administrators do not have to interrupt data availability or business processes.

NuSphere is providing ready-for-business capability to the many users of such open source components as Apache, PHP, MySQL and Perl by strengthening security both inside and outside the firewall for organisations that are building Internet-based applications. Subscribers may then purchase a three-month, unlimited scan service for a single IP address for \$100, or an entire year for \$299.

NuSphere Advantage includes Vulnerability Scan which searches web and Internet servers and their applications to find vulnerabilities. The Apache Access Manager allows developers to control access for different users and control privileges to websites and applications through an Apache web server. Port Scan identifies unnecessary services on a network that might present exposed entry for intruder requests. Weak Password Check provides methods for evaluating weak passwords. NuSphere Security Scan audits the web or Internet presence from outside the firewall to detect Internet network vulnerabilities, assess risk, and provide alerts in a summarised graphical report.

The Root of all Evil

The third compilation of the online hit comic, User Friendly, takes readers back to Columbia Internet for the continuing story of the "friendliest, hardest-working and most neurotic little Internet Service Provider in the world". In "The Root of All Evil" (O'Reilly, £8.95), author J.D. "Illiad" Frazer probes the worldviews of sales staff, execs, and caffeine-fuelled techies whose universe includes the Dust Puppy and Erwin the Artificial Intelligence. Considered one of the most off-beat, original, and funny comic strips to come along in years, User Friendly has captured the attention of the worldwide audience of IT professionals and computer hobbyists alike.



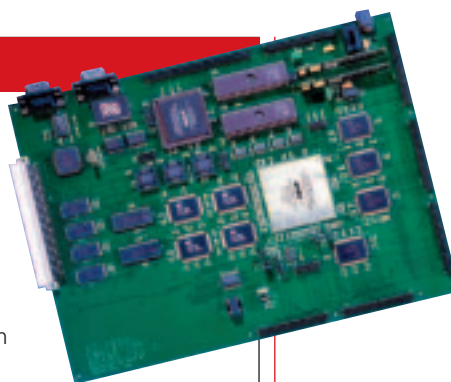
Configurable Chips get Linux embedded

MontaVista Software Inc., and Tensilica, disclosed a wide-reaching technical and marketing agreement. The pact leads to the porting of MontaVista Software's Hard Hat Linux to Tensilica's Xtensa processor architecture.

The combination of Hard Hat Linux with the Xtensa architecture will enable development of a broad range of communications and consumer products previously built with proprietary controllers or rigid processors, to exploit the incredible flexibility of Tensilica's configurable processor core. For the first time SOC developers will be able to harness the enormous array of Linux application software on an application-optimised processor.

Utilising Tensilica's OSKit technology, Hard Hat Linux will be automatically updated to fully support all possible configurations that meet or exceed the minimum requirements. This will enable Hard Hat Linux to run "out of the box" on the customised configurations. Few other embedded processor architectures, fixed or configurable, can match the new advanced memory management capabilities for robust software environments like Linux.

The Xtensa processor is targeted at high volume applications including datacom and telecom protocol processing, digital cameras, set top boxes, office automation products, wireless communications devices, and a spectrum of other consumer electronic products. Announced licensees of the Xtensa processor include Broadcom, Cisco Systems, Conexant Systems, Fujitsu Limited, Hughes Network Systems, JMI Corporation, Marvell (Galileo Technology), Mindspeed Technologies, National Semiconductor, NEC Corporation, NTT, ONEX Communications TranSwitch and Zilog.



Rapid development from Omnis

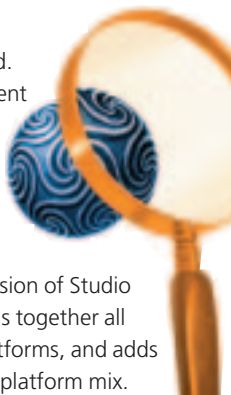
Omnis Studio 3.1 is released.

You can download the current version of Omnis Studio from the Omnis web site at: www.omnis.net/downloads/studioeval.html

Following the March 2001 release of the Mac OS X version of Studio (3.02), the 3.1 release brings together all the currently supported platforms, and adds Sun Solaris version 8 to the platform mix. Omnis Studio is now one of the few development environments that provides true cross platform development and deployment (both thick and thin) under the all popular platforms, including Windows 95/98, NT/2000, Mac OS X and Classic, Red Hat, SuSE and Caldera OpenLinux, as well as Sun Solaris.

The Omnis Studio 3.1 release means you can develop your enterprise solution under your chosen platform and deploy under any other platform, to either your LAN, WAN, Intranet, or via the Internet, and with the Omduit plug-in to all Palm OS supported devices.

Omnis Studio is one of the most flexible Rapid Application Development (RAD) tools available today. Omnis Studio allows the independent or team-based developer to create e-business and information management solutions for companies and organisations of any size. Omnis Studio lets you develop and deploy applications under Windows, Linux, and MacOS for such diverse markets as healthcare, human resources, publishing, customer relationship management, e-business, education, government, and more.



Seagate supports Linux

Seagate Technology now adds the power and administrative flexibility of the Linux OS to its SeaTools Enterprise Edition system diagnostic software. Seagate's Enterprise Edition is part of the SeaTools Suite, a group of user-invoked diagnostic applications that provide quick, easy and accurate diagnosis of hard drives within a system.

By incorporating both Java-based and command-line mode versions, SeaTools Enterprise Edition for Linux can now be run with either its standard easy-to-use, intuitive graphical user interface or remotely via command-line for flexible remote server management.

Prior to the introduction of SeaTools, more than 40 percent of returned disc drives were actually discovered to have no problems found. Among those customers using SeaTools, "no problem found" drive returns were reduced by 80 per cent. The Diagnostic "D" in Seagate's 3D Defense System, Seagate's SeaTools Suite saves time, data, and money by keeping healthy disc drives in a system and eliminating unnecessary drive returns. The SeaTools Suite includes the Desktop Edition, the quickest and easiest way to diagnose ATA (IDE) and SCSI drives in PCs and workstations, as well as the Enterprise Edition, ideal for workstation and server environments that can benefit from the powerful additional features implemented for the unique needs of Enterprise systems.

SeaTools Enterprise Edition can test up to 120 SCSI and Fibre Channel disc drives per session, either simultaneously or sequentially, as well as take advantage of support for Seagate's Drive Self-Test (DST) firmware capability embedded into every Seagate disc drive.

Seagate's SeaTools Suite is available for download free at <http://seatools.seagate.com>